

CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 2006

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| Attendees: Phil Rusconi | Premier Laboratories |
| Abdel Halim El-Sayed | MDC – Microbiologist |
| Jeffrey Curran | Dept. of Public Health |
| Kim Maloney | Town of Wallingford |
| Dermot Jones | Dept. of Public Health |
| Philip Schlossberg | Dept. of Public Health |
| Barbara Obert | Baron Consulting Co, |
| Donna Ruokonen | Northeast Laboratories |
| Greg Lawrence | Phoenix Laboratories |
| Peter Frick | STL Laboratories |
| Bert Geuser | ACT |
| Terry Spalletta | Regional Water Authority |

Administrative:

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM.
2. Kevin Miller has an excused absence. Dr. Xie did not attend.
3. The Dec 1st meeting will be postponed. Jeff Curran will coordinate with the members via email to reschedule the meeting.
4. (Jeff) Revisions for September minutes. Line #6 finalized RCP methods and Line #7 DEP QA/QC workgroup
5. Acceptance of September 1st meeting minutes with revisions. Seconded.

Old Business:

DPH Update

6. (Dermot) An EPA letter dated November 1st regarding method 625 states that there is flexibility in the method regarding the extraction procedure.
7. (Jeff) Will be forwarding a copy of both letters to all the labs.
8. (Phil R) Something to be aware of, the DEP states that method 200.7 is the only acceptable method for work done for POTWs. Method 200.8 is not acceptable.
9. (Dermot) EPA Region 1 has granted interim approval for this method.
10. (Phil R) An “EPA report on Lab Fraud” article found 272 vulnerabilities. The article listed 20 hot items. These would be beneficial when doing the regulation rewrite.
11. (Peter) The CT DOT has a shipping restriction on solutions containing greater than 20% nitric acid. The item cannot be shipped by air. The official rule started October 2006. Is working with the department to create an exemption.

12. (Jeff) Regarding method approval, the EPA has prepublished a final rule for drinking water and wastewater method approvals and withdrawals. A Method Update Rule has not yet been released. They will be adding 200 new methods and alternative testing procedures. When the final rule is released, there will be 30 days to comply.
13. (Jeff) A request was made to the webmaster to include web links that would go directly to the individual laboratories. The department has reported that it is not prepared to do so at this time.

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14. (Abdel) Feels that if only eight semester hours is required for microbiology analysis that the role of microbiology is diminished.
15. (Bert) Most labs do limited microbiological testing. Additional educational requirements are not necessary unless speciation is done.
16. (Phil S) The educational requirement should be based on what tests are performed.
17. (Dermot) Courses for microbiology are not widely available. We are now advising that web courses be taken.
18. (Terry) 95% of micro work is Colilert with only 5% of the work being membrane filtration, whereas chemistry methods are technologically more intense. The level of education should be based on work performed.
19. (Bert) Other states accept the Hach micro course.
20. (Jeff) Perhaps there could be limited directorships issued for microbiology as well as for chemistry. For example, Limited Director for Colilert, pH, conductivity, turbidity and Full Director for Speciation, GC, GC/MS.
21. (Abdel) The first issue is advice given on the customer service side and the second issue is the availability of human resources.
22. (Terry) Someone with that sort of degree doesn't want to just oversee Colilert testing.
23. (Phil R) Proficiency testing demonstrates that we have the equipment and ability to perform the test that most likely did not learn in school.
24. (Dermot) Candidates for director applying with a bachelors degree in a science major meet minimum standards for acceptance and are providing some indication of competency in handling scientific procedures.
25. (Bert) Change the name to better reflect the education.
26. (Donna) Make an addition that state to perform a higher level of testing, twelve semester hours or more are required. To be considered a microbiologist, more education is required.
27. (Phil R) The requirements that we already have works.
28. (Abdel) The requirements for an analyst are different than that of a director.
29. (Bert) In Kentucky, and analyst can only sign off on total coliform results and if virology work is necessary then the work is sent to a virology lab.
30. (Phil S) As used in State of CT job applications, you can use education or experience in lieu of the other.
31. (Peter) Labs have people who have learned all aspects of the lab in ten years and others that have only learned one thing. But both will list that they have ten years experience.

32. (Dermot) Is three years with one year supervisor experience sufficient?
33. (Jeff) Technical Director is the “go to” guy with hard samples or instrumentation problems. Is supervisory experience really necessary?
34. (Terry) Most environmental labs do and want only a limited amount of micro. What they do is very basic.
35. (Jeff) Giardia, cryptosporidium and PCR are coming down the road.
36. (Jeff) NELAC requires sixteen semester hours of microbiology and biology plus years of microbiology experience.
37. (Barbara) This would force the laboratories to hire two people to fill the position.
38. (Peter) Maybe the Technical Director needs to go back to Laboratory Director.
39. (Jeff) In Massachusetts, technical director requires twice as many technical credits than laboratory director. Not all analysts are going to be able to meet the requirements.
40. (Dermot) The way the regulation is written now, it is not too restrictive.
41. (Phil R) In the environmental laboratory, the level of a full microbiologist is not necessary to fulfill the requirements of the job.
42. (Jeff) If we are to keep the food or food utensils from the enabling statutes, then we would need personnel who have higher requirements. The epidemiology department is better equipped to handle tough issues such as mold.
43. (Donna) If it takes several years for regulation approval, then the emerging issues should be included.
44. (Kim) The Department has the authority to add sections where additional educational requirements are necessary for specialized testing.
45. (Jeff) The current regulations already have language to provide that authority.
46. (Dermot) Will add a grandfather clause to the personnel section and email it to subcommittee members.
47. (Jeff) Agenda Item - Made a motion that the committee review the Personnel Requirement and be prepared to comment.
48. (Abdel) Will investigate when and where a room will be available in December.
49. Meeting adjourned at 11:52.

Please note: Donna’s email address has changed - donna@nelabsct.com.

2007 Scheduled Meeting Dates:

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| January 11 th | July 20 th |
| February 8 th | August 24 th |
| March 16 th | September 14 th |
| April 12 th | October 12 th |
| May 18 th | November 9 th |
| June 22 nd | December 14 th |

Submitted by: Kim Maloney