

CONNECTICUT  
ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

July 23, 2004

<b>Attendees:</b> Abdel Halim El-Sayed	MDC – Microbiologist
Lucy Dunn	EML – Wallingford
Phil Rusconi	Premier Laboratories
Bert Geuser	ACT Laboratories
Jeffrey Curran	Dept. of Public Health
Phil Schlossberg	Dept. of Public Health
Dermot Jones	Dept. of Public Health
Kim Maloney	Town of Wallingford

**Old Business:**

1. Meeting came to order at 10:00 AM.
2. (Phil Rusconi) Any changes to the minutes from the 1/16/04 meeting?  
(Dermot) Items #7, #8 and #15 require some grammatical changes.
3. (Phil Rusconi) Any changes to the April minutes?
4. (Jeff) #19 needs some changes to more accurately describe the new climate in the state departments.
5. (Dermot) Items #6 and #16 also need amending.
6. (Phil Rusconi) Motion to accept minutes. Minutes accepted.
7. (Jeff) An email was sent to Drinking Water Treatment facilities to alert them of an update on the State Water Department website regarding sampling requirements .
8. (Phil Rusconi) We need a summary of State Water Department requirement changes. It is a nightmare to determine what is new.
9. (Lucy) Changes are being made to client's schedules by the department without notice, then the client receives an NOV.
10. (Phil Rusconi) Setup an agenda item or meeting for Drinking Water Department issues including owners, contract operators, laboratories.
11. (Bert) We need subcommittee meetings.
12. (Phil Rusconi) I will take the responsibility to arrange a meeting with laboratories who have an interest in drinking water issues. It will include Mike Hage from the Drinking Water Department.
13. (Bert) Will be setting up an email tree conversation for the purpose of setting up an agenda for the subcommittee meeting.
14. (Lucy) Mission statement will be distributed to members for comment and discussion at the next meeting. By laws are necessary to further limit the broad nature of the statutes.

15. (Abdel) If you want to have by laws, then you must follow through with what they state. If they are not followed through, then chairman can establish some management guidelines.
16. (Lucy) I can email a copy of Pennsylvania's Advisory Committee's by laws to the members.
17. (Dermot) Once the by laws are finalized, we can forward them to the commissioner.
18. (Abdel) Should the Commissioner grant permission for the committee to go by the guidelines, then the committee can enforce by them such as if you miss a certain number of meetings you can be dismissed, set term limits.
19. (Phil Rusconi) *NELAC Discussion* Would the state accept third party audits?
20. (Jeff) No.
21. (Abdel) If NELAC is the future, then the committee should be looking into it now.
22. (Dermot) The state is not showing interest due to a lack of funding.
23. (Jeff) Steps that must be taken before CT can undertake NELAC
  - Statutes must be put in place
  - Additional staff would be necessary due to the two year inspection cycle
  - Proficiency Testing will be increased to two times per yearDue to these burdens, the state is not showing any interest.
24. (Abdel) We need to give a statement as a committee stating our position on this subject.
25. (Lucy) I believe that if an instate laboratory has NELAC approval then the state should accept that also.
26. (Jeff) This would inhibit DPH's ability to regulate laboratories. If you are an out of state lab, then current regulations accept reciprocity of the other state's program.
27. (Phil Rusconi) Is there any way authority to create a different inspection structure.
28. (Jeff) The state already has a different schedule of compliance. There is a three-year cycle for inspections and only one set of PT sample requirement.
29. (Dermot) Fees would have to be added to cover costs.
30. (Abdel) We need to draft a letter summarizing the committee's findings and defining the DPH's position on NELAC.
31. (Phil Rusconi) *Preservation of Soil Samples* DEP's limits and standards are based on unpreserved soil samples. If methanol is used, you will extract organics and you won't have standards to compare to.
32. (Bert) EPA Regions I recommends preservation though RCRA states unpreserved samples should be used.
33. (Dermot) The DPH issued procedures for Drinking Water sampling and testing. Maybe one can be done for soils.
34. (Jeff) Since the testing is for the DEP, the DPH can send a letter recommending that they follow EPA guidelines for the preservation of soil samples for volatiles.
35. (Phil Rusconi) *Nomination of New Members*
  - Commissioner must appoint new members
  - A total of seven resumes were reviewed and categorized.

- Four positions are still open; two for public water utilities, one for inorganic specialist, one for organic specialist.
- Committee voted on applicants based on qualifications and geographical location.
- The two nominees are Kevin Miller for organic specialist and Barbara Obert for inorganic specialist.
- Motion to accept the two nominations. Motion accepted.

**New Business**

36. (Phil Rusconi) *Marketing*
37. (Bert) Volunteered to begin a letter introducing the committee and send it to the Bureau Chiefs.
38. (Kim) Our mission statement should be included.
39. (Bert) It will also include members names and emails.
40. (Phil Rusconi) Members should forward to me names of people who should receive the introduction letter.
41. (Jeff) The Attorney General has been actively with a couple of cases involving laboratories engaged in fraudulent practices.
42. Meeting adjourned at 12:25. Next meeting is October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the MDC Training Center.
43. (Lucy) Can we set the four meeting dates for the upcoming year?
44. (Phil Rusconi) We will do so at the next meeting. New members will also be invited to the next meeting.

Submitted by: Kim Maloney