

THE INSTITUTE REVIEW

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It's Time to Register for the Upcoming 2026 Environmental Measurement Symposium...

by Jerry Parr, TNI

In its 20th year, the 2026 Environmental Measurement Symposium (EMS) represents the combined meetings of the National Environmental Monitoring Conference (NEMC) and the Forum on Environmental Accreditation (the Forum). This year's symposium will be held in Houston, TX from August 3-7. The theme is ***"Strengthening Public Trust in Science."***



A few of the highlights for the week include:

- A special half-day general session focused on the conference theme;
- A special session featuring updates from EPA program offices;
- 144 oral and poster presentations in the NEMC portion of the Symposium on a variety of cutting-edge environmental monitoring issues;
- Meetings of TNI Committees to further TNI efforts on environmental laboratory accreditation, proficiency testing, and accreditation of field sampling and measurement organizations;
- An exhibit program showcasing the latest innovations in environmental monitoring;
- An Innovative New Technology Showcase;
- Five vendor lunch presentations;
- One keynote presentation on endocrine disrupters;
- A training course on radiochemistry; and
- A TNI examination to become a certified Laboratory Quality Management Systems Professional.

The Symposium will be held at the Hyatt Regency Houston. Special advance registration rates of \$128 per night (single) can be obtained by calling the hotel directly before **July 13, 2026** or using our secure [on-line registration system](#).

Centrally located in downtown Houston's business hub, our modern hotel puts you near the George R. Brown Convention Center and many Texas attractions, like the Toyota Center, Hobby Center and Daiken Park, where you can

catch a professional sporting event and attend a music concert. After a busy day of events or sightseeing, relax in a spacious guest room or suite, swim in our heated outdoor pool overlooking the city, relish the delicious menu at our hotel's Gulf & Prairie restaurant or grab a craft beer at our bar, located in the light-filled atrium lobby. All NEMC sessions and TNI meetings are open to all attendees according to your registration. Attendees have the ability participate in-person at the Symposium or view a recorded version that will be made available shortly after the presentation.

NEMC TECHNICAL PROGRAM

The NEMC Technical Program is organized into twenty-three (23) breakout sessions. The titles of the presentations, abstracts, and authors can be found [here](#) on the Environmental Measurement Symposium website.

- Advancing Quality and Standardization for Environmental Metals Analysis
- AI to Increase Lab Productivity in Environmental Testing
- Air Monitoring, Methods, and Technology
- Analyzing Microplastics in the Environment
- Best Management Practices for Environmental Laboratories
- Community Science/Research
- Crafting Consensus Methods
- Creating Public Trust in Water Testing through Collaboration and Innovation
- Drinking Water
- Emerging Environmental Applications for High Resolution Mass Spectrometry
- Ensuring Reliable Data
- Environmental Forensics
- Ideas for a Sustainable Laboratory Program
- Innovative Solutions for Reducing Methylene Chloride
- Laboratory Design
- Laboratory Informatics & the Advancement of AI in Automated Quality Systems
- New Organic Monitoring Techniques – 2 Sessions
- Optimizing Data Quality while Navigating the Accreditation Landscape
- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the Environment – 3 sessions
- Realtime Monitoring

TNI PROGRAM

The TNI sessions are meetings of the thirteen (13) TNI committees listed below, an Assessment Forum, a Mentor Session, and a Field Sampling and Measurement Session. Details of the TNI meetings can be found on the [Environmental Measurement Symposium website](#).

- Chemistry Expert Committee
- Credentials Committee
- Laboratory Accreditation Body Expert Committee
- Microbiology Expert Committee
- NELAP Accreditation Council
- NELAP Executive Committee

- Professional Development Program Executive Committee
- Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee
- Proficiency Testing Expert Committee
- Quality Management Systems Expert Committee
- Radiochemistry Expert Committee
- Training Committee
- Whole Effluent Toxicity Expert Committee

INNOVATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS SHOWCASE

Tuesday, August 4, 3:30 – 5:00 pm CDT

For the tenth year in a row up to twelve (12) organizations will showcase innovative new technologies – sensors, apps, personal monitoring devices, among others – and network with managers and senior staff from commercial laboratories; the regulated community; regulatory program offices; state compliance officials; the exhibitor community; and others.

EXHIBIT PROGRAM

Meet with instrument manufacturers, laboratory suppliers, LIMS providers, and other laboratory service providers. See the latest developments in measurement technology, proficiency testing, sample preparation, and laboratory automation at the Exhibit Hall from August 3-5.

TRAINING COURSE ON RADIOCHEMISTRY

Radiate Knowledge: A Dive into Radiochemistry

This training course will provide a general introduction to anyone interested in radiochemistry. At the end of the training, attendees will have a generalized understanding of radiochemical principles and workflows, providing context for laboratory practices for all levels of experience throughout the environmental testing field.

EXAMINATION TO BECOME A CERTIFIED LABORATORY QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS PROFESSIONAL

A proctored examination will be held on August 7, 2026, in conjunction with the Environmental Measurement Symposium, to allow an individual to become a certified Laboratory Quality Management Systems Professional. The examination will consist of 150 questions covering the topics detailed in the [Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities \(KSA\) document](#).

Please take a few minutes to look over the preliminary program and register today. To view abstracts and the preliminary program, in addition to conference arrangement details, visit the [Environmental Measurement Symposium](#) website.

We look forward to seeing you in August!!!



Things to Do in Houston

By Harold Longbaugh, City of Houston, Houston, TX

Houston is a very unique city, which blends frontier grit, global diversity, and an ever evolving cultural identity into one. Founded in 1836 by the Allen brothers as a speculative venture along Buffalo Bayou, Houston grew from a mosquito ridden settlement into a major inland port through sheer ambition, infrastructure investment, and the creation of the Houston Ship Channel. Its history is marked by pivotal moments—from its role in the Texas Revolution, where the city got its name from Sam Houston, to its rise as an oil powerhouse after the 1901 Spindletop discovery. When air conditioning became widely available in the midst of 20th century, Houston developed into 4th largest city in the U.S. (behind NY, LA, and Chicago), a metropolis of energy, medicine, aerospace, and the arts.

Culturally, Houston is one of the most diverse cities in the United States, home to more than 145 languages, two (2) Chinatowns, a thriving Vietnamese community, and world class performing arts institutions. Nicknamed **Space City** for NASA's Johnson Space Center, it also embraces its identity as the **Bayou City**, where neighborhoods reflect a mosaic of global influences.

Spending a week in Houston during the EMS conference in August – your time can be made unforgettable by balancing indoor comfort, cultural depth, and after hours enjoyment. Depending on how far you want to venture out from your home base, the Hyatt Regency downtown offers the following:

Downtown Discovery – Evening Walk in Downtown / Theater District

Explore one of the nation's largest performing arts districts, home to the Houston Symphony, Ballet, and Grand Opera. From 6am – 6pm on weekdays, the Hyatt Regency Hotel is connected to a massive air-conditioned underground tunnel system to help you avoid the Houston summer heat outdoors while you explore downtown Houston.

- **Astros Game at Minute Maid Park (Daikin Park) – walkable (1.1 miles)**

August home games often include themed nights and fireworks. Plan to go to the game early or stay a while afterwards: walk to visit George R. Brown Convention Center nearby.

- **Downtown Theater District**

August is prime time for prix-fixe menus across the city, while musicals, comedy shows, and film festivals are common.



Theatre District

Near-town exploration (reachable by bus, although driving is much faster, better):

- **Happy Hour in Midtown or the Heights**

Trendy bars, craft breweries, and relaxed patios make for ideal networking settings.

- **Uptown shopping – Ice Rink Galleria Water Wall**

If high-end shopping is not a cup of tea, the ice rink inside the Galleria may be the place you land your first triple-loop jump. The Water Wall is uniquely refreshing and walkable nearby.

Museum District Immersion – only 3 miles, a light-rail ride away:

- **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston or Houston Museum of Natural Science**

Enjoy world-class collections of exhibits during the day, in air conditioned comfort.

- **Hermann Park – a Late Afternoon Stroll, or a round of golf**
Shaded paths and gardens offer a relaxing break.

- **Summer Performances at Miller Outdoor Theatre**

Reserve a free ticket for reserved seating under the roof, or sitting on the grass on the overlooking hill Free concerts or cultural shows in the evenings — perfect for beating the heat. If you are lucky enough, you may attend Houston Shakespeare Festival free evening performances here.



Museum of Natural Science

Culinary & Cultural Exploration:

- **Go beyond Texas BBQ – Explore Chinatown & Little Saigon**

Sample Vietnamese pho, dim sum, or bubble tea in one of Houston’s most vibrant cultural corridors. A global cultural landscape with unmatched diversity and international communities.

- **Visit the Menil Collection & Rothko Chapel**

A serene, contemplative art experience unique to Houston.

NASA Johnson Space Center Visit – Clear Lake City in Southeast Houston

Embrace Houston’s “Space City” identity with Mission Control exhibits and space exploration history.

Gulf Coast Escape – Plan a Day Trip to Galveston Island

Only 1-hour drive away. Enjoy beaches, historic Strand District shopping, or seafood dining.

- Ride carnival rides with a Ferris wheel on Pleasure Pier over the ocean water, or kayaking in the Gulf of Mexico.

- Visit all three glass pyramids (Rainforest, Aquarium, Discovery) at Moody Gardens.

- Take part in a relaxed dinner to enjoy the southern hospitality. Wrap up the trip with dinner at dozens of restaurants of all kinds near the beach around the Galveston Island.



Mission Control Space Center



Meet the 2026 TNI Board of Directors

By Sharon Mertens, MMWD (retired)

As reported to you in the last newsletter, elections took place in January and February. The newly elected directors assumed office during the March TNI Board of Director's regularly scheduled meeting.

The Nominating Committee, which this year consisted of Sharon Mertens, Aurora Shields, Bob Wyeth, and Anand Mudambi, reviewed the qualifications of each nominee and assembled the ballot for voting by the TNI membership. In addition to reviewing qualifications, the Nominating Committee must ensure that the Board retains balance and representation from all recognized stakeholder groups.

This year's ballot contained seven (7) candidates, including five (5) returning Directors -- Aaron Alger, Justin Brown, Kristin Brown, Susan Jackson, and Patsy Root. All of these Directors were willing to serve another term. Two (2) other positions were filled by new directors - Stephanie Rippeon from A2LA, and Michelle Wade of Wade Consulting and Solutions.

All the candidates were elected by at least 90% affirmatives.

The collective length and breadth of experience of the members of the 2026 Board is significant and gives us a broad base of perspectives to help our organization as we go forward. Follow the link below, click on the "Members Section," and hover over each name to read a brief bio on each of the directors. [Visit the Board of Directors webpage here.](#)

After the introduction of the new Board members at the March meeting, the Board also held its annual election of officers, which include the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The incumbents for the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary, Alfredo Sotomayor, Kristin Brown, and Patsy Root, will continue to serve in those roles for the next year. Robin Cook was elected as the new Treasurer, replacing Justin Brown.



Summary of the 2026 Forum on Laboratory Accreditation

By Paul Junio, Jerry Parr, Ilona Taunton, and Robert Wyeth, — TNI

The 2026 Winter Forum on Environmental Accreditation was held January 12-15, 2026, in Boston, MA. The special sessions at this meeting, on a variety of topics, were quite successful. The Advocacy committee is considering a similar structure for future meetings, with reduced time for TNI committee meetings. In addition to TNI committee meetings, the following other sessions were held:

- TNI Annual Report;
- A training course on improving field sampling and measurement;
- An exam to become a certified Environmental Laboratory Quality Management Systems Professional;
- An update from Non-Governmental Accreditation Bodies;



- A mentor session and assessment forum on TNI requirements and state regulatory practices; and
- A special session on "Technical Specialists" – a new concept to replace the old Technical Manager in the current TNI laboratory accreditation standard.

Presentations from all of these sessions are on the TNI website under Training and Meetings/Past Conferences. Below is a summary of TNI committee activities during the public meeting sessions.

Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee reviewed its core roles, which include

- advocating for a national program;
- maintaining relationships with federal agencies, EPA, non-NELAP states, and professional organizations;
- preparing white papers and presentations;
- producing a semiannual newsletter; and
- conducting outreach to small laboratories.

The Committee is recruiting additional ambassadors to continue strengthening communication between non-NELAP states and TNI. The new attendee presentation was discussed, and the Committee will explore the need to develop two (2) recorded presentations: (1) Welcome to New Members, and (2) History of TNI. Potential topics for the June newsletter were also solicited.

Chemistry Expert Committee

The Draft Standard for EL V1M4 has been posted and the comment period has now closed. Numerous comments have been received and are included in the committee's Response to Comments (R2C) form. The R2C form was presented and was reviewed by the Chair. Additional comments, as well as remarks related to the comments received during the comment period, were solicited from the session participants.

The remaining meeting was consumed by the R2C review. Valued comments were received and many comments were resolved to the satisfaction of the committee. The remaining comments will be addressed by the committee during their monthly conference calls until such time as all comments are resolved and commenters are advised of said resolution. The review of the comments received has produced persuasive comments. The Draft Standard will be revised and re-posted for an additional comment period and potential additional changes.

Credentials Committee

The committee provided an update on the effort to establish a credential for a Certified Quality Management System Environmental Laboratory Professional. The committee then passed out an exam of twenty (20) questions to review typical questions that would be in the exam. After the break, TNI's Information Technology manager provided a demonstration of the on-line software to be used to manage this process, which was well received by the audience. TNI indicated they planned to launch this initial effort in the spring of 2024.

Laboratory Accreditation Body Expert Committee

The Committee reviewed proposed revisions to the Revised Draft Volume 2 Module 1 Standard. Feedback was received on whether current education and experience requirements for assessors are overly restrictive and there was interest in more flexible qualification options that could incorporate combinations of formal education, laboratory experience,

supervised assessments, vendor training courses, internships, and professional certifications. It was agreed that it is important that assessors possess sufficient practical laboratory knowledge to effectively assess technical operations. The Committee also discussed clarifying terms such as “commensurate experience,” defining acceptable laboratory experience, and improving consistency between state and non-governmental accreditation body (NGAB) requirements while maintaining program flexibility.

The Committee reviewed proposed language for accreditation bodies to respond to laboratory notifications and corrective action submissions within defined timeframes. Discussions focused on balancing transparency and timely communication with the realities of assessment workflows, especially when discussing situations where findings are revised or additional nonconformities are identified after closing meetings. Additional topics included clarifying that response timelines begin only after receipt of a complete application package, including required fees, refining documentation, and recordkeeping expectations, and potentially adding confidential business information (CBI) requirements where applicable.

Field Activities Expert Committee

The meeting began with an overview of NEFAP and the role of FSMOs within environmental data collection. It was noted that the Volume 1 FSMO Standard was finalized and approved by the NEFAP EC with an implementation date of December 1, 2028. The Volume 2 AB Standard is progressing through the review process and is expected to be posted for comment before the summer meeting.

Much of the meeting was dedicated to reviewing key technical elements of the updated Volume 1 FSMO Standard that included (1) expanded ISO/IEC 17025:2017 requirements and new NEFAP-specific provisions related to data integrity, (2) demonstrations of capability, equipment calibration and verification, (3) subcontractor oversight, internal auditing, sampling documentation, and management review requirements. The Committee emphasized the importance of management reviews, proactive internal auditing, proficiency testing, and calibration practices to ensure data quality. The Committee will be developing training to assist with implementation of the Standard that will include a new internal audit training course, a detailed Volume 1 implementation training, and future workshops and conclaves covering lessons learned from real-world field sampling issues and corrective actions.

The second half of the meeting was a working session focused on updating NEFAP accreditation process guidance documents and implementation tools. Discussions centered on clarifying the accreditation process for prospective FSMOs, including application requirements, quality management system terminology, assessor expectations, and accreditation scope.

Microbiology Expert Committee

The Committee provided background on the changes that are being proposed and the rationale for those changes and solicited feedback, including:

- Review any instances of ‘verify’ and determine what it may mean in each instance. In some cases, it may be sufficient to rely on a COA from a vendor. In other cases, it may require analysis in the laboratory in question. In others, it could be something between those two examples.
- DOC data is needed for five (5) years beyond the point of last use.
- There is a loophole in the funnel sterilization that could allow for only one funnel to be sterilized that needs to be closed/clarified.

- Language used in Module 7 regarding water quality and Module 2 regarding support equipment needs to be reviewed in light of what Module 5 says to promote consistency among the Modules.
- Clarity is needed when discussing analyst counts and comparisons. It isn't entirely clear which analysts are included, and how the counts are to be compared, as well as whether the counts are raw numbers or derived values (i.e., from cell count tables).
- Clarity is needed regarding the requirement to determine appropriate containers/sterility when the container was not provided by the receiving laboratory. Inconsistent interpretation of this requirement led to a lively discussion, and various people are convinced that the standard says something that is the complete opposite.
- Sample receipt temperatures also led to a lively discussion. Various temperature requirements and sampling examples highlight the need to clarify what is necessary and what is good science.

NEFAP Executive Committee

The Committee reviewed their accomplishments in 2025 and then shared information about planned activities for 2026, including:

- A2LA, ANAB, and PJLA have all applied to renew their NEFAP AB status
- Proposed Workshop on Lessons Learned from the Field
- 4th Conclave – Best Practices for Sampling for PFAS planned for June 2026
- Training course in Spring 2026: Internal Audit training for FSMOs
- Provide presentations at regional meetings such as FSEA, OELA, and CWEA

NELAP Accreditation Council

The meeting provided an overview of key accomplishments from 2025 and priorities for 2026, along with updates from state accreditation programs and ongoing standards development work. Several states reported operational updates, including staffing changes, state laboratory relocations, and expanded assessment capabilities. The Council emphasized the value of assessor roundtable discussions between states, which have improved communication, consistency, and shared understanding of accreditation practices. A major focus of the meeting was the ongoing development of technical specialist qualification criteria some challenges were identified, particularly variability in state regulations and the subjectivity of defining "experience." The Council also reviewed the Mutual Recognition Policy, focusing on clarifying primary versus secondary accreditation responsibilities, improving transparency in scope reporting, and reinforcing consistent dispute resolution procedures.

NELAP Executive Committee

The Committee provided updates on committee structure, mission, objectives, Standard Interpretation Request (SIR) management, and highlights of 2025 accomplishments and 2026 goals. The primary discussion focused on the revision of SOP 3-106 (Review of Accreditation Standards for Suitability).

Comments were received that the current process for reviewing and formally recommending action on each iteration of draft of standards may not be needed. It is also not well-aligned with the iterative nature of standards development.

Proposals for revision aim to streamline the SOP by allowing ongoing review and comment on drafts, while reserving formal recommendations for after the Expert Committee has a final standard. Feedback included:

- the need for clearer definitions of “final” standards;
- improved process clarity (including a flowchart);
- alignment with other related SOPs;
- reduction of redundant language; and
- restructuring into clearer procedural phases.

It was also reaffirmed that the Committee must comment on all Draft Standards.

Professional Development Program Executive Committee (PDP EC)

A major portion of the meeting centered on the Jack Farrell Analytical Excellence Scholarship Program, including finalization of the scholarship webpage, upcoming press release development, and coordination of vendor and member donation opportunities. The Committee reviewed scholarship structure details such as eligible uses (TNI training, credentialing fees, and digital badges), funding distribution through TNI accounts, and an 18-month utilization time frame. The potential need for an objective application scoring system was discussed. Another discussion topic included a proposed quarterly livestream series (“Quality Time with TNI”) aimed at extending “conference” access to remote members, increasing understanding of standards development, and supporting engagement through interactive virtual presentations and conversations. Potential funding models could include sponsorships and modest participant fees.

The Committee shifted to discussion regarding the Emerging Professionals/Leaders initiative and ways to strengthen engagement and leadership pathways within TNI. Feedback emphasized that “emerging” should be defined by mindset and engagement rather than age or tenure, and explored approaches such as mentorship programs, onboarding improvements for new attendees, visible conference support roles, and structured networking opportunities. Additional ideas included first-time attendee experiences, surveys, and social events designed to foster informal relationship-building. A letter to first time attendees could provide tips and suggestions on navigating a conference as a new attendee.

PT Expert Committee

The major accomplishments of the committee were to complete and post the Draft Standard for EL V4, General Requirements for Accreditors of Proficiency Test Providers and development of a Draft Standard for EL V3, General Requirements for Proficiency Test Providers. The committee is also responsible for EL V1M1(Proficiency Testing) and EL V2M2 (AB requirements relative to proficiency testing). While the committee has progressed in review of these latter modules, these modules as well as completion of EL V4 and posting/finalizing EL V3, are the focus of 2026 activity. Both EL V3 and EL V4 are essentially a re-write of the previous versions as the committee moved to harmonization of these modules with ISO/IEC 17011 and ISO/IEC 17043, respectively.

During the Boston meeting, all the comments from the now closed comment period for EL V4 were presented and addressed. Additional comments were also received from meeting participants and were addressed by the committee. The committee will now finalize the response to comments as required by SOP, and as persuasive comments were received, they will revise the Draft Standard accordingly. After ensuring compliance with the newly approved Style Guide SOP, the revised Draft Standard will again be posted for public comments. The EL V3 module was also briefly discussed and the attendees were advised that the committee anticipates posting of the Draft Standard for this module in the near future.

PT Program Executive Committee (PTP EC)

The principal activities in 2025 focused on issues and requirements for FoPT table review, updating, and/or correction. Major accomplishments were development of FoPT for PFAS compounds in drinking water and updating the Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) FoPT tables. They also initiated their 10-year review of all FoPT tables. To date they have concluded that no changes will be proposed to the criteria presented in the FoPT tables for metals and inorganic parameters in drinking water. They are also continuing to work with the Radiochemistry Expert committee on any necessary changes to their FoPT tables and how to address the issue of reporting uncertainty in radiochemistry data.

The executive committee also reviewed and presented comments for consideration by the PTEC on Draft Standard EL V4, General Requirements for PTP Accreditors. It was further noted that positions are available on the PTP EC to fill existing vacancies. Associate memberships, which is open to any interested TNI members, are also welcome. The need for expertise in WET and Microbiology was a specific request for the executive committee. Application for a role on the PTP EC can be completed through the TNI website. IS THERE A LINK?

Quality Management Systems Expert Committee

The Committee met for a half-day and a quarter-day session. Day 1 focused on reviewing and receiving feedback on changes made to the Draft Volume 1, Module 2 Standard since the last conference in St. Louis. Changes include:

- A shift towards somewhat decentralized definitions so that definitions only relevant to one Module are now located in only that Module. Definitions for terms used in the Module 2 Standard and terms that are used in multiple Modules, are in Module 2. The Committee also attempted to clarify and simplify definitions (e.g., nonconformity, matrix, customer, test item, etc.).
- The Technical Specialist role was redeveloped with more flexibility to accommodate a wide range of laboratory sizes and structures. The committee emphasized that technical specialists may oversee portions or all of a laboratory's scope, with authority over data integrity and nonconforming work, while allowing laboratories discretion in how roles are distributed and covered. There was discussion on acceptable experience, qualification options, overlap between technical and quality manager roles, assigning an alternate in the absence of a Technical Director, exemptions, etc. There was general support for the direction the Committee was taking.
- Debbie shared a cross-walk that is being completed to compare the revised Draft Standard to the 2016 Standard to support implementation.

Day 2 focused on a comprehensive review of proposed revisions to Module 2, including strengthened requirements for data integrity investigations; equipment calibration and verification (including software/firmware tracking and single-use volumetric equipment controls); refined sample handling and identification requirements; internal audit restructuring; and integration of risk-based thinking into management review. Feedback included removing ambiguity in some terminology, pronoun consistency, and restructuring Section 4.5, which includes a list of laboratory requirements from the Draft Volume 2 Standard.

Radiochemistry Expert Committee

The Committee reviewed ongoing activities related to the Volume 1 Module 6 Radiochemistry Standard. The Committee confirmed that the current Radiochemistry Standard was final in 2023 and does not require reopening despite revisions in Technical Specialist language and definitions in Volume 1 Module 2. Technical Specialist language for Annex C in Volume 1 Module 2 was reviewed and the Committee discussed flexible organization structures and possible courses to recommend to meet requirements.

The Committee also reviewed ongoing concerns regarding drinking water radiochemistry Fields of Proficiency Testing (FoPT) acceptance criteria, and potential reevaluation of Method Quality Objectives (MQOs) for analytes such as gross alpha, gross beta, radium-226, and strontium-90. The Committee plans to continue discussions with the EPA Office of Drinking Water and the TNI PTP EC Chemistry Subcommittee. The Committee also outlined plans to expand radiochemistry training and outreach efforts, including introductory webinars covering instrumentation, counting technologies, data quality concepts, and batch definitions.

WET Expert Committee

Following a summary of how we got to this point, including an overview of intended changes and the intent of the committee to provide a document that is usable regardless of the method, the current Response to Comment document was reviewed. The small crowd in attendance provided feedback suggesting changes on thirteen (13) of the twenty-six (26) items presented by the committee during its previous deliberations. The comments were taken back to the committee as a whole and will be addressed in conjunction with the rest of the comments provided on the Draft Module 7.



Winter Forum's Special Session on Technical Specialists

By Paul Junio, TNI

On Monday, January 12, 2026, at the Forum on Environmental Accreditation in Boston, TNI held a special session on Technical Specialists. The draft Module 2 Quality Management Systems Requirements replaced the term “Technical Manager” with “Technical Specialist.” The Module states, “The laboratory shall have a technical specialist responsible for each analytical discipline that corresponds with its accreditations.” This presentation addressed work done by the Quality Management Systems Expert Committee, the Credentials Committee, and the Training Committee.

Debbie Bond, Chair of the Quality Management Systems Expert Committee, led off the discussion by outlining the problem – the stated requirements for education and experience don’t guarantee that an individual is competent. The opposite can also be true, in that one can be competent without meeting the state requirements. As a result of a cross-organizational effort, the position now known as Technical Specialist will have simplified educational/experience requirements. The position is clearly NOT managerial, and it is expected that laboratories would have more than one (1) Technical Specialist. Laboratories will be required to have a Technical Specialist for every field of accreditation that they hold. TNI’s Credentialing program could be used as an alternative to college courses. No current Technical Manager would become disqualified. All the requirements for this position will be maintained in Module 2. Examples of how a laboratory may divide Technical Specialist duties will be included in Annex C of Module 2.

Kenneth Brown, Chair of the Credentials Committee, spoke next on turning the requirements of the Technical Specialist position into measurable Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSA). The KSAs set the stage for training courses to address those requirements. Training courses then become the pathway toward an individual qualifying as a Technical Specialist in a new manner, by understanding of Knowledge (to “know what”), Skills (to “know how”), and Abilities (to “know why”). This KSA document is in development. The expectation is that there will be a KSA Document for Technical Specialists for each of the Technical Modules 3 through 7. The Chemistry Module is the first chosen for development, with three (3) separate technical areas (Inorganic non-metals, Metals, and Organics) under consideration.

Calista Daigle, Chair of the Training Committee, was the final speaker of the session. Calista described the Committee’s efforts at turning KSAs into exam questions. The exam questions are not meant to be tricky, but to assess the individual’s understanding. Exams will be open book, and consist of 150 questions to be answered in a 3-hour timeframe.



Names and Acronyms of TNI Programs, Committees, and ABs

By Jerry Parr, TNI and Patsy Root, IDEXX Water

In the fall of 2025, TNI’s Policy committee started a process to establish consistency with acronyms among TNI committees, especially given that “EC” usage was either an Executive Committee or Expert Committee, with or without a space in front of EC, creating ambiguity around which is being referenced. A similar issue exists with the use of AB acronym for Accreditation Bodies.

The committee initiated a general discussion on the topic and quickly decided EC should be the acronym for an Executive Committee with a space before the letters and that EC should not be used for Expert Committees. This quickly led to a discussion of short names for committees. The committee decided to use a short descriptive term, or an acronym, for committees with three (3) words or more. This resulted in a recommendation to rename the Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee (LASEC) to the NELAP Executive Committee, or NELAP EC.

On February 11, 2026, the TNI Board of Directors approved the recommendation from the Policy committee, which resulted in the new organizational chart shown below.

The committee then moved to address the AB naming convention. Currently, the following abbreviations are used: NELAP AB, NEFAP AB, PTPA, and NGAB, with the latter being used for environmental laboratories accredited by Non-Governmental Accreditation Bodies (NGABs). The committee recommended that PTPA needs to be changed to PTP AB. The NGAB acronym has specific issues since the term has no underlying program. After extensive discussion, the Board decided to retain the acronym NGAB for non-governmental accreditation bodies accrediting environmental laboratories.

With these changes, the committee codify this proposal and revised SOP 1-132, through the formation of TNI Committees and Task Forces, and added a new Section 5.4 with this language:

5.4 Naming convention for committees and programs

5.4.1. The Committee name clearly reflects the mission of the committee.

5.4.2 Expert Committees names may be shortened in official document such as committee minutes or conference programs. For example, the Microbiology Expert Committee is known as Microbiology. Committees that have 3 or more words in the committee name may use an acronym. Other committees should not use acronyms in official documents.

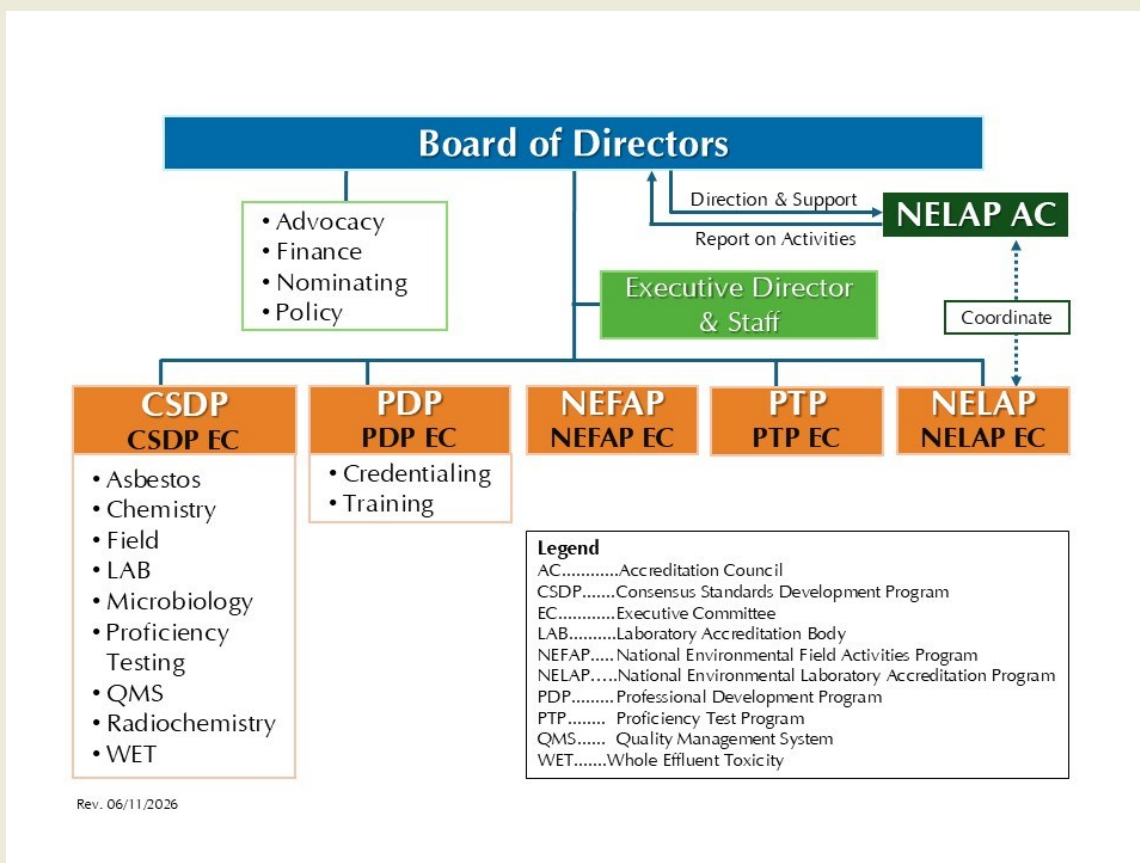
Note: Expert Committees do not use the term “EC” to avoid confusion with the Executive Committees.

5.4.3 Executive Committees are named after the program, as defined in the By-Laws. They are referenced as “Program Name Acronym” followed by a space then “EC.” For example, the Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee is PTP EC.

Note: The Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee (Formerly LASEC) is now named NELAP EC.

5.4.5 Accreditation bodies are referenced as “Program Name Acronym” followed by a space then “AB,” except for non-Governmental bodies that accredit laboratories, which are referenced as Non-Government Laboratory Accreditation Partner Accreditation Body or an NGLAP AB.

Conforming changes are being made to several other policies and procedures and the website.



TNI Consensus Standards Development

By Paul Junio, TNI

All of the TNI Environmental Laboratory Standards are in some state of revision. Any TNI member or member of the public may comment on the proposed changes. In addition to any comments submitted, SIRs (standard interpretation requests) are reviewed to see if they should result in changes being made to the Standard. Comments that are submitted are ruled persuasive or non-persuasive, and those decisions are published. If a comment is ruled persuasive, it requires a modification to the proposed Standard, which is followed by another Draft Standard and comment period. The process of revisiting – committee approval – public comment continues until there are no persuasive comments received.

Below is a brief summary of where each of the Volumes and Modules stands:

Volume 1: Management and Testing Requirements for Laboratories Performing Environmental Analysis [NOTE: In conjunction with a consistent naming convention for the Technical Modules, the name of Volume 1 is being changed. Rather than being called ‘Management and Technical Requirements,’ it is being renamed ‘Management and Testing Requirements.’]

Module 1 Proficiency Testing Requirements is under development within the Proficiency Testing Expert Committee. This is one of four (4) modules that the committee has in revision, and is expected to be the last or next to last of the four (4) to be completed. Each of the four (4) modules under revision will have changes made to ensure alignment and consistency with the others.

Module 2 Quality Management System Requirements draft Standard is nearing completion for publishing as a Draft Standard. It is anticipated that it will be published in time such that comments will be available for discussion at the Environmental Measurement Symposium in Houston August 3-6, 2026. The Expert Committee has taken all language of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and included any text in TNI Module 2 2016 that is deemed worth keeping. Review has included removing duplicative requirements from TNI Module 2 2016 that are now addressed in ISO/IEC 170256:2017. As a result, certain changes are made in the body of the Module without changing requirements in the Standard (the requirement still exists, it’s just stated differently). The Committee has reviewed the entirety of this potential draft and also taken previous suggestions into consideration.

A Technical Specialist is required for every Field of Accreditation. There need not be a single person who handles this role throughout the laboratory. The laboratory must clearly define how the Technical Specialist responsibilities align with the laboratory’s scope of accreditation. Helpful information (not requirements) on this is found in Annex C of Module 2. The Committee has a final draft in its hands for approval as of May 7, 2026.

Module 3 Asbestos Testing Requirements has a finalized Module 3 effective July, 2023. This revision was re-written from a technology standpoint, and will still be reviewed as additional modules are completed to assure that no issues of implementation arise. It is likely to be re-opened to address the issue of availability of an SRM referenced in the Module, as well as to clarify a requirement regarding blanks.

Module 4 Chemistry Testing Requirements Draft was posted for comment on the TNI website August 15, 2025, and the comment period closed November 13, 2025. It underwent work on multiple topics, including Method Validation and Verification, LOD/LOQ, Demonstration of Capability, Calibration, Quality Control, Data Acceptance, and Sample

Handling. There was an extensive re-write with little change in intent. EPA's MDL Procedure is now the preferred procedure, and LOQ is unchanged. Over 500 comments were received. The Committee will continue its review of these comments, and another draft Standard will be published at some point. It is unlikely to be posted prior to the end of 2026.

Module 5 Microbiology Testing Requirements draft Standard was posted on April 10, 2025. The Committee is currently nearing completion of its review of 132 comments received. Many of those comments are on a limited number of items, so the work on this Draft Standard is not as difficult as the number of comments makes it out to be. The Committee itself recognized some items that it felt could be better written during the public comment period. It is anticipated that a draft Standard will be available in Q2, 2026.

Module 6 Radiochemistry Testing Requirements has a finalized Module effective January, 2023. It also will be subject to a review to ensure that there are no issues with implementation.

Module 7 Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Requirements was posted for its review by TNI membership on February 26, 2025. There were seventy-four (74) comments received, many of which dealt with definitions. The committee is nearing completion on its Response to Comments, and also anticipates having a draft Standard available in Q2, 2026.

Volume 2: General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Environmental Laboratories

Modules 1 & 3 will be combined into a new Module 1. The Laboratory Accreditation Body Expert Committee is discussing the last few comments on their Draft Standard that were received during the comment period in June, 2023. A great deal of work has gone into requirements for Assessors. A draft Standard is anticipated by the Symposium in Houston in August.

Module 2 Proficiency Testing Requirements for Accreditation Bodies is among the four (4) modules previously mentioned under the purview of the Proficiency Testing Expert Committee. No substantive changes are anticipated in this Module, but (like Volume 1 Module 1) it is of a lower priority for the Committee.

Volume 3: General Requirements for Environmental Proficiency Test Providers is expected to have a Draft version ready to discuss prior to the Environmental Measurement Symposium in August, 2026. Its changes need to be reflective of those made in Volumes 4, 1 & 2.

Volume 4: General Requirements for an Accreditor of Environmental Proficiency Test Providers was posted for comment on June 23, 2025. The committee posted its response to comments on April 14, 2026. Comments were deemed persuasive, so another Draft Standard will address those comments.

Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations Standards Volume 1: General Requirements for Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations. This Standard has been finalized. The Standard was reviewed by CSDP EC and no implementation issues were found in it. It was posted to the TNI website on March 19, 2026, with implementation scheduled for 2028.

The Field Activities Committee has completed its overview of **Volume 2: General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations**. They are in the process of final formatting/cleanup prior to posting a Draft for review by TNI membership.

As always, check for updates on these Modules by keeping an eye on the News section on the TNI website. You can also subscribe to any announcements of Standard activity [here](#).

How to Receive Notifications Regarding Standards Development

By Paul Junio, TNI

Do you want to know when something is happening regarding Standards Development? FoPT Tables? Standard Interpretation Requests? Links below allow you to sign up for notifications when activity occurs in these areas. Please note that if you change your email address – you will need to sign up again, with your new email address (this isn't connected to the TNI membership database).

>>>[Standards Development Activity Notification List](#)

>>>[FoPT Update Notification List](#)

>>>[Standard Interpretations Update Notification List](#)



2025 TNI Annual Report

By Jerry Parr, TNI

Each year in December, each TNI committee is requested to prepare a brief summary of Accomplishments from the current year and Objectives for the next. The TNI Executive Director combines these summaries into one (1) PowerPoint presentation and then adds in other significant accomplishments. These Accomplishments and Objectives are presented to the Winter Forum attendees during a general session at the conference. A copy of this presentation is made available to the public on the *Previous Conferences* webpage.

The TNI Executive Director combines all of the Accomplishments into one document and then edits this to prepare a summary of activities. The Objectives from the annual meeting presentation are then added in. Additionally, the following items are included:

- A listing of all Policies and SOPs developed and approved.
- A listing of all Training Courses developed.
- A Laboratory Accreditation Management System (LAMS) report containing demographics, including the number of accredited laboratories and Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations (FSMOs), the number of analytes and method codes, and an appendix listing all new analyte and method codes generated during the year.
- A list of all individuals who rotated off as Committee Chairs and a list of new Committee Chairs.
- A membership report showing the total number of members and the number of committee applications.
- A financial report (Statement of Activities).
- An appendix containing a roster for every committee and task force.

The report is provided to the Board for review and approval. The Board is required to vote on this report as it then empowers each committee's Work Plan for the coming year. The [Annual Report](#) is published on the [TNI website](#).

Below is a list of the significant accomplishments in 2025.

- Creation of the Professional Development Program.
- Creation of the Jack Farrell Analytical Excellence Scholarship.
- Developed and approved a 2025-2030 Strategic Plan with three (3) strategic initiatives, fifteen (15) goals, and thirty-three (33) objectives.
- Developed an Outreach Plan to provide “systematic outreach to data users that will explain and promote the benefits of a quality management system,” and initiated activities to implement this plan.
- Provided input to Chemical and Engineering News and the Cannabis Regulators Association on options for addressing data quality problems in cannabis laboratories.
- Continued significant efforts to revise all TNI standards.
- Reviewed and approved the new Volume 1 for Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations with an implementation date of 2028.
- Held the first exam for a certified Quality Management System professional with sixteen (16) individuals becoming certified.
- Began developing Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs) for technical specialists starting with wet chemistry and metals.
- Provided seven (7) new training courses.
- Completed work on a revised training website with a consistent template for all course descriptions — Synopsis, Learning Objectives, Intended Audience, Applicable Digital Badge(s), and ability to take exams and download certificates on-line. The training website can be viewed [here](#).
- Developed recommendations to resolve problems with variability of testing conditions for WET proficiency testing and posted draft table for comment.
- Requested that EPA consider incorporating zeta- scoring for the Drinking Water Radiochemistry analytes. This scoring model would take into account the standard uncertainties associated with the PT providers assigned values and laboratory reported methods.
- Updated PTRL for mercury in non-potable water.
- Updated nomenclature for chlordane.



New Webinars & On-Demand Learning Opportunities

By Ilona Taunton, TNI

TNI continues to expand learning opportunities through live webinars and recorded webcasts designed to support professional growth and expand knowledge. Most live webinars are converted into on-demand webcasts, allowing participants to complete training at times that work best for their schedules.

Many courses may also be used to fulfill requirements toward obtaining specialist badges and professional credentials. Learn more in the [TNI Credentials Handbook](#).

If you have an idea for a course — or are interested in teaching one yourself — we encourage you to complete the [Application to Provide Training](#) on the TNI website or contact Ilona Taunton (ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org) to discuss your ideas.

As TNI continues development of the Technical Specialist Certified Professional Credential, we are actively seeking technical training content and instructors. Instrument vendors, technical experts, supervisors, and directors (current or retired) interested in developing courses are encouraged to contact Ilona Taunton.

If you will be attending the Environmental Measurement Symposium in Houston this August, ask about the informational training meeting being planned during the event week.

Upcoming Live Webinars

Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD): From Sample to Report

Instructor: Mary Johnson

June 30, 2026 — 11:00 AM Eastern

[Course Information & Registration](#)

How to Write Non-Conformances

Instructor: Marlene Moore

July 10, 2026 — 11:00 AM Eastern

[Course Information & Registration](#)

Environmental Laboratory Assessments – Basic Assessor Training (Virtual Event)

Instructor: Marlene Moore

June 22–26, 2026 — 11:00 AM Eastern

Note: This course will not be available as a recorded webcast.

[Course Information & Registration](#)

On-Demand Learning

The following live courses were recently completed and will be available as webcasts before the end of the month:

Field Sampling and Measurement Organization (FSMO) Internal Audit Training

Instructors: Katie Strothman and Megan Beaman [Course Information & Registration](#)

Building Excellence: Integrating Initial and Ongoing Training into Laboratory Operations

Instructor: Mary Johnson [Course Information & Registration](#)

The following courses are now available as recorded webcasts:

Introduction to TNI Assessments and Evaluations

Instructor: Marlene Moore [Course Information & Registration](#)

Managing Change to Minimize Risk and Increase Success

Instructor: Dorothy Love [Course Information & Registration](#)

Management Reviews – A Pathway to Improvement

Instructor: Silky Labie [Course Information & Registration](#)

Courses in Development

Additional training opportunities currently in development for summer and fall include:

- Validation of User-Developed Computer Software
- Updated Method Detection Limit (MDL) training
- FSMO updated “Scared Straight” course
- Discipline-specific technical training series related to standard requirements, including: Microbiology, Radiochemistry, Chemistry, Asbestos, and Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET)
- Introduction to The NELAC Institute (TNI) – Free Course

Additional free courses on specific areas of TNI (e.g., Consensus Standards Development)

Expand your knowledge and skills by exploring current offerings and upcoming opportunities through [TNI Training Courses](#).

Ilona Taunton

TNI Training Coordinator



TNI Releases New Field Sampling and Measurement Standard (FSMO Volume 1)

By Paul Junio, TNI

The NELAC Institute (TNI) has officially released the finalized **Field Sampling and Measurement Organization (FSMO) Volume 1 Standard**, now available on the TNI website.

FSMOs accredited under the National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP) will be required to transition to the new standard by **December 1, 2028**. The approved accreditation bodies — **A2LA, ANAB, and PJLA** — are currently developing transition policies and procedural updates. Applicants and accredited FSMOs should consult their accreditation body for specific transition requirements and implementation criteria.

Strengthening Field Operations and Data Integrity

Volume 1 focuses on strengthening critical program elements, including:

- Field procedures
- Personnel competency
- Documentation practices
- Overall data integrity

As organizations begin implementation, the emphasis remains on practical application—ensuring that requirements are not only documented, but effectively integrated into daily field activities.

Congratulations to the **Field Activities Committee (FAC)** for achieving this important milestone.

Looking Ahead: FSMO Volume 2

Development of the **TNI FSMO Volume 2 Standard** is ongoing, with release anticipated by the end of the **third quarter of 2026**.

Volume 2 is expected to provide greater structure and consistency in how FSMO accreditations are evaluated and administered across accreditation bodies. The standard will help establish a more uniform approach to assessments, oversight, and program implementation at the accreditation level.

Join Us at the Annual Meeting Field Section Committee

Please join **Katie Strothman, FAC Committee Chair**, and **Tracy Szerszen, NEFAP Executive Committee Chair**, at the **Annual Meeting Field Section Committee Meeting on Thursday, August 6, 2026**.

This meeting will provide both a progress update and an opportunity for active collaboration, particularly in the development of practical tools to support implementation of the new standard.

Agenda Highlights

- Updates on Volume 1 implementation progress
- Review of proposed changes to FSMO NEFAP Volume 2
- Summary of sampling conclaves held since the last meeting
- Discussion of future workshops and training needs
- Open discussion with stakeholders
- Working session focused on development of guidance tools

Recent Training Activities

At the January 2026 TNI Winter Meeting, **Katie Strothman, FAC Chair and NEFAP Executive Committee Member**, presented a workshop providing an overview of the new **TNI FSMO Volume 1 Standard**.

The session was very well received, and additional training opportunities are planned as organizations prepare for implementation of the new standard.



TNI Member Spotlight: Kim Watson

By Zonetta English, Louisville Jefferson Co., MSD

Kim started her QA/QC days when she was fourteen (14) years old in a Book Bindery business in Boston. She was trained to look at the 10th book on the line, review for accuracy, and if necessary, stop the binding process.

After a brief career as a certified dental assistant, Kim went back to college and received her BS in Environmental Engineering Technology at Norwich University. Teachings focused on ways to analyze, sample, treat, and protect earth's environment using organic chemistry and biology. She explains, "We were told in air pollution class that our love for cars would eventually hurt us, which is true today."



After working for the State of VT in sampling and designing the closure of the landfills, Kim took a job as a bench level chemist at one of the top Contract Laboratory Program (CLP) Superfund laboratories, eventually performing data review and reporting of all analytical data. As fraud hit laboratories and engineering firms in the late 1980's, sampling and data quality became an issue for EPA and FDA. This began the QA/QC revolution: States and the EPA developed QA/QC programs with TNI support. SOPs, Work Plans, Policies, Standards, Assessments, Analytical Methodologies, and Ethics were key factors. Fraudulent data hit home when Kim rejected data from the ITS Laboratory in Dallas, Texas that she thought was questionable. This resulted in a subpoena by the EPA to testify on their behalf to help prosecute those accused of altering lab results used to determine safety at hazardous waste sites across the country.

In the late 1990's, Kim worked for a firm from home. That provided the opportunity for Kim to become skilled in the EPA's standards on data validation, field inspections, and assisted in setting up an on-site mobile lab to analyze matrices (VOAs, SVOAs, PCBs and PAHs) in real time.

In 2001, Kim became the QA Manager for a small firm managing their lab and field QA programs, while providing educational seminars in QA management, GLP QA agrochemical fate and transport field sampling, representative cannabis sampling, ISO 17025 and TNI inspections, and ethics. She is a registered QA Professional in GLPs, a member of NAICC, SQA, ASQ, ACS, and TNI.

In 2016, Kim's partner taught her to play Polo and to have a love for horses. She retired in 2021, and lives on a 720 cow Organic Dairy and Beef Farm in Central Vermont producing milk for Organic Valley Coop. Kim developed their Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) and manages their on-site farm store selling organic raw milk, beef, and farm raise pork. Kim's love for mother earth and human health keeps Kim active.

When asked, Kim will perform ISO and TNI laboratory assessments, data validation, and GC/MS spectral data interpretation.

Kim remains an active member of the TNI NEFAP EC committee. She is a firm believer that quality begins with sample collection and continues into the laboratory using standards and methods of known quality. This is the reason why Kim continues to be a strong supporter of the TNI National Environmental Lab Accreditation Program and the National Environmental Field Accreditation Program.

In summary, Kim has had an illustrious career, and we are very appreciative that she has shared her journey.



ChairSpeaks: Musings from the TNI Chair

By Alfredo Sotomayor

“The Smell Test”

I am blessed in so many ways, but if I were not, which is false, I would not make much of it because ingratitude is only second to heartlessness in the list of unappealing traits.

From my office, I can see the Menomonee River flow to Lake Michigan and the once thriving, but now wistfully diminished brutalist main post office, and hear Amtrak’s Hiawatha’s comings and goings to or from Chicago, punctuating my work hours, or prompting me to check on my next meeting. Where you are you may already be saturated in green, but over here, as I write this, everything is just turning with the ferocity of a Russian spring.

My staff has been experiencing a bit of change fatigue... The laboratory, which a few years ago had achieved a negotiated homeostasis, was being pushed out of balance by winds external, figurative, and literal internal collapses (we did have part of the ceiling of the metals digestion room crumble down during off hours), and its leader’s (guess who) appetite for the novel and cool.

Ch-Ch-Ch-Ch Changes

A classification study undertaken by the District two years ago reduced the number of analysts we had available to perform work during the weekends and holidays. The remaining eligible staff were doubling the number of days they had to work off weekdays. A sudden spike in the number of special projects involving laboratory analyses tested our ability to deliver service on time, never mind the smile. My brilliant request for two additional positions languished on the dimly lit boulevard of broken dreams.

And in 2025, it seemed a brilliant idea to, instead of addressing the rusty elephant of aging analytical space infrastructure patchily, secure a capital project to renovate the entire laboratory. But that was before August 2025 and that singular thousand-year flood the District service area experienced. What before the deluge seemed secure, now faced the threat of cuts, postponements, and opportunistic alteration.

Facing the Music

And because what we heard was not the old familiar, we rechoreographed our moves and improvised others. A few analysts hesitated, others stumbled, but all marked their steps and eventually got the rhythm.

The laboratory embarked on an efficiency kick. We bundled analyses that had been done in small bursts to meet the requested turnaround that, as it turned out, was no longer required by the clients. We restructured work and purchased communication devices that allowed analysts to work alone during weekends and holidays. We piloted and implemented the use of automated temperature measurement and recording devices. We reconsidered long-held practices that, while sound, could be modified or complemented by readily available commercial alternatives: we are no longer using and washing as many volumetric flasks. And we have adjusted our vision and timeline of the laboratory remodeling project and even proceeded with requesting design proposals, understanding that construction plans will be fluid.

None of this was easy, seamless, or automatic. All of it was challenging. The challenges led us to unanticipated solutions.

ChairSpeaks: Musings from the TNI Chair***"The Smell Test" cont.***

Stop and...

Yogis know the value of breath and cycle through their asanas inhaling and exhaling. A tactical pause recharges because it stops change, even if for a moment. The set-reset reflex demands a hiatus. And while in pause, why not smell the roses as passively as possible, surrendering to the melody of the aroma?

If you find this olfactory metaphor unpleasant because you are allergic to scents, I have an alternative for you that will still please others. In the 90's, magazines had little insert envelopes inviting you to experience the passion, languor, and mystery of the latest designer fragrance. The trend went overboard and when the hypoallergenic stopped buying GQ and Town and Country, the inserts mostly disappeared leaving not a trace behind.

I am not proposing bringing the inserts back; instead, I would like to produce a Scratch and Sniff card or sticker that when rubbed would release the sweet smell of success and pride. But for you to experience it, you would need to scratch, stop, and smell.

Only connect.***Alfredo***

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We are grateful for the generosity of the organizations that have joined us as members:

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Vermont Department of Health

Cont. on next page

TNI Organizational Members cont.

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