

Summary of the NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting
Monday, May 18, 2026, 2026
12:30 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kristin Brown, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting at 12:30pm Eastern. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1 – a quorum was met. Paul Junio (LAMS Administrator) was a guest.

The agenda was reviewed and approved by unanimous consent.

The April meeting minutes were distributed for review.

2. Standards Review

The committee discussed the significant number of Draft standards expected to be released for review over the coming weeks. Ilona reported that the Quality Management System (QMS) and Microbiology standards were expected to be released within the week, while the Wet Chemistry standard was anticipated to follow shortly thereafter. The Laboratory Accreditation Body (LAB) standard may be released either shortly before or after the upcoming Houston meeting.

Members expressed concern about the number of standards requiring review within the standard 90-day review period. Carissa suggested that the committee focus collectively on whichever standard is released first rather than dividing attention across multiple standards simultaneously. This approach would allow members to provide a more thorough review and determine later whether formal extensions might be necessary. Ilona noted that CSDP would prefer requesting extensions rather than rushing reviews and potentially overlooking important issues.

The committee agreed to focus on standards sequentially as they are released. Ilona offered to distribute a spreadsheet template to facilitate collection and consolidation of comments. She explained that the spreadsheet would include a standardized section numbering format to improve consistency and reduce the manual effort required to compile comments. The group agreed that standards review should be a standing priority agenda item for upcoming meetings.

3. Feedback: Handling Accreditation Body Consistency Questions

Kristin initiated a discussion regarding how the AC should handle situations where concerns arise about inconsistent interpretations of standards among Accreditation Bodies (ABs). Ilona clarified that these situations should not involve attempts to bypass existing state complaint or appeals processes. Rather, the focus would be broader issues where laboratories or stakeholders observe differing interpretations of requirements among ABs and seek clarification or understanding.

Rose suggested that a small group conduct preliminary fact-finding before bringing issues to the full committee. Amy noted that concerns originating between ABs should generally be addressed directly between the affected ABs.

Cathy suggested that a Teams-based collaboration platform could provide a centralized location for documenting and tracking these types of issues. Members agreed that these topics could also be useful for future roundtable discussions among ABs. The AC generally supported establishing an informal process where a small working group would investigate issues before broader discussion when appropriate. Kristin, Michele and Ilona will work on documenting a process to move this forward.

4. Teams Collaboration Platform

The committee revisited the concept of using Teams to collaborate on documents. Cathy noted that such a tool could significantly improve collaboration during standards reviews by allowing members to share comments in real time and reduce duplication of effort. Ilona agreed that the platform would be beneficial, and she will look into it. She noted that while Dropbox had also been used, some states have restrictions on using it.

5. Updates

- **Method Codes**

Kristin shared a proposal from Paul Junio regarding updates to method codes, particularly those associated with Standard Methods. Since Paul was unable to attend the meeting, members were asked to review the proposal and provide comments directly to him prior to the June meeting.

There was some discussion focused on implications of the proposal:

- Steve emphasized the importance of retaining revision years on accreditation scopes, especially for secondary accreditation reviews where different editions of methods may apply.
- Christopher raised concerns that creating separate LAMS codes for methods that remain technically unchanged between editions could complicate database management, proficiency testing tracking, and method mapping.
- Brian noted that each edition of Standard Methods includes different quality control requirements and therefore may justify separate identification.
- There were different interpretations of how edition information should be represented and whether unchanged methods should receive new codes.
- Several concerns were identified regarding database functionality, accreditation scopes, and consistency across states.

All agreed that these issues should be communicated directly to Paul so they can be addressed before further discussion at the next meeting.

- **LAB Standard Language Feedback**

Carissa prepared comments for LAB.

Ilona mentioned an issue Paul Bergeron raised regarding his state requiring a minimum of a bachelor's degree for assessors. Kristin mentioned there are states with similar requirements. LAB is trying to define commensurate and make it clearer. Kristin mentioned that she can't require a Bachelor because the Standard is not clear.

- IDEXX

The committee revisited the previous conversation regarding the use of LED lamps in certain microbiological methods. Members reported receiving guidance from multiple EPA regions indicating that LED lamp substitutions are currently not acceptable for certain drinking water methods. Brian reported that EPA Region 1 had distributed guidance confirming that Clean Water Act method modification provisions do not extend to microbiological methods. Matt reported receiving similar information from EPA Region 7.

Based on the information received from multiple regions, the committee concluded that no further action is necessary at this time and agreed to remove the topic from future agendas unless new guidance becomes available.

Kristin reported that Patsy let her know that there was no shortage of Colilert 18 media. However, several members noted that laboratories have reported purchasing restrictions, with some distributors limiting orders to three boxes. Christopher, Steve, and Ann Marie confirmed hearing similar reports from laboratories.

The committee discussed the possibility that the issue may relate to distribution limitations rather than manufacturing shortages. Ilona agreed to contact Patsy for clarification and share any response with the committee.

- Helium Update

Christopher provided an update regarding ongoing helium supply concerns. He shared that a laboratory advisory group in California had been developing guidance for laboratories on reducing helium consumption and planned to finalize recommendations shortly. Steve noted that shortages continue to be reported primarily by California laboratories, while members from other regions indicated they have not experienced significant supply issues.

Given the limited impact outside California and the absence of widespread concerns, the AC agreed to remove helium shortages from future agenda follow-up items while remaining open to revisiting the issue if conditions change.

6. Roundtable Discussions

It was noted that staffing constraints and competing priorities have limited progress on roundtable discussions since the last meeting. It was agreed that the roundtable discussions remain valuable and should continue when resources permit.

7. New Business

- Kristin provided a reminder that conference registration is now open and encouraged anyone planning to attend to register.
- Lynn requested an update regarding asbestos proficiency testing (PT) availability. It was confirmed that New York remains the primary provider of asbestos PT samples. Gretchen clarified that laboratories accredited primarily by New York may obtain

asbestos PTs and that, for potable water asbestos testing, laboratories may also participate under secondary accreditation arrangements with New York.

- Steve raised a question regarding ongoing discussions about whether one TNI state may serve as the primary accreditor for a laboratory located in another TNI state. Kristin indicated that additional background information was still being gathered and that the issue would be addressed outside the meeting and potentially revisited at a future meeting.

8. Next Meeting

The next NELAP AC meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2026, at 12:30 PM Eastern.

Kristin adjourned the meeting at 1:30PM Eastern.

Attachment 1 - Roster

STATE	REPRESENTATIVE	PRESENT
FL	Carl Kircher T: 904-791-1574 E: carl.kircher@flhealth.gov	YES
	Alternate: Paul Legge (904)791-1582 E: Paul.Legge@flhealth.gov	No
IL	Millie Rose T: 217-557-0220 E: mildred.rose@illinois.gov	Yes
KS	Carissa Robertson Carissa.Robertson@ks.gov (785) 291-3162	Yes
	Alternate: Paul Harrison paul.harrison@ks.gov (785) 296-1656	No
	For information purposes: Amy Suggitt Amy.Suggitt@ks.gov	Yes
	For information purposes: Matthew Jones Matthew.jones@ks.gov	Yes
	Timothy Canfield	Yes
LA DEQ	Tramecha Rankins E: tramecha.rankins@la.gov 225-219-3247	No
	Paul Bergeron E: paul.bergeron@la.gov	No
MN	Windsor Molnar Windsor.Molnar@state.mn.us 651-201-3702	No
	Alternate: Cody Tennant E: cody.tennant@state.mn.us	Yes
	Lynn Boysen lynn.boysen@state.mn.us	Yes
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NJ	Michele Potter T: (609) 984-3870 F: (609) 777-1774 E: michele.potter@dep.nj.gov	Yes
	Alternate : Rachel Ellis E: rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov	No
NY	Amy Steuerwald 518-473-0748 E: amy.steuerwald@health.ny.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Gretchen Welfinger Gretchen.Welfinger@health.ny.gov	Yes
	For Information only: Derek Symula derek.symula@health.ny.gov	No
OK	Taryn Hurley Taryn.hurley@deq.ok.gov (405) 702-1006	Yes
	Alternate: Ryan Lerch Ryan.Lerch@deq.ok.gov (405) 702-1020	No
OR	Steve Jetter T: 503-505-2672 E: steven.jetter@oha.oregon.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Lizbeth Garcia 971 865 0443 E: Lizbeth.garcia@dhsoha.state.or.us	No
	Included for information purposes: Ryan Pangelinan E: Ryan.pangelinan@dhsoha.state.or.us	No
PA	Annmarie Beach E: anbeach@pa.gov T: 717-346-8212	Non
TX	Tina Trevino tina.trevino@tceq.texas.gov	No
	Steve Gibson (512) 239-1316 Steve.Gibson@tceq.texas.gov	Yes
UT	Kristin Brown T: (801) 965-2540 F: (801) 965-2544 E: kristinbrown@utah.gov	Yes
VA	Cathy Westerman T: 804-648-4480 ext.391 E: cathy.westerman@dgs.virginia.gov	Yes

	Alternate: Shane Wyatt shane.wyatt@dgs.virginia.gov	No
NELAP AC PA and EC	Ilona Taunton Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org	Yes
EPA Liaison	Michella Karapondo Karapondo.michella@epa.gov	No
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AR	Olivia Johnson Olivia.johnson@arkansas.gov	No
NV	Jasmine Curiel jcuriel@ndep.nv.gov	No
WV	Justin Carpenter justin.d.carpenter@wv.gov	No