

**Summary of the NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting
Monday, July 1, 2024 1:30 pm Eastern**

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kristin welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1. The agenda is included in Attachment 2. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent, and the minutes of June 36 were approved unanimously after a motion by Millie, seconded by Taryn.

2. Votes on AB Recognition Renewals

Pennsylvania

With no discussion, Millie moved and Carissa seconded that the recognition of Pennsylvania ELAP as a NELAP AB be renewed. The vote was unanimous – 13 votes in favor, with Pennsylvania abstaining. The final vote was received on Monday, July 8.

State AB	Vote		State AB	Vote
FL	Yes		NY	Yes
IL	Yes		OK	Yes
KS	Yes		OR	Yes
LA	Yes		PA	Abstain
MN	Yes		TX	Yes
NH	Yes		UT	Yes
NJ	Yes		VA	Yes

New York

With no discussion, Taryn moved and Brian seconded that the recognition of New York ELAP as a NELAP AB be renewed. The vote was unanimous – 13 votes in favor, with New York abstaining. The final vote was received on Monday, July 8.

State AB	Vote		State AB	Vote
FL	Yes		NY	Abstain
IL	Yes		OK	Yes
KS	Yes		OR	Yes
LA	Yes		PA	Yes
MN	Yes		TX	Yes
NH	Yes		UT	Yes
NJ	Yes		VA	Yes

3. Updated Vision for NELAP

Jerry explained that his concept for updating the NELAP vision has been developing over the past four years. TNI's Advocacy Committee has developed two white papers documenting the benefits of a quality management system, and there are an increasing number of TNI participants who are not familiar with the "early days" where the need for

NELAP was identified and clarified. One important motivation in re-examining the vision was a comment from EPA that in at least one instance, forty-four states have issued an accreditation (or certification) based on the primary accreditation done by one NELAP AB with a single assessment.

He further explained that not all TNI committees will have individual sessions at conference in California (in August), but that a General Session will be held on Thursday afternoon, August 8. That session will begin with an hour devoted to this updated vision and discussion of it, perhaps leading to more refinements, and then six committees will have twenty minutes each to provide an update on their activities.

Jerry gave the working presentation on the updated vision that has been created and refined in recent Advocacy Committee meetings, and several of the newest AB representatives stated that they appreciated having the history. The NELAP Program Manager training was piloted before these several were appointed as representatives.

The presentation itself was distributed to Council members with the meeting reminder. Most of the discussion during this meeting was about the "Possible Options" slide (text follows).

- ✓ The TNI standard continues to evolve and improve.
- ? Changes to State Regulations
 - ? With potential changes (Technical Manager and PT frequency) States may not need a second-tier accreditation program.
 - ? Other States may decide to become NELAP ABs or eliminate their state-specific programs and rely on accreditation by others (e.g., GA, NM).
 - ? States may decide that all laboratories performing any environmental testing in the state need to be accredited.
- ? Increase use of NGABs
 - ? NELAP ABs and other states accept a NGAB certificate (or issue their own certificate based on the NGAB assessment).
 - ? EPA Drinking Water revises Part 142 to allow for NGABs.
 - ? A NELAP or NGAB certificate is accepted in all 50 states without any additional effort, other than paying a fee to the AB.

Jerry expressed optimism that the anticipated change to Technical Specialist (from Technical Director/Technical Manager) might help non-NELAP states view the program as improved, and he suggested that, for labs with in-state ("second tier") certifications in NELAP states could obtain satisfactory assurances from one PT sample per year, as most of those labs are doing highly routine testing in a municipal or captive environment (lower risk to be managed). VA, PA and NJ have such two-tier programs (with the state-only requiring one PT/year), and LA DEQ has a two-tier program that requires two PTs/year; those second-tier programs are not considered to be NELAP-accredited at present.

NELAP would benefit from having additional media (air, non-potable water, etc.) accredited by all ABs. Recognizing that it is the state program offices (not the ABs) determining what types of testing must be accredited, the Advocacy Committee could make efforts to get state program offices to require these "additional" fields of accreditation.

Increasing the use of Non-governmental ABs (NGABs) could benefit all, whether the NGAB accreditations are accepted (at least by non-NELAP states) or if the NGAB assessments are used as the basis for granting accreditations (as is being done in California, now). The

long-term goal would be to have one accreditation accepted in all fifty states.

After the General Session presentation and discussion at conference, the Advocacy Committee will use that information to shape decisions about how to move forward with its Outreach to Data Users Plan. Jerry explained that this would be a long-term effort, possibly another several decades, as it has already been three decades since the efforts to create a national accreditation program began.

The NELAP ABs offering two-tier (in-state only) programs are Virginia, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and it seems each of those second-tier programs do, in fact, require only one PT/year.

Additional discussion transpired around how the accreditation offerings of the individual NELAP ABs are determined. This is typically directed by the state environmental program offices – drinking water, non-potable water, air, etc.), not by the AB itself. Several participants commented that expanding an AB's offerings typically requires legislative action (or at least program regulations), and that has happened in several states that a new program regulation will require additional fields of accreditation but no resources are provided to the AB for accomplishing that. At least one AB now monitors state lab association activities in order to stay informed about upcoming developments in this area! This discussion prompted Jerry to add a bullet to the conference version of his presentation noting that adequate program resources must accompany any expansion of fields of accreditation.

Jerry emphasized one major issue that has so far allowed NELAP to attain the successes that it has accomplished, and that is **trust**. This trust did not exist in the early 1990s when discussions were shaping the future of accreditation, but it has built over the years. Kristin stated that she believes the NELAP ABs still have that trust, based on the issues that get brought to and usually resolved in the Accreditation Council meetings – there is definitely open communication within the NELAP AC!

Jerry thanked the Council for the opportunity to share this material with them, and plans to make some additional modifications to the presentation based on the feedback received. We all look forward to a lively discussion in the General Session at conference.

4. Reschedule Date for September Meeting

Participants decided to reschedule the September meeting (which would be on Labor Day) to Tuesday, September 3, at the usual time.

5. New Business

Taryn inquired whether any other ABs are required by their state to treat a lab's accreditation as a "permit". Multiple AB representatives responded verbally that permits were entirely separate from their accreditation process, although they sometimes consulted with the permit-issuing staff in other parts of their organization. Taryn followed up with an email, to which most ABs responded, so that she would have documentation that Oklahoma is unique in its burdensome process using a "permit" to issue a lab accreditation.

Carissa notified the Council that a final public hearing on Kansas' regulation to update to the 2016 TNI Standard from the 2003 NELAC one is scheduled for September, 2024, and assuming no new problems arise, the 2016 Standard is expected to be implemented in

October, 2024.

6. Next Meeting

The Accreditation Council will not have a session at conference in California, but there will be the usual off-agenda meeting (date being arranged by Kristin, you will receive a card in your registration packet when you pick it up at conference notifying you of the time and location, if not before).

The next teleconference meeting of the NELAP AC is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 1:30 pm Eastern**. An agenda and documents will be provided in advance.

Attachment 1

STATE	REPRESENTATIVE	PRESENT
FL	Carl Kircher T: 904-791-1574 E: carl.kircher@flhealth.gov	No
	Alternate: Vanessa Soto E: Vanessa.sotocontreras@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	No
LA DEQ	Tramecha Rankins E: tramecha.rankins@la.gov 225-219-3247	Yes
	Paul Bergeron E: paul.bergeron@la.gov	No
MN	Windsor Molnar Windsor.Molnar@state.mn.us 651-201-3702	No
	Alternate: Lynn Boysen E: lynn.boysen@state.mn.us	Yes
	For Information only: Stephanie Drier T: 651-201-5326 E: stephanie.drier@state.mn.us	No
NH	Brian Lamarsh (603) 271-2998 F: (603) 271-5171 Brian.M.Lamarsh@des.nh.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Bill Hall T: (603) 271-2998 E: george.hall@des.nh.gov	No

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	Yes
TX	Tina Trevino (512) 239-3087 Tina.Trevino@tceq.texas.gov	Yes
	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	Lynn Bradley T: 540-885-5736 E: lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org	Yes
EPA Liaison	Michella Karapondo Karapondo.michella@epa.gov	Yes
CA	Christine Sotelo Christine.Sotelo@waterboards.ca.gov	No
	Christopher Hand Christopher.Hand@Waterboards.ca.gov	Yes
NV	Michael Antoine mantoine@ndep.nv.gov	No
Guest	Jerry Parr, TNI Executive Director Jerry.Parr@nelac-institute.org	Yes

Attachment 2 – Agenda for July 1, 2024, Meeting

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes (June minutes attached)
- Votes on AB Recognition Renewals
 - Pennsylvania (materials sent June 11)
 - New York (materials sent June 7)
- Updated Vision for NELAP – Jerry Parr (see attached PowerPoint)
- Decide on Reschedule Date for September Meeting
- Consideration of Updated Provisional Recognition SOP 3-108, time permitting (see attached file)
- New Business, if any
- Adjourn