

A photograph of laboratory glassware, including a beaker with a pipette, several other beakers, and a flask, set on a white lab bench. The background is slightly blurred, showing more lab equipment.

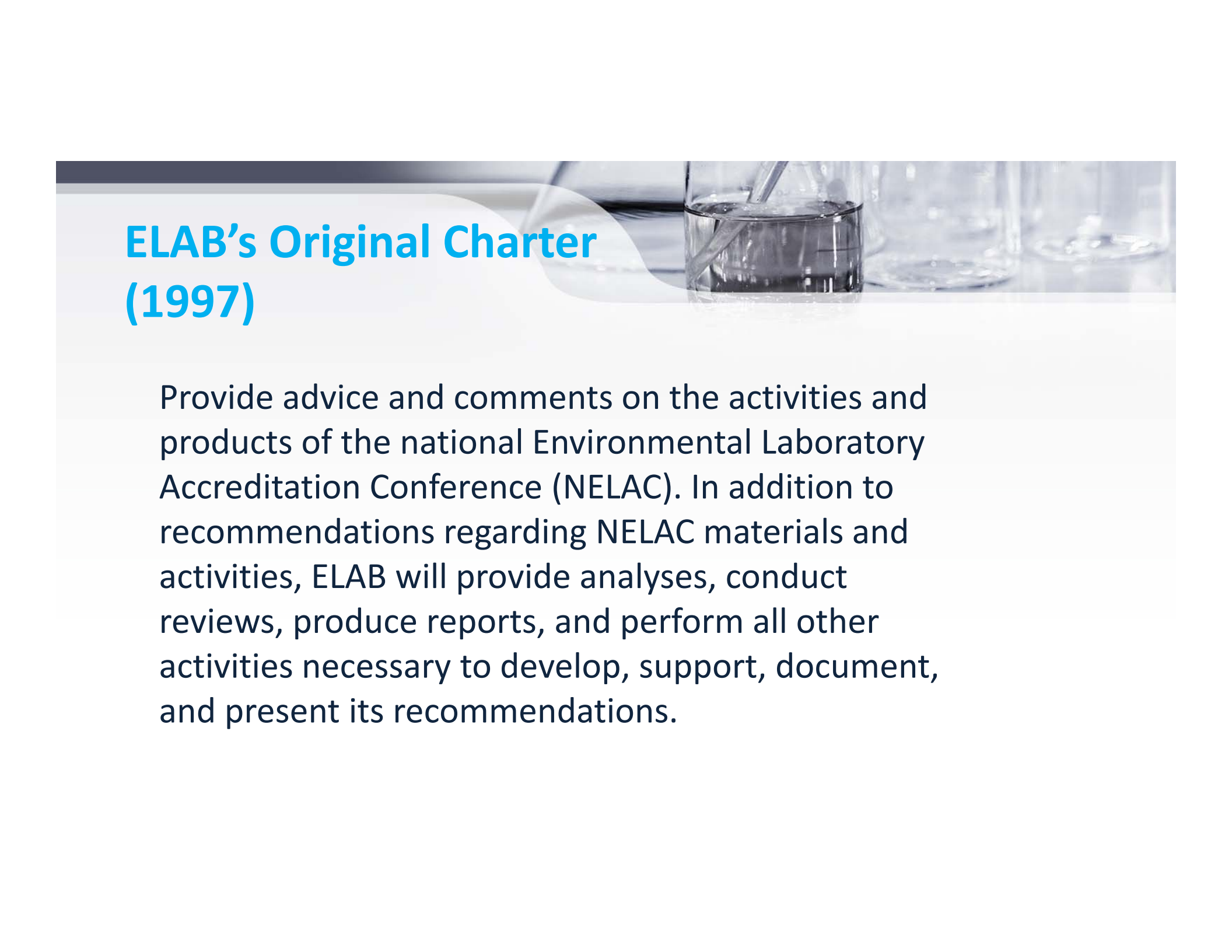
**Environmental
Monitoring
Coalition**

August 14, 2020
NEMC Virtual Meeting

A photograph of laboratory glassware, including a beaker with a pipette and other containers, set against a light blue background. The image is partially obscured by a white, rounded rectangular shape that serves as a background for the text.

Background

- EPA's Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) created in 1997
- ELAB disbanded in October 2019
- EMC created in 2020

A background image showing laboratory glassware, including a beaker with liquid and a pipette, set against a light blue and white gradient.

ELAB's Original Charter (1997)

Provide advice and comments on the activities and products of the national Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC). In addition to recommendations regarding NELAC materials and activities, ELAB will provide analyses, conduct reviews, produce reports, and perform all other activities necessary to develop, support, document, and present its recommendations.

A background image showing laboratory glassware, including a beaker with liquid and a pipette, set against a light blue and white gradient.

Charter Expanded in 2001

Develop consensus recommendations for requirements regarding:

- nationally recognized environmental laboratory accreditation;
- national recognition of the program-administering accreditation authorities,
- and advancement of the EPA's measurement programs in areas such as:
 - Validating and disseminating methods for sample collection and for biological, chemical, radiological, and toxicological analysis;
 - Developing scientifically-rigorous, statistically-sound, and representative measurements;
 - Employing the performance paradigm in environmental monitoring and regulatory programs;
 - Improving communications and outreach between EPA and its stakeholder communities; and
 - Employing a quality systems approach that ensures the data gathered and used by EPA are of known and documented quality.

A photograph of laboratory glassware, including a beaker with a pipette, a graduated cylinder, and other glass containers, set against a light background.

ELAB Work Products (Examples)

- User-Generated Mass Spectral Libraries and Tuning Criteria
- Minimum Criteria for Selected Ion Monitoring (SIM)
- Cyanide Testing in Drinking Water
- Reporting of Compliance Data with Qualifiers That Do Not Impact Data Usability
- Analysis Requirements and pH Preservation for Acrolein and Acrylonitrile
- Proposed Revisions to Methods 624 and 625
- Recommendations to Changes to Appendix D of Chapter 5 of the NELAC Standards
- Recommendations for the Implementation of Performance Based Measurement Systems
- Recommendations for the Use of Checklists during a NELAC On-site Assessment

A background image showing laboratory glassware, including beakers and test tubes, with a pipette tip visible. The image is slightly blurred and has a white overlay on the left side where the text is located.

Elimination of ELAB (10/18/2019)

- On June 14, 2019, President Trump signed Executive Order (EO) 13875: Evaluating and Improving the Utility of Federal Advisory Committees. The EO required federal agencies to review and evaluate the need for each of the agency's federal advisory committees.
- After conducting a thorough review with senior leadership of its 22 committees, the Agency recommended and the Office of Management & Budget approved that the EPA not retain ELAB. The agency determined that there are existing committees and other mechanisms that can provide EPA with the guidance and work products that fall under ELAB's charge.

A photograph of laboratory glassware, including a beaker with a pipette and several other containers, set against a light background.

The Germination of the EMC

- A few former members started exchanging emails
 - There is no longer a connection between environmental laboratory communities both public and private and the EPA programs. I believe folks are interested in exploring other avenues to reconnect with the EPA to advise on matters related to environmental laboratories...
- One individual proposed creating a new group to replace ELAB

The Concept

- Form the “Environmental Monitoring Coalition”
- Formation supported by four trade associations, the “partners”

ACIL



A background image showing laboratory glassware, including a beaker with liquid and a pipette, set against a light blue and white gradient.

First Steps

- Small group of dedicated individuals began work on a resolution and Coalition charter
 - Sharon Mertens
 - Henry Leibovitz
 - Mike Delaney
 - Jerry Parr
- Quickly expanded to include
 - Sarah Wright
 - Stacie Crandall
 - David Friedman
 - Judy Morgan

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Initial Invitations

- The Partners
- Former members of ELAB
- ASTM D-19
- NELAP
- DOD EDQW

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The Resolution

Whereas Since July of 1995, the environmental monitoring community has had a mechanism for developing consensus recommendations regarding the general requirements for accreditation of environmental laboratories and recommendations for advancing the EPA's measurement programs.

The mechanism for this effort has been the EPA sponsored, Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB). During the period of its operation, ELAB produced reports on a variety of topics relating to environmental measurements and served a valuable function as a means of generating consensus viewpoints on issues related to environmental monitoring.

Therefore, be it resolved:

The Coalition Partners listed below agree to form the Environmental Monitoring Council (EMC) to continue the mission of ELAB and expand it into outreach to states as well as EPA. Founding members of the coalition include:

- American Council of Independent Laboratories
- Association of Public Health Laboratories
- The NELAC Institute
- Water Environment Federation

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The Charter

➤ Charter created to define:

- Purpose
- Management
- Objectives
- Composition
- Meetings
- Reporting

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PURPOSE

- The purpose of the EMC is to develop consensus positions on issues regarding environmental monitoring for submittal to federal and state agencies.



ELAB vs EMS

ELAB

- Reports directly to EPA
- Must abide by FACA rules
 - No subcommittees
 - Rigid terms

EMC

- No direct relationship to EPA
 - Can communicate with anyone
- Can make own rules

Dan Hautman (EPA OGWDW) has volunteered to be EPA Liaison

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INTERACTIONS

➤ To serve

- As a less formalized mechanism to communicate broadly with EPA, other federal agencies, and the States and within the Coalition about topics of mutual interest.
- As a forum where members can brainstorm about solutions to resolve situations/problems encountered without the need for direct government engagement.
- As a high-level mechanism to give positive feedback to agencies by letting management know when the Agency or its staff helped to address issues or problems facing the industry.
- As a mechanism for agencies faced with issues or problems with an easy means to reach out to the monitoring community (e.g., how to address problems with specific methods, how to analyze for a new analyte of concern, need for labs to assist with a multi-lab method validation).
- The environmental monitoring community by providing information on relevant Federal or State agency activities.

A background image showing laboratory glassware, including beakers and test tubes, with a pipette. The image is slightly blurred and has a light blue tint. The text 'MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT' is overlaid on the left side of the image in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- This Coalition is supported by trade associations and other related groups interested in environmental data quality, the Coalition Partners. Each of the Coalition Partners may appoint one designated individual to serve as a designated member of the Coalition. Each Coalition Partner will provide administrative support to the Coalition including scribing of minutes of teleconferences as appropriate.

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OBJECTIVES

- The EMC will develop consensus recommendations and provide advice to the USEPA, state agencies or related groups which will fairly reflect the opinions and positions of its constituents on issues such as:
 - Validating and disseminating methods for sample collection and for biological, chemical, radiological, and toxicological analysis;
 - Developing scientifically rigorous, statistically sound, and representative measurements;
 - Employing the performance paradigm in environmental monitoring and regulatory programs;
 - Employing a quality systems approach that ensures that environmental monitoring data are of known and documented quality; and
 - Facilitating the operation and expansion of a national environmental accreditation program.

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COMPOSITION

- EMC membership will consist of approximately 15 members including
 - one individual selected from each Coalition Partner, to represent the Coalition Partner, and
 - others from among, but not limited to,
 - state laboratory associations,
 - state regulatory agencies,
 - other trade associations,
 - academia,
 - federal and state agencies,
 - data users, and
 - vendors including consulting firms and laboratory assessment bodies.
- The EMC may establish subcommittees and task groups as it finds necessary to carry out its duties.

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INITIAL COMPOSITION

Michael Delaney	MWRA (Retired)
Jay Gandhi	Metrohm USA
Kitty Kong	Chevron
Sharon Mertens	Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (TNI)
David Thal	Environmental Standards
Kristin Brown	Utah DOH
Judy Morgan	Pace Analytical (ACIL)
William Lipps	Shimadzu Scientific Instruments
Mary Johnson	Rock River Water Reclamation District (WEF)
Jordan Adelson	US Navy
Jerry Parr	TNI
David Friedman	ACIL
Sarah Wright	APHL
Steven Rhode	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (APHL)



MEETINGS

- It is expected that the EMC will meet at the National Environmental Monitoring Conference.
- Other teleconference and in-person meetings will be called as needed.
- EMC will not compensate members for their service.
- It is expected the Coalition will meet by teleconference every two months or more frequently if timely action is required on some specific topic.

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REPORTING

- At the annual meeting the Coalition will summarize accomplishments from the previous year and goals for the upcoming year. The Coalition will also routinely provide minutes from its meetings to the Coalition Partners and to the public.
- Minutes will be posted on website.

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Current Status

- EMC had its first meeting on June 22, 2020
- Focus was on reviewing charter and establishing basic operational rules.
- Meeting on July was to discuss initial activities.
- Goal is to have a workplan by 10/1/2020.

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2020 Priorities

- Acrolein/Acrylonitrile Preservation
- Drinking Water Issues
 - Collision cell
 - Cyanide preservation and analysis
 - IDOC
 - Obsolete methods
- **Contaminants of Emerging Concern**
 - Analytes and Methods
 - PFAS
- User-Generated Mass Spectra

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ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING COALITION (EMC)

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EMC

ELAB Archive

History

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) on July 1, 1995 to enhance EPA's measurement programs and to facilitate the operation and expansion of a national environmental accreditation program. In the past twenty-five (25) years, ELAB produced over thirty (30) reports on a variety of topics relating to environmental measurements. On October 17, 2019, the EPA, as part of Executive Order 13875, Evaluating and Improving the Utility of Federal Advisory Committees, disbanded ELAB.

In response to this action, four (4) organizations:

- the American Council of Independent Laboratories,
- the Association of Public Health Laboratories,
- The NELAC Institute, and
- the Water Environment Federation

came together and created a new group, the Environmental Monitoring Coalition, to continue the work of ELAB.

Focus

The EMC develops consensus recommendations and provides advice to federal and state agencies and stakeholder groups that will reflect the opinions and positions of its constituents on issues that include but are not limited to:

- Validating and implementing methods for sample collection and for biological, chemical, radiological, and toxicological analysis;
- Developing scientifically rigorous, statistically sound, and representative measurements;
- Encouraging the method performance approach in environmental monitoring and regulatory programs;
- Employing a quality systems approach that ensures that environmental monitoring data are of known and documented quality;
- Facilitating the operation and expansion of a national environmental accreditation program; and

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Open Forum

➤ What do you think the EMC should work on?

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THANK YOU!

Jerry Parr

The NELAC Institute

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