

CONNECTICUT
ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

November 1, 2018

Attendees:

Don Carew	Analytical Consulting Technology
Dermot Jones	Dept. of Public Health
Greg Lawrence	Phoenix Laboratory
Kim Maloney	Town of Wallingford
Barbara Obert	Baron Consulting Company
Bob Rostkowski	The Metropolitan District

Administrative:

1. The meeting was called to order at 09:45 AM
2. Minutes from the of October 18, 2017, meeting were not available.

Old Business:

Laboratory requirements and reporting formats for private drinking water well test results were discussed.

Don - The State would like to collect data on private well water quality to obtain an overall picture of the quality of drinking water in individual areas of Connecticut.

Bob – The present format requires Laboratories to forward testing results to the local health director only when the results are associated with a property sale. If there is an exceedance of a parameter and there is no sale involved, the well owner again is referred to the local health director but no reporting is required.

Don – Currently, there is no mechanism for laboratories to report test results of private wells to the Department of Public Health. The State is looking at setting up some form of compliance monitoring data portal.

Bob – There will be a conference in Washington, DC regarding the CMDP EPA reporting format at the Federal level. There is a Senate Bill that wants to pass directives to improve data availability and transparency. This would make the EDI and CMDP information more accessible and open to the public. There are no deadlines now, Chris Roy may establish deadlines for Connecticut once the EPA has set some guidelines. The plan is to have all utilities in Connecticut report to the DPH- Drinking Water Division using the CMDP portal. A notice was sent from the State for all to be using the CMDP by February 1, 2019. Private wells will be included when the mechanism and statutes allow.

Area health districts have the responsibility for private wells for real estate transactions only?

Don – The State will only get involved if the EPA forces the issue.

Bob – The EPA wants all data of all drinking waters.

The general ELAC Committee consensus for laboratory reporting of private wells at this time is for the laboratory to give a list of the MCL'S for drinking water limits for any primary and secondary parameters that were tested. Referral may be made to the DPH's publication 24 and 24A which may be found on their web site unless there is an acute condition. In the case of an acute condition, it should be suggested to the private well owner, to call the local health department.

New Business:

Dermot – There have been changes within the Department of Public Health. The Environmental Laboratory Certification Division is now part of the Facilities Screening Investigation Section (FLIS) This division licenses, hospitals, nursing homes, clinical medical laboratories and blood stations drawing. The environmental testing laboratories will now be certified through FLIS. Dermot has kept the same email and mail stop. New certificates and certified analysts lists will be sent out with renewals to reflect the certification under the Healthcare, Quality and Safety Branch. The Branch Chief is Barbara S. Cass, R.N.

Don asked if this change requires a change in State Statutes?

Dermot replied that the Statutes do not specify what sections need to do the inspections for initial certification, biannual renewal or on-site audits. There will be cross training for all personnel in the FLIS.

The committee discussed that the EPA grants Connecticut primacy in its environmental laboratory certification program which includes drinking water, waste water, ground water, solid waste, asbestos, microbiological and radiochemistry parameters. Auditing and overseeing environmental laboratories requires a knowledge of the required and approved laboratory sampling and testing procedures, quality control for each parameter in each matrix, instrumentation requirements and limitations and other applicable regulations requirements.

Greg stated that there has always been a partnership between the environmental health division and laboratories with the DPH Laboratory Certification personnel advisors as to the laboratories as well as regulators. They have brought their expertise and national EPA interaction to the Connecticut laboratories to always improve quality and reliability of laboratory results.

The committee was concerned that inspectors without this extensive environmental background would not be the best choice for monitoring and regulating the environmental laboratories within the State. These laboratories may be at a disadvantage when competing with out of state approved laboratories who are audited by environmental knowledgeable auditors.

Kim suggested that a position letter may be needed from the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee addressing the issue that now most of the inspectors have been trained as medical technicians and have no environmental laboratory experience. The committee will discuss this at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 9:30 AM at the town of Wallingford WPCA.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.