



# Environmental Measurement Symposium Laboratory Accreditation Systems Executive Committee

August 9, 2021, 3:15 pm Eastern  
Virtual Event

**Activities of LASEC**  
Maria Friedman, Chair  
California ELAP





# Agenda

- ❖ Welcome and Introductions
- ❖ Recent Activities
- ❖ Update on SIR Activities and SIR Management SOP
- ❖ Participant Feedback Request
  - ❖ Are there other issues that would benefit from LASEC attention?
- ❖ Discussion/Questions from the Participants
  - ❖ (Virtual participants use WebEx Q&A function)
- ❖ Adjourn





# LASEC Members

Member	Affiliation	Category
<b>Maria Friedman, Chair</b>	CA ELAP	AB
<b>Aaren Alger</b>	Alger Consulting & Training	Other
<b>David Caldwell</b>	OK DEQ	NELAP AB
<b>Sumy Cherukara</b>	EPA R2	Other
<b>Stacie Crandall</b>	HRSD	Lab
<b>Mike Delaney</b>	Retired (MWRA)	Other
<b>Jack Farrell</b>	Analytical Excellence	Other
<b>Silky Labie</b>	ELCAT	Other
<b>Bill Hall</b>	NH ELAP	NELAP AB
<b>Harold Longbaugh</b>	City of Houston	Lab
<b>Dorothy Love, Vice Chair</b>	Eurofins – Lancaster	Lab
<b>Louise McGinley</b>	TCEQ	NELAP AB
<b>Michelle Potter</b>	NJ DEP	NELAP AB

**13 Members**—Balanced among three categories: 3 - Lab, 5- NELAP & Non-NELAP AB, 5 - Other

**10 Associate members**

Member	Affiliation	Category
<b>Associate Members</b>		
<b>Debbie Bond</b>	Alabama Power	Lab
<b>Myron Gunsalas</b>	KDHE Lab Accred.	NELAP AB
<b>Carl Kircher</b>	FL DOH	NELAP AB
<b>Mitzi Miller</b>	NV5, Inc	Other
<b>Judy Morgan</b>	Pace Labs	Lab
<b>Bill Ray</b>	Wm. Ray Consultants	Other
<b>Mohan Sabaratnam</b>	IAS	AB
<b>Scott Siders</b>	Retired	Other
<b>Katie Strothman</b>	Sanders Labs	Lab
<b>Nick Straccione</b>	EMSL	Lab

## Program Administrator

**Lynn Bradley**





## Our Mission

Manage TNI's efforts in supporting a national program for the accreditation of environmental laboratories by

- ❖ Supporting the NELAP Accreditation Bodies (ABs) and non-governmental ABs (NGABs) recognized to accredit to the TNI Environmental Laboratory Sector (ELS) Standard
- ❖ Enabling stakeholders such as laboratories, proficiency testing providers and data users to effectively participate in the development of, adoption and implementation of, and compliance with the TNI standards





## Recent LASEC Activities

- ❖ Mentor Session and Assessment Forum
  - ❖ Forum on Environmental Accreditation, January 2021
  - ❖ Environmental Measurement Symposium, August 2021
- ❖ Many improvements to SIR management processes
- ❖ New Implementation Guidance SOP





# Mentor Sessions

*Coordinated by Dorothy Love*

## The Sessions

- Encourage networking and collaboration
- Provide for knowledge sharing (guidance)
- Reduce barriers to:
  - ✦ getting accredited
  - ✦ maintaining accreditation

## Speakers include

- State Accreditors
- Assessors
- Lab Managers
- Quality Assurance Specialists
- Instrument Specialists





## TNI Mentor Session 2021

### *Laboratory Quality – Are you in Jeopardy?*

Tuesday August 3, 9:00 – 3:00 pm Pacific, Dorothy Love moderating

- A combination of an interactive Jeopardy-style game and presentations
- Audience Mixer Activity -- Quality is in the Eye of the Beholder
- Presentations interspersed with game sessions
  - Quality Responsibilities - Dorothy Love
  - MDLs/Control Limits - Michelle Wade
  - Corrective Actions - Silky Labie
  - Quality Training Tips - Jeanette Hernandez
  - Report Formats - Key Requirements - Aaren Alger





# Assessment Forum

Started in 2005

## Goal

- ❖ To provide an opportunity for laboratories and laboratory assessors to share information on how to improve the laboratory assessment process

## Topics

- ❖ Feedback from the previous participants
- ❖ Hot topics of the day
- ❖ Suggestions from individuals
- ❖ Member presentation interests





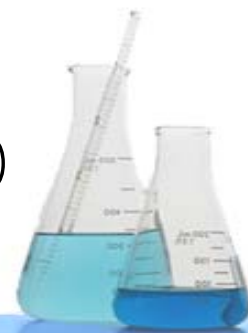


## TNI Assessment Forum 2021

### *Unmasking the 2016 TNI Standard*

Thursday August 5, 9:00 – 5:00 pm Pacific, Judy Morgan moderating

- Morning:
  - % RSE and RE – What is it and how do I use it? – Aaren Alger
  - Calibration – Creation, Verification, Large Analyte Lists and Dropping Points – Jeanné Mensingh
  - Method blank and DL (MDL) – Mitzi Miller
  - LOD/LOQ – Valerie Slaven, PDC Laboratories
  - Traceability – Where Does it End? – Shawn Kassner
- Afternoon: Panel discussion & interactive game (about deficiencies)





# SIR and SIR Management Update

- ❖ New submittals receive an acceptance decision within 5 days

## SIR History

#	Year
44	2008
54	2009
49	2010
44	2011
31	2012
21	2013
36	2014
13	2015

Total/ Valid	Year
8/4	2016
8/2	2017
19/14	2018
30/6	2019
<b>26/10</b>	2020
<b>18/12</b>	Jan.-June 2021





## SIR Process

### SOP 3-105 – Standards Interpretation Request

#### Criteria for a valid SIR

- ❖ Must contain only one question
- ❖ Must apply directly and clearly to cited section of Standard
- ❖ Question is understood without supposition
- ❖ Question is compelling -- the language used in the Standard(s) section cited is not clear or where it might have more than one interpretation
- ❖ Cannot be used to settle a dispute between a laboratory and an AB
- ❖ Is not a “how to” question or a method interpretation question
- ❖ Where possible, the question should be framed in a manner that solicits a “Yes” or “No” answer





## SIR Process

- ❖ LASEC is responsible for verifying that all SIRs relevant to the module have been reviewed for incorporation when each module of the TNI Environmental Laboratory Sector Standard undergoes revision





# LASEC SIR Process Changes

- ❖ Enhanced SIR Tracking Spreadsheet Now Monitors Timeframes
- ❖ SIR Management SOP 3-105
  - ❖ LASEC receives periodic reports on adherence to timeframes
  - ❖ More formal procedures for SIR Subcommittee including a required 2/3 majority vote for all SIR activities
- ❖ Implementation Guidance SOP 3-114
  - ❖ IG development requires advance approval of LASEC SIR Subcommittee
  - ❖ Reviewed by Policy Committee and improvements returned for approval





# Implementation Guidance – Available Only to TNI Members

## TNI Standards Guidance

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This guidance does not establish or affect legal rights or obligations and is not finally determinative of the issues it addresses. It does not create any rights enforceable by any party in litigation with TNI, its accreditation bodies, or affiliated institutions. Any decisions made by TNI regarding requirements addressed in this guidance will be made by applying the applicable standards, policies or procedures to the relevant facts.

## Module: Quality Systems & Chemistry

### Subject: Titrants - Documentation and Verification

<b>Question 1</b>	<p><b>Is it required to independently verify the concentration/strength of all laboratory titrant solutions?</b></p> <p>The laboratory must have a written policy on the use of prepared solutions. The policy shall address record keeping and documentation requirements for each type of solution.</p> <p>Considerations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Titrants used directly in the calculation of the analytical result must be independently verified for concentration.</li><li>• Regardless of use, all prepared solutions affecting analytical quality and calibration must be traceable to the original chemical source to verify purity, concentration, suitability, specifications, etc. Traceability must be described in a policy or procedure.</li></ul>
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### References:

<b>TNI 2009 V1M4-1.7.3.5 c)</b>	<p>1.7.3.5 Reagent Quality, Water Quality and Checks</p> <p>a) In methods where the purity of reagents is not specified, analytical reagent grade shall be used. Reagents of lesser purity than those specified by the method shall not be used. Documentation of purity shall be available.</p> <p>b) The quality of water sources shall be monitored and documented and shall meet method specified requirements.</p> <p>c) The laboratory shall verify the concentration of titrants in accordance with written laboratory procedures.</p>
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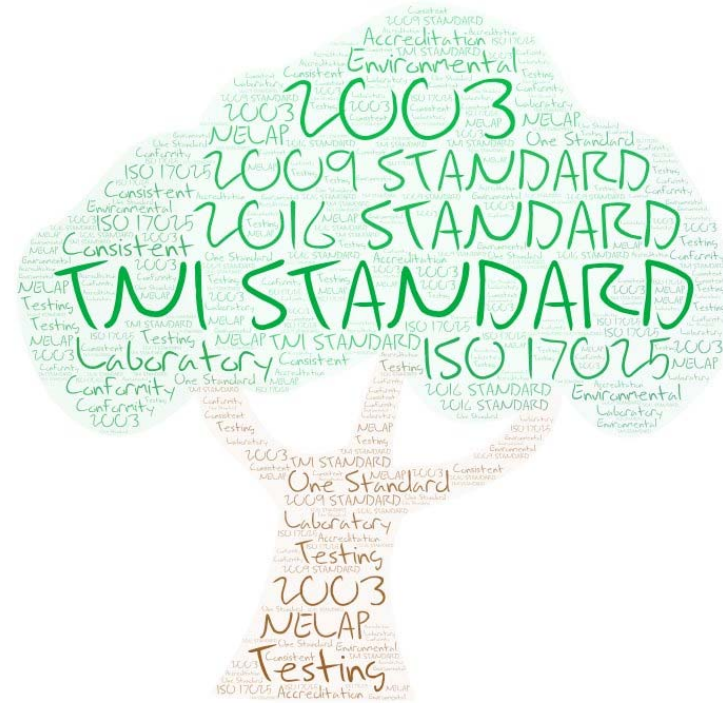
## Coming Up Next

- ❖ LASEC will review Draft Standards (individual modules) and provide its recommendation to the NELAP Accreditation Council as they are finalized by the Expert Committees
- ❖ Mentor Session and Assessment Forum sessions will be planned for the Forum on Environmental Accreditation conference in San Antonio, January 2022





Any other issues?  
Questions?  
Discussions?



Chair – Maria Friedman, [QAMFriedman@gmail.com](mailto:QAMFriedman@gmail.com)

Program Administrator – Lynn Bradley, [Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org](mailto:Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org)

