Summary of the NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting
Monday, August 17, 2026
12:30 pm Eastern

1. Call to Order

Kristin Brown, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting at 12:30pm Eastern. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1 – a quorum was met. Ilona reviewed and updated the roster to include the name and e-mail address for each state alternate.

The agenda was reviewed and approved by unanimous consent.

The July meeting minutes, and a Houston meeting summary, were distributed for review. A motion was made by Carissa to approve the July 20, 2026, minutes with the date correction. The motion was seconded by Tramecha and unanimously approved.

2. DMR-QA Update

Susan Jackson (Chair, PTP EC) and Paul Junio (PA, WET Expert Committee) joined in for a discussion regarding the delay of the EPA DMR-QA study and the potential impact on laboratories needing to maintain proficiency testing (PT) compliance for WET.

At the recent PTPEC meeting, concerns were raised that the delay in DMR-QA could result in laboratories being unable to meet PT requirements for toxicity testing. Toxicity PTs are currently addressed through the DMR-QA study.

Susan reported that two PT providers indicated that they would be able to develop a Wet PT (WP) study containing toxicity analytes if needed. The providers appeared to be prepared to move forward, although they would need sufficient notice and confirmation that the study would be appropriate for the intended purpose.

Paul reviewed the applicable language in Module 1 concerning continuing accreditation for whole effluent toxicity and reviewed the annual participation requirements. Closing dates of successive WET PT studies are to be no more than 14 months apart. A replacement WP study would therefore need to be released around October 10–12 if DMR-QA has not been released by that point.

Concern was expressed about the importance of determining the anticipated DMR-QA schedule before directing laboratories to participate in an additional WP study. Susan agreed she would contact Greg with the DMR-QA program to determine the expected timing of the next DMR-QA study and whether EPA would have any concerns with laboratories using a WP toxicity study as an alternative if necessary. Susan will also confirm with the two PT providers how much lead time they would need to conduct the study.

The discussion also identified potential implications for states outside the NELAP Accreditation Bodies. Some states have DMR-QA waiver arrangements, while others may require laboratories to participate directly in DMR-QA. Chris Hand explained that California has a waiver for some DMR-QA-related requirements, but the applicability of an alternative WP study could depend on the individual state's requirements and EPA's waiver provisions. The PTP EC will need to consider the broader implications beyond NELAP.

3. Review of Houston Meeting

Ilona provided a summary of the meeting in Houston with the distributed minutes (see Attachment 2). There was also a special meeting with EPA where two main topics were discussed:

Performing Portions of an Analytical Method at Different Laboratory Locations

Amy Steuerwald summarized a question received from a laboratory that was having difficulty meeting a 48-hour filtration requirement. The laboratory collected samples in California and proposed performing part of the analytical process in California before shipping the samples to a North Carolina laboratory for completion of the analysis.

The Houston discussion concluded that this arrangement would not be allowable as a planned division of an environmental analytical method between laboratories. The Council distinguished this planned arrangement from an unexpected circumstance in which a laboratory experiences an equipment failure. Steve provided a related example from Oregon in which a laboratory proposed performing preparation at one accredited laboratory and analysis at another as a routine project arrangement. Oregon determined that it could not accredit the arrangement because the laboratory responsible for the overall work did not have appropriate direct oversight of the preparation process.

The key distinction is between a planned division of analytical responsibilities between laboratories and an unanticipated circumstance, such as an instrument failure, involving laboratories that are otherwise appropriately accredited for the applicable work. The group did not establish a broader policy for every possible subcontracting scenario, but the Houston discussion and the subsequent communication with the laboratory established that the specific proposed planned arrangement was not acceptable.

EPA Method 508A

Steve Jetter provided additional information about concerns involving EPA Method 508A. Oregon's annual EPA questionnaire requires all fields to be completed, but Oregon no longer has a laboratory maintaining accreditation for 508A. Both the state laboratory and a commercial laboratory that previously maintained the method have discontinued it.

Steve explained that Method 508/508.1 may be used to screen for aroclors in drinking water, but when a detection occurs, Method 508A is used to convert the result to total polychlorinated biphenyls, which is the regulated analyte.

Chris reported that California has experienced a similar situation and has not had laboratories performing 508A for several years. California informed its EPA region that it did not have a laboratory or contract laboratory available for the method, and the region accepted the explanation. Jasmine Curiel reported a similar situation in Nevada.

Michella Karapondo stated that EPA Region 4 has encountered comparable issues and that the lack of laboratory capacity for 508A is a national concern. She has communicated to EPA regions that they should avoid taking adverse action based solely on the absence of 508A laboratory capacity because of the broader national capacity issue. Michella also noted that the number of laboratories capable of performing 508Ahas declined substantially and that EPA is examining whether the regulation itself may be

contributing to the problem because portions of the requirements are unclear or internally inconsistent.

Chris suggested that it would be useful to know whether any EPA regional laboratories could perform 508A if a state encountered an actual need. Michella indicated that, at present, EPA regional laboratories do not provide that capacity, but she is continuing to raise the issue with EPA management.

4. Discussion on SIR 499

The Council reviewed the previous discussion on SIR 499 concerning whether preservation of samples should be considered part of the preparation steps included in the evaluation of the Laboratory Control Sample (LCS).

Matthew Jones summarized the issue. Module 4, Section 1.7.2.1 requires the LCS to evaluate performance of the total analytical system, including preparation and analysis steps. Matthew's interpretation was that sample preservation should therefore be included in the LCS process. However, he noted that individual methods differ in how they address preservation and LCS requirements, and that the Standard does not clearly define whether "preparation" includes preservation.

Cathy expressed a different view. She questioned whether adding preservation to the LCS unnecessarily introduces variables that are not the purpose of the LCS. She emphasized the distinction between evaluating the laboratory's analytical chemistry and evaluating field sample collection or preservation conditions. She also noted that the Standard contains separate concepts for sample collection and sample preparation, creating an argument that preservation may not necessarily fall within preparation.

Chris Hand raised the issue of matrix matching and whether the applicable matrix requirements could imply that preservation should be consistent between the LCS and field samples. The Council reviewed the matrix definitions and concluded that the Standard's matrix definitions do not specifically address preservatives or pH.

Ilona clarified that the current SIR response does not require preservatives to be added to method blanks or LCS samples unless the individual analytical method specifically requires them. Where a method contains a more specific preservation requirement, the method requirement would apply.

Cody Tennant noted that, particularly in drinking water methods, preservation reagents can contribute to contamination concerns and that there can be differences between reagent lots and manufacturers. He expressed a preference for treating QC samples consistently with field samples where possible.

Matthew distinguished contamination control from the purpose of the LCS. In his view, the LCS is primarily intended to demonstrate consistency of the analytical chemistry and performance of the analytical system rather than to serve as the laboratory's contamination check.

The Council also discussed the SIR process and the fact that SIR 499 had already received a vote but had been brought forward for discussion following requests from Council members. Steve noted that Windsor from Minnesota had also requested discussion as of July, in addition to the earlier request from Carl.

Because Windsor had not yet had an opportunity to participate in the discussion, the Council agreed that the issue should remain open. Matthew agreed to prepare potential suggested language for consideration. The suggested language will be provided to Kristin and Ilona, and SIR 499 will be placed on the next agenda to allow Windsor an opportunity to participate and for the Council to determine whether any language change is appropriate.

5. Evaluation Schedule

Ilona provided an update on current and upcoming NELAP evaluations.

An evaluation of Illinois is currently underway, with Steve Arms serving as one evaluator and Brian LaMarsh serving as the NELAP AB co-evaluator. Brian explained that staffing constraints, training a new assessor, and recently completed jury duty have limited his available time. After further discussion, it was decided that Brian will participate in a later evaluation and Amy Suggitt could step in to help with the Illinois evaluation.

The New Hampshire evaluation date was pushed out to Dec 2026/Jan 2027. Ilona explained that the previous evaluation remained active because evaluators continued communication and oversight during the extended period rather than simply leaving the evaluation inactive and completing the report later. The NELAP Executive Committee agreed that the next New Hampshire evaluation could be delayed.

The Council did not identify any objections to the proposed delay. Ilona will incorporate language addressing these types of special circumstances into the evaluation SOP so that future situations can be considered consistently, including consideration of whether an extended evaluation could create oversight concerns.

6. Standards Review

Ilona provided an update on the schedule for the standards currently under review. The Quality Management System review and Microbiology review have both received additional time and are now due September 26, 2026. The revised schedule provides additional time for Council members to complete their reviews.

The Council will prioritize standards review at the next meeting, with particular emphasis on reviewing and finalizing the accumulated comments for Volume 1 Module 2 – Quality Management System.

Ilona confirmed that comments remaining in black indicate items that have not yet been addressed, while previously reviewed items have been crossed out or the text was changed to the color blue. The group agreed to use this approach going forward.

7. Roundtable Discussions

There were no updates.

8. New Business

None

9. Next Meeting

The next scheduled teleconference will be on September 21, 2026, at 12:30 PM Eastern.

Kristin adjourned the meeting at 2:02PM 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
	Alternate: Joshua Pritc… E: joshua.pritchard@illinois.gov	No
KS	Carissa Robertson E: Carissa.Robertson@ks.gov T: (785) 291-3162	No
	Alternate: Paul Harrison E: paul.harrison@ks.gov T:(785) 296-1656	No
	For information purposes: Amy Suggitt E: Amy.Suggitt@ks.gov	No
	For information purposes: Matthew Jones E: Matthew.jones@ks.gov	No
	For information purposes: Timothy Canfield	Yes
LA DEQ	Tramecha Rankins E: tramecha.rankins@la.gov T: 225-219-3247	Yes
	Alternate: Paul Bergeron E: paul.bergeron@la.gov	No
MN	Windsor Molnar E: Windsor.Molnar@state.mn.us T: 651-201-3702	Yes
	Alternate: Cody Tennant E: cody.tennant@state.mn.us	Yes
	For information purposes: Denise Schumacher E: denise.schumacher@state.mn.us	No

NH	Brian Lamarsh T: (603) 271-2998 F: (603) 271-5171 E: Brian.M.Lamarsh@des.nh.gov	Yes
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 T: 518-473-0748 E: amy.steuerwald@health.ny.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Gretchen Welfinger E: Gretchen.Welfinger@health.ny.gov	Yes
OK	Taryn Hurley E: Taryn.hurley@deq.ok.gov T: (405) 702-1006	Yes
	Alternate: Ryan Lerch E: Ryan.Lerch@deq.ok.gov T: (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
PA	Jeffrey Allgyer T: 717.772.4015 E: jallgyer@pa.gov	No
	Alternate: Pending	
TX	Tina Trevino E: tina.trevino@tceq.texas.gov T: 512-239-3087	No
	Alternate: 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

	Alternate: Max Patterson E: mpatterson@utah.gov	No
VA	Cathy Westerman T: 804-648-4480 ext.391 E: cathy.westerman@dgs.virginia.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Shane Wyatt E: 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	Yes
Interested States:		
CA	Christine Sotelo Christine.Sotelo@waterboards.ca.gov	No
CA	Christopher Hand Christopher.Hand@Waterboards.ca.gov	Yes
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

Attachment 2: NELAP AC – Houston Meeting Summary – August 4, 2026, 9-10AM Central

In Attendance: Millie Rose (IL), Steve Jetter (OR), Matt Jones (KS), Windsor Molnar (MN), Taryn Hurley (OK), Amy Steuerwald (NY), Kristin Brown (UT), Michella (EPA) and Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator)

1. Opening

Kristin opened the meeting with introductions and a review of a slide presentation that can be viewed at the end of this Summary.

Kristin then requested any state updates:

- (MN) Windsor noted they had a new Program Supervisor – Denise Schumacher.
- (Given Annmarie's passing, Jeffrey Allgyer is temporarily handling her duties.

2. Open Discussion

Kristin gave attendees an opportunity to ask questions or provide information.

- Patsy Root (Chair, Policy Committee) asked that the Council appoint another representative to participate on the Policy Committee.

- Given the announcement that California is applying to be a NELAP AB, what happens to laboratory's that currently use an out-of-state AB for their NELAP accreditation?

  Christine Sotelo, California, indicated that they intend to submit an application and will go through the same evaluation process as other accreditation bodies, including an audit, corrective actions, and review/vote by the NELAP Accreditation Council. California plans to use third-party assessors but will need to evaluate those assessors under the applicable TNI requirements rather than relying solely on the assessor organization's credentials. California also intends to ensure its accreditation scheme complies with the TNI standard and the Mutual Recognition Policy.

  California plans to communicate with laboratories that currently use another NELAP AB (mainly Oregon and Utah) as a primary NELAP accreditation body to explain how the transition will work. Stakeholders were encouraged to contact Christine for additional information as the process develops.

- A question was raised about delays when a primary accreditation body's renewal process is not completed before a laboratory's secondary accreditation expires. Laboratories explained that they have limited control over the timing of primary AB renewals, yet they can face loss or interruption of accreditation when required certificates or scopes are delayed.

There was agreement that accreditation bodies have different approaches to these situations. Some issue extension or good-standing letters, while others may allow an accreditation to lapse. The consensus was that laboratories should not be penalized simply because an accreditation body is experiencing an administrative or staffing delay.

LAMS was identified as a potential mechanism for helping bridge these gaps in some instances because accreditation information may be updated in LAMS before a formal certificate reaches the laboratory. However, practices differ among accreditation bodies regarding the timing and frequency of LAMS updates.

Communication is a major part of the solution. Accreditation bodies can begin renewal/application activities early, communicate delays to affected laboratories and other ABs, and use letters or other documentation to establish that an accreditation remains in good standing while administrative processing is completed.

The Council agreed to make renewal delays and related issues a standing agenda item so that ABs can identify problems, share effective practices, and address outstanding renewals before laboratories' accreditations expire. There was also discussion of whether a future policy should establish a reasonable extension mechanism when delays are caused by an accreditation body issue rather than the laboratory.

3. Working Meeting – Review of Comment on Module 2 Draft Standard

The Council continued its review of comments on the Draft Standard posted by the Module 2 Expert Committee (Volume 1 Module 2). The Council is receiving comments from the accreditation bodies into a combined document on TEAMS. The comments are entered by accreditation bodies and then the Council review the comments to determine which ones will be NELAP AC comments for submission the Module 2 Expert Committee. Comments that will be used were turned to blue. Comments to be deleted were stricken and comments that needed more review were made red.
Comments that were discussed in length included:

- How changes to manual integrations and false positives are document in the data. The original record must be maintained and changes must be reviewed.

- In discussing off-site or field work, it was agreed that the term “client site” needs clarification so that field accreditation and traditional laboratory accreditation are not confused.

- discussion also raised whether there may be alternative ways for personnel to demonstrate competency in a specific technology beyond completion of the technical courses shared by the Microbiology and Radiochemistry Expert Committees. This question will be taken back to the appropriate expert committee for further consideration.

NELAP Accreditation Council

August 4, 2026 9:00 – 10:00 am Eastern
Houston, TX

Kristin Brown, Chair, NELAP Accreditation Council
UT DHHS



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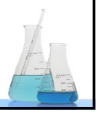
Agenda

- Introductions
- Accomplishments and Goals
- Changes to NELAP Accreditation Body Activities, if any
- Open Discussion
- Working Meeting:
  - Review comments on Volume 1 Module 2
- Adjourn



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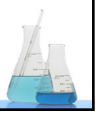
NELAP AB Representatives

FL – Carl Kircher, FL DOH
IL – Millie Rose, IL EPA
KS – Carissa Robertson, KDHE
LA – Tramecha Rankins, LA DEQ
MN – Windsor Molnar, MN DOH
NH – Brian Lamarsh, NH DES
NJ – Michele Potter, Vice Chair, NJ DEP
NY – Amy Steuerwald, NY DOH
OK – Taryn Hurley, OK DEQ
OR – Steve Jetter, OR DOH
PA – Jeffrey Allgyer, PA DEP
TX – Tina Trevino, TX CEQ
UT – Kristin Brown, Chair, UT DOH
VA – Cathy Westerman, VA DGS



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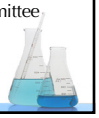
2026 Accomplishments

- Worked with Quality Management Systems Expert Committee on Technical Specialist Requirements – Handling exemptions, primary contacts, etc …
- Initiated review of Dispute SOP
- Use of Teams to share document to capture review comments on Draft Standards
- Approved Recognition Renewal for Texas.
- Provided input on Assessor Qualifications to LAB Expert Committee
- Working with LAMS Administrator on reducing method codes



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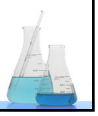
2026 Accomplishments

- Initiated discussion on process for handling AB consistency questions
- Initiated review of Volume 1 Module 2
- Reviewed and approved Standard Interpretation Requests (SIRs)



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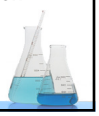
2026 Goals

- Sustain the program.
  - Review and update policies and procedures as appropriate.
    - Update Mutual Recognition and Standards Review SOPs.
- Review any new standards and set implementation dates when appropriate.
- Continue to review and approve Standard Interpretation Requests.
- Complete efforts to revise the evaluation process.



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NELAP Updates

AB Representatives Describe Changes Since Previous Conference

- Operational Status
- Upcoming Personnel Changes

7

Open Discussion

- Questions?

8

Working Meeting

- Continue review of Volume 1 Module 2 Comments

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Thank you for being with us!

For more information, contact

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Or
Michele Potter, Vice Chair, michele.potter@dep.nj.gov

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