

Highlights

- MCP Data Quality Enhancement Program
- ITLA Quarterly Meeting Notice
- MWRA



ITLA

*The Newsletter of
Independent Testing
Laboratories Association
Volume 21 - Issue 26
November 2003*

2002-2003 ITLA Officers

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Message from the President

By Bob Bentley

I am glad to report that **your** organization is doing well. Our September meeting was well attended, and our membership is strong. We hope the breadth of speakers who we have brought to you has at least intrigued you!

The Lab Certification Office has re-instituted the quarterly meetings of the Laboratory Advisory Committee after some cajoling from ITLA. This remains your

best arena for getting questions answered by the policymakers. All are welcome to attend. If you would like to submit questions anonymously, send them to me. I'll see that they are asked without revealing your name. DEP is still living in fear of budget cuts. The consolidation of offices is a sign of the times. With the north-east office moving to Boston, and the southeast office about to follow, doing business will become more difficult for us all.

The upcoming quarterly meeting promises to be an interesting one.

- Since the MCP is an ongoing process, Jim Occhialini will bring us the latest news. **See below for an important announcement!!**
- OI Analytical will present the *Model 4660 Eclipse Sample Concentrator* - the latest innovation in Purge & Trap instrument design. They will cover, among others, water management, trap materials, trap selection, and oxygenate considerations.
- **Are you ready for OSHA to**

visit your lab? Did you know that a "Lab Standard" exists? Come for an update on the OSHA regulations that affect your business. Teresa Ferrara, Industrial Hygiene Supervisor for New Hampshire's OSHA Consultation Service will provide critical information about resources that will help prepare your lab for an OSHA visit, including how to utilize the OSHA Consultation Service (a FREE service). By using this service, employers can find out about potential worksite hazards, improve occupational safety and health management systems, and even qualify for a one-year exemption from routine OSHA inspections.

Please remember, we **are** interested in your feedback. Are we providing enough variety? Do you have ideas for "different" programs? Are there seminar topics that you feel would be useful? Please e-mail the Executive Committee or myself with your thoughts. Your voice counts!

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, December 3, 2003 Radisson Inn, Milford, MA

Feature Presentation: Are You Ready for an OSHA Audit? OSHA Consultation Serv. *See page 4 for agenda*

NELAP - An Update

By Bob Bentley

Lara Autry, the new Executive Director of NELAC, gave the Keynote Address at the NY/PA AAEL Convention in August. It was apparent that she is unwilling to let the *status quo* continue. She wants to significantly change where NELAC is now and where it is going. NELAC now has 11 states as Primary Accrediting Authorities. She stated that she expects 2 or 3 more to come on board "soon." As of June, INELA is now the Standards Development Group and NELAC is the Standards Adoption Group. After some stops and starts, it appears that this two track system is now working - according to Lara.

For those who are trying to remain current, you now have to use four manuals. Lara is working to make only one NELAC manual per year "current." Also, NELAP is seriously looking at PBMS. She indicated that she works quite a bit with Bill Telliard in EPA OSW, and that she has worked diligently to streamline the air and radiochemical standards. That said, she also recognized that many of the States are worried about implementation of PBMS methods, and that getting them on board will be a challenge.

New items reported to us as coming out of the NELAP annual meeting:

- NELAP auditors are being directed to look at data from the perspective of what its end use will be.
- NELAP is changing the standards to mirror ISO 17025.
- NELAP is changing the term "deficiency" to "finding." This closely fits with the "findings" under FDA GLPs. Unfortunately, a "finding" in FDA parlance is a very negative term.
- NELAP is changing to a correction standard for mistakes to a single line cross out, initials, date, and reason. This has significant potential to increase your paperwork. My experience has been that your chemists will be screaming about this!
- As I see it, these last 3 items are turning the

laboratory standards to closely mirror the GLP standards. However, the GLP places much more of the decision making power in the hands of the Study Director while the NELAC standards maintain prescriptive methods. So, I don't necessarily see this as a benefit.

- Finally, there is a new draft of Chapter 7 - Sampling Procedures. As labs, we all said great! Engineering firms are now getting involved since they appear to be worried that this could impact them! Look for 2004 implementation.

MWRA by Mike Delaney

The MWRA Drinking Water System: Operation Startup

A STRONG AND SAFE WATER SYSTEM!
MWRA's Integrated Water Supply Improvement Program is a comprehensive series of projects to strengthen and protect a first-class water system from the source to your tap. This program is the largest investment in the water system since the creation of the massive system of pristine reservoirs, gravity-powered aqueducts and thousands of miles of pipes that have provided us with fresh drinking water for over one hundred years. Our new facilities will provide coming generations with an even better water system to last through the century.

MWRA successfully activated the MetroWest Water Supply Tunnel in early November.

Drinking water flows were transitioned from the existing Cosgrove Tunnel/Hultman Aqueduct system to the new Wachusett Aqueduct/MetroWest Water Supply Tunnel system. The Cosgrove Tunnel and the upper portion of Hultman Aqueduct will be taken off line so that we can connect Cosgrove Shaft C and the Upper Hultman Aqueduct to the new Walnut Hill Water Treatment Plant. We will be starting up the Norumbega Covered Storage Tank soon.

TRAC "e-SMART"

We continue to receive laboratory data electronically using the web-based "e-SMART"

program. Labs access e-SMART using a PIN provided by MWRA. The program accepts either data files in a specific format, or on-line data entry. Chains of custody are scanned and submitted as PDF files. So far, over 20 labs are using e-SMART. To find out more about e-SMART contact Alice Chang at 617-305-5621 or Alice.Chang@mwra.state.ma.us.

Labs using e-SMART are reminded of the following: If the chain of custody form is missing, or is missing vital information, including the permit number, the sample location number, or the effluent flow information, TRAC will return the report for correction and resubmission.

e-SMART File Format Specification: To better assist labs that choose to use a LIMS system to submit data, TRAC is modifying the e-SMART File Format Specification that labs can access using the e-SMART Help function. The specifications, which will be available on-line in early December, include: a data file overview, formatting instructions, a sample file, instructions for checking the file format, and a dictionary of MWRA test codes and components.

Reminder to Labs: Please remember that as of September 30, 2003, TRAC no longer accepts sampling data that is not submitted using e-SMART. MWRA Sewer User Discharge Permits require that all self-monitoring data be submitted using e-SMART. Self-monitoring data submitted by diskette will be returned to the lab by MWRA.

Visit our web page for more information
Check us out at www.mwra.com. We have a wealth of information for both the public and for experts on our water and wastewater activities. This includes monthly updates on drinking water quality testing, our 2002 Consumer Confidence Report, and many technical reports associated with the Deer Island Treatment Plant and our extensive Harbor and Outfall Monitoring program.

Food for Thought

Character--the willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life--is the source from which self-respect springs.
Joan Didion Writer

MCP Data Quality Enhancement Program

By Jim Occhialini, Vice President, ITLA

Compendium of Analytical Methods

Last Chance for Comments

The Department is moving rapidly to finalize the Compendium of Analytical Methods (CAM). ITLA members are encouraged to bring any and all comments they may have regarding any of the MCP methods to the upcoming ITLA Quarterly Meeting on December 3rd. Any comments received will be incorporated into an ITLA Issues Letter to be sent to the Department for review. It is felt that issues presented to DEP from our organization as a whole will carry more weight than those submitted by individual laboratories. The Licensed Site Professional Association (LSPA) has been successful in conveying those issues of importance to the DEP and the ITLA can do the same.

The focus of your comments should be on questions, inconsistencies and specific issues concerning the methodologies. The basic underpinnings of the CAM are not up for review. Please email your comments to Jim Occhialini (jocchialini@alphalab.com) prior to the meeting.

NOTE: For additional information on this topic, a copy of Jim's article from the August newsletter is included on page 5.

Directions to December Meeting

Directions to the Radisson Inn in Milford.

Take I-495 to exit 19. If coming from the south, turn left at the bottom of the exit ramp. If coming from the north, turn right at the bottom of the exit ramp. At the first light, turn right onto Beaver Street. The Radisson Inn is 1/8 mile on the left.

February 4, 2004

ITLA Executive Board Meeting
 DoubleTree Suites, Waltham, MA
 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

February 11, 2004

Deadline for Newsletter Submissions

March 10, 2004

ITLA Annual Meeting
 Crown Plaza, Worcester, MA
 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

May 5, 2004

ITLA Executive Board Meeting
 DoubleTree Suites, Waltham, MA
 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

May 12, 2004

Deadline for Newsletter Submissions

June 9, 2004

ITLA Quarterly Meeting
 Radisson Inn, Marlboro, MA
 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

August 4, 2004

ITLA Executive Board Meeting
 DoubleTree Suites, Waltham, MA
 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

August 11, 2004

Deadline for Newsletter Submissions

September 8, 2004

ITLA Quarterly Meeting
 DoubleTree Suites, Waltham, MA
 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

3 November 2004

ITLA Executive Board Meeting,
 Doubletree Guest Suites, Waltham, MA
 1:00-4:00 p.m.

10 November 2004

Deadline for Newsletter submissions

1 December 2004

ITLA Quarterly Meeting, Radisson Inn,
 Milford, MA
 8:30 a.m. - 12:00

ITLA Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, December 3, 2003
Radisson Inn, Milford, MA

8:30 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Committee Reports

Secretary	Treasurer	Elections
Technical	Ethics	Membership
Newsletter	By-Laws	Regulatory
Lab Advisory		

9:30 a.m. MCP Update - Jim Occhialini - see the important announcement in this newsletter!

9:45 a.m. NELAC Update

10:00 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. OI Analytical will present the *OI Analytical Model 4660 Eclipse Sample Concentrator* - the latest innovation in Purge & Trap instrument

design. They will cover, among others, water management, trap materials, trap selection, and oxygenate considerations.

11:00 a.m. Are you Ready for an OSHA Visit?

Did you know that a "Lab Standard" exists? Come for an update on the OSHA regulations that affect your business. Teresa Ferrara, Industrial Hygiene Supervisor for New Hampshire's OSHA Consultation Service will provide critical information about resources that will help prepare your lab for an OSHA visit, including how to utilize OSHA's Consultation Service (a FREE service). By using this service, employers can find out about potential worksites hazards, improve their occupational safety and health management systems, and even qualify for a one-year exemption from routine OSHA inspections.

MCP Data Quality Enhancement Program

By Jim Occhialini, Vice President, ITLA

August 1, 2003 Implementation - Current Status

Most of you are now aware that August 1st marked the official rollout of the MCP Data Quality Enhancement Program. All samples collected after this date in support of MCP project applications are expected to be in compliance with this policy in order to receive Presumptive Certainty status. All of the MCP analytical methods and associated policies are documented as part of "The Compendium of Quality Assurance & Quality Control Requirements and Performance Standards for Selected Analytical Methods Used in Support of Response Actions for the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP)", WSC-02-320. This document & all other related information can be found on the MCP Data Enhancements Program homepage, as part of the MADEP web site www.state.ma.us/dep/bwsc/files/data/qaqcdocs.htm.

There have been some recent changes concerning the preservation of samples for volatile organics analysis. The DEP does NOT consider any of the MCP Method 8260B target compounds to be reactive at this time, therefore separate sample preservation schemes are NOT required if potentially reactive & aromatic compounds are both contaminants of concern. The standard, HCl-preserved, cooled to 4° C, VOC vial is the appropriate preservation for all aqueous samples. The DEP is still acquiring information concerning potentially reactive compounds & may revise the required preservation scenario at a later date. The Department is also recommending that soil samples submitted for VOC analysis via the Method 5035B Low Level procedure be collected with 5 mL of water, which will then need to be frozen at the lab within 48 hours of collection. Alternatively the Low Level samples can be preserved with sodium bisulfate.

The implementation of this policy will require a higher level of communication & documentation between the LSP & their lab. The cover page of a MCP lab report consists of a series of six questions the lab has to answer concerning sample receipt, adherence to the MCP methods, analytical performance, & QA/QC. The answers to these questions

will determine whether the LSP will receive Presumptive Certainty for the associated data or not and there is one question the laboratory may not be able to answer affirmatively without documented input from the LSP.

Question #3 (C) asks the lab whether all of the requirements for Presumptive Certainty as specified in Section 2.0 CAM VII A have been achieved. One of the requirements listed here concerns whether the field QC sample requirement has been satisfied. The lab will have no way of knowing whether this requirement has been met unless it is documented by the LSP with sample submittal. Proper documentation of field QC sample status will allow the lab to answer Question #3 in the affirmative (provided the requirement has been met) & maintain Presumptive Certainty status.

Labs need to request the following information from their clients if they intend to receive Presumptive Certainty from DEP:

- Clearly indicate you are seeking Presumptive Certainty & you want your samples analyzed & the results reported in accordance with CAM
- State whether the Minimum Field QC Sample Requirements that are applicable for this project have been achieved
- Indicate whether any of the samples submitted for analysis are drinking water samples, as defined in the CAM
 - if drinking water samples are included, indicate that the associated field QC samples have also been submitted
 - direct the laboratory to analyze the drinking water field QC samples together with the samples or to hold the drinking water field QC samples pending the analytical results (note: holding time issues may result)
 - given drinking water analysis (under the MCP) is a special case, it is recommended to discuss sample collection and analysis with the lab prior to sample submission.
- Clearly indicate the applicable MCP criteria or required detection limits

Labs are encouraged to visit the web site and familiarize themselves with the program. DEP has added a new "Questions & Answers" section that should prove to be quite helpful.