



Update on the Activities of The NELAC Institute (TNI)

August 16, 2011

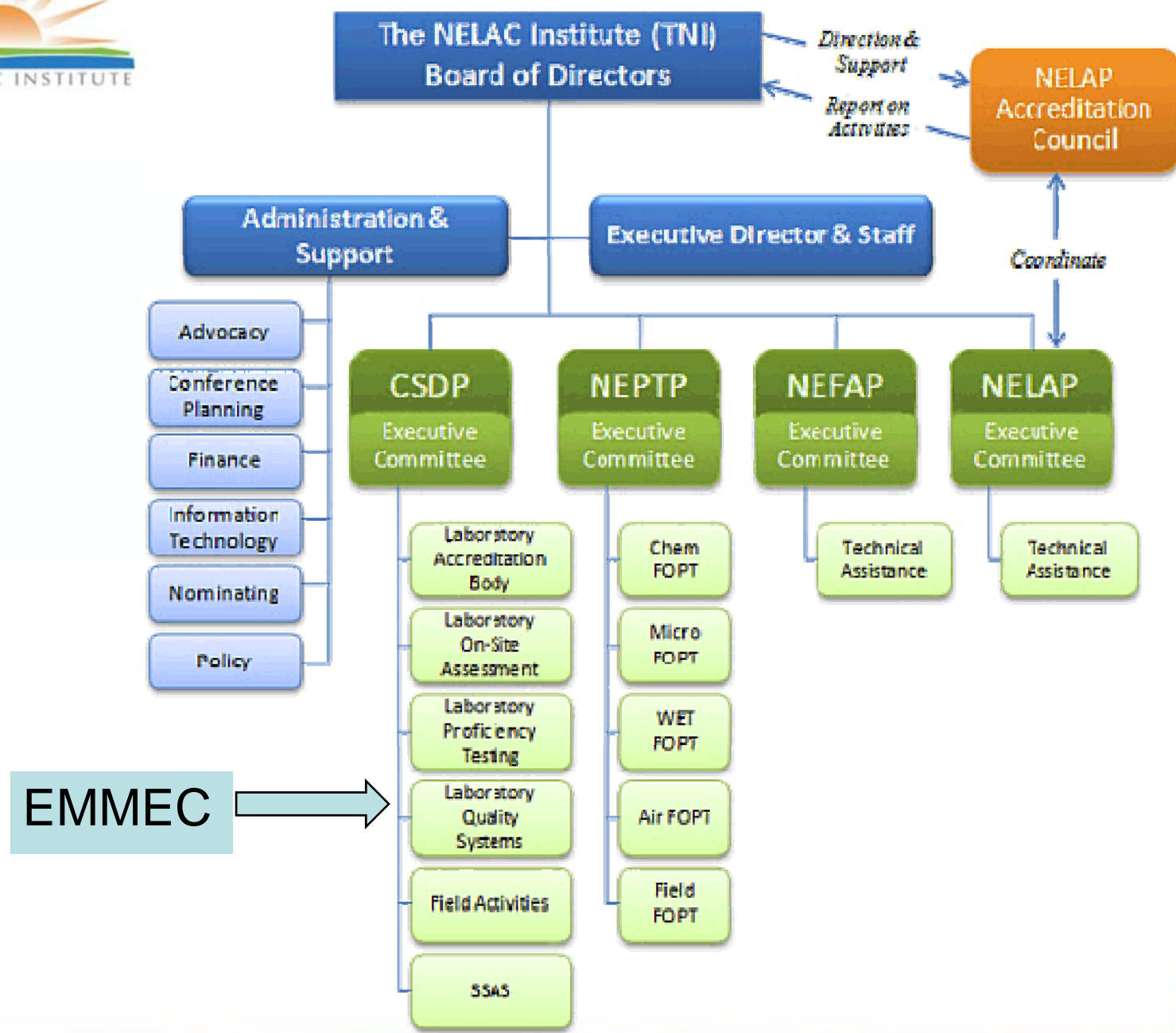




2010 Accomplishments

- Major reorganization
- 20 regional workshops on new laboratory standards
- Draft Quality Management Plan
- Strategic Plan for 2010 – 2015
- Awarded funding for two cooperative agreements from EPA competitions for years 2010 – 2015
- Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations accreditation program created (NEFAP)
- Several new groups formed to tackle specific issues
- New Quality Manual Template developed
- New Expert Committee to tackle method issues (EMMEC)







Consensus Standards Development

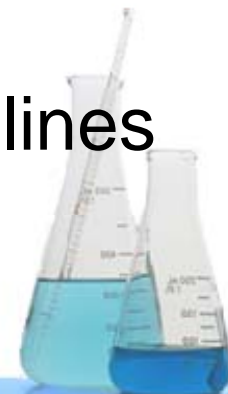
- Expert committees develop standards consistent with TNI's mission, using a consensus process
- Expert Committees
 - Accreditation Body
 - Field Activities
 - On-Site Assessment
 - Proficiency Testing
 - Quality Systems
 - Stationary Source Audit Sample
 - **Environmental Measurement Methods**





Expert Committee Activities

- Proficiency Testing Committee
 - Numerous Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs) and Standards Interpretation requests (SIRs)
 - Requests for changes to the standard in order to implement
 - Working Draft Standard (WDS) under development
- On-Site Assessment Committee
 - Development of guidance document
 - Assessment of training in technical disciplines
 - Considering merger with AB Committee





Expert Committee Activities (cont.)

- Quality Systems Committee
 - Numerous SIRs
 - WDS posted for comment
 - Voting Draft Standard next
 - Assessment checklist
 - ✦ <http://www.nelac-institute.org/qscheck2009-access.php>
- Accreditation Body Committee
 - Completed “Provisional Recognition” SOP for ABs not able to satisfy non-conformances
 - Considering merger with OSA Committee





Expert Committee Activities (cont.)

- Field Activities Committee
 - SIRs
 - FSMO V1 and V2 scheduled to be revised
 - Subcommittees on Stack Sampling being formed
 - Collection Media Subcommittee formed
 - Focus of activity on development of NEFAP





Expert Committee Activities (cont.)

- Stationary Source Audit Sample Committee
 - New EPA regulations in-place
 - TIAs developed and resolved for consistency with new EPA regulation
 - EPA approved the SSAS program on May 17
 - Updated SSAS tables
- Environmental Measurement Methods Committee
 - Working on a background guidance document for calibration
 - Outline of consensus standard on calibration developed





Environmental Measurement Methods Expert Committee

- Chartered to work on
 - Limits of Detection (LOD)
 - Limits of Quantitation (LOQ),
 - Instrument calibration
 - other fundamental concepts
- Goal is to have new consensus standards developed by 2012
- Funding support provided by cooperative agreement with EPA
- First meeting was January 7, 2011





Standards Interpretations

NELAP *and* NEFAP

- On-line request form
 - www.nelac-institute.org/interpret-request.php
- Requests are catalogued, reviewed and directed to the appropriate body for consensus resolution
- Preliminary opinion developed
- Opinion endorsed by NELAP AC or NEFAP EC
- Interpretation posted on website





Interpretation Process

- NOT to be used to escalate a dispute between a laboratory or an FSMO and an AB
- Some requests relate to method or EPA program interpretations
 - *Laboratories should attempt to reconcile all such interpretations with the applicable method publisher or EPA Program*





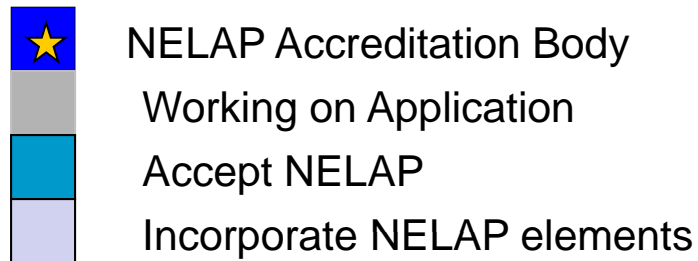
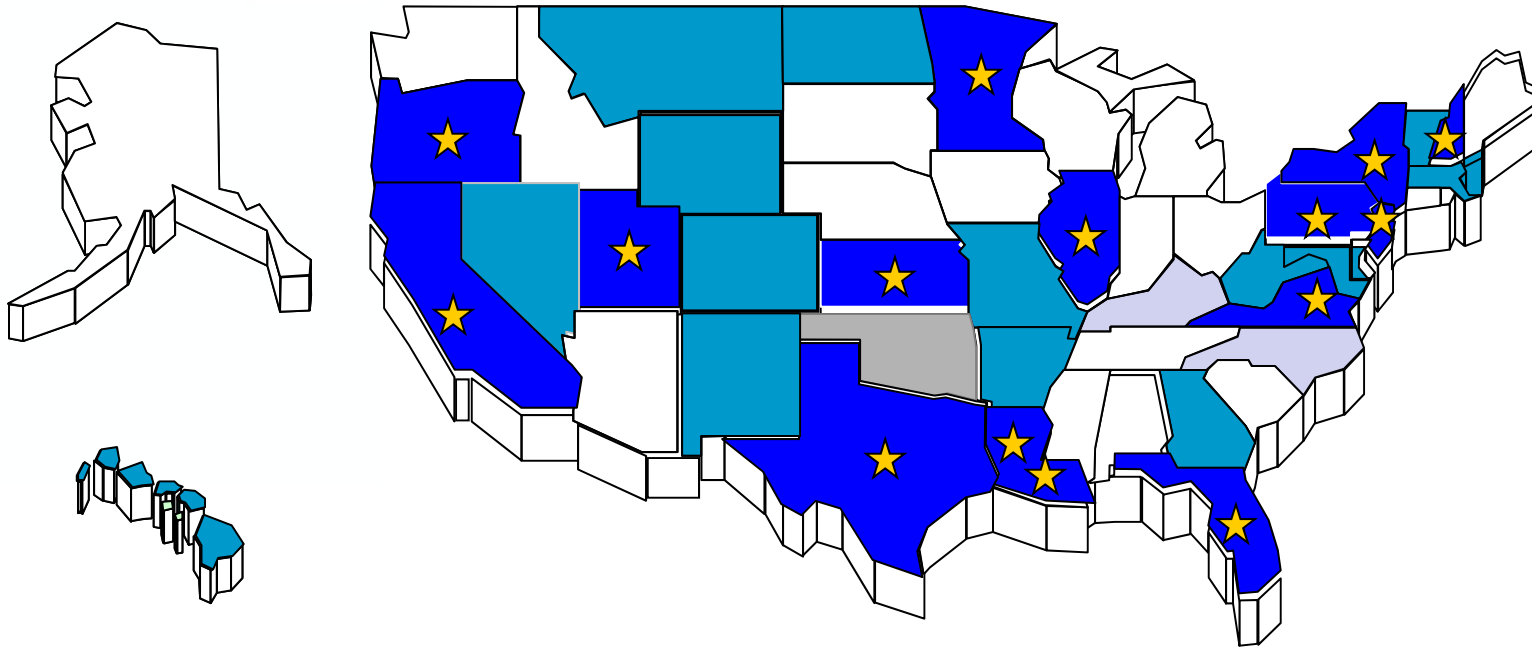
NELAP Accomplishments

- ❑ Implemented a new process for AB evaluations
- ❑ Developed SOP for general complaint resolution and reaffirmed existing procedures
- ❑ Formed a Consistency Improvement Task Force to focus on assessor competency
- ❑ Increased number of Accreditation Bodies to 15
- ❑ Establish web application for endorsing SIRs
- ❑ Developed comprehensive plan for implementation of new TNI Standards





NELAP Accreditation Bodies





NELAP Plans

- Implement the 2009 TNI standard
- Continue renewal evaluations for ABs
 - 9 are under way
- Implement national database of accredited laboratories (LAMS)
- Finalize handbook for small laboratories (TAC)





NEFAP

- Consensus standards that are voluntarily adopted by state agencies *or third parties* approved as Accreditation Bodies (ABs)
- NEFAP Executive Committee oversees ABs to assure uniformity
- AB grants accreditation, which is unconditionally recognized by other participating ABs
- Program applies to Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations (FSMOs)





Field Sampling and Measurement Organization (FSMO)

Organization engaged in:

- environmental sampling for laboratory analysis and/or
- field measurement outside of an enclosed structure that meets the requirements of fixed or mobile laboratory





NEFAP Activities

Accomplishments

- ❑ Began efforts in two key areas:
 - Lead-based paint
 - Stack testing
- ❑ Revised TNI Bylaws to accommodate NEFAP
- ❑ Built AB recognition process
- ❑ Developed Policies & Procedures

Future Plans

- ❑ Recognize ABs (4 applicants so far)
- ❑ Conduct training and outreach
- ❑ ABs accept applications from FSMOs





PT Program Accomplishments

- Two PT Provider Accreditor (PTPA) evaluations completed in 2010
 - New applicant, ACLASS
 - Re-evaluation of A2LA
- Improved and clarified the PTPA evaluation SOP
- Completed updates to all PT Program SOPs
- Formed a Field PT Subcommittee
 - FoPT table for Lead in soil, paint films, and dust wipes effective January 3, 2012
- Formed a Protozoa PT Subcommittee
- Reviewed and approved an update to the Drinking Water FoPT table
- Retired the Experimental FoPT tables





Chemistry FoPT

- Reviewing each analyte on the Non-Potable Water FoPT table
 - Review to be completed this summer
- Subcommittee will review and update each analyte on the Solid & Chemical Materials FoPT table





WET FoPT

- Identifying which endpoints make sense and if there are some that do not make sense
- Temperature variation has been eliminated to increase WET study sizes
- Discussing the possibility of eliminating the hypothetical estimates (such as NOEC) and substitute an endpoint test (such as IC25)
- Review of the FoPT table to be completed within a year





PT Program Plans

- Implement updates to the Drinking Water, Non-potable Water, and Solid & Chemical Materials FoPT tables
- Implement the Field FoPT table (Lead in paint)
- Implement a Protozoa FoPT table (Cryptosporidium)
- Define and implement a process for addition and removal of analytes from FoPT tables





PT Program Summary

- There are now two TNI-recognized PT Provider Accreditors – A2LA and ACLASS
- Two new FoPT tables are planned for implementation in 2011
 - Field (Lead in Paint)
 - Protozoa (Cryptosporidium)
- Be on the watch for updates to FoPT
 - Drinking Water
 - Non-Potable Water
 - Solid & Chemical Materials
 - WET





Administration and Support

- Board of Directors
- Advocacy
- Finance
- Information Technology
- Nominating
- Policy
- Conference Planning





TNI Board of Directors

- Monitor activities of all programs and committees
- Organizational and fiduciary leadership
- Form ad-hoc groups for special topics
 - Consistency Improvement Task Force
 - Accreditation Body Task Force





Ad-hoc Groups

- Consistency Improvement Task Force
 - *Establishing Realistic Expectations about Consistency*
 - On-Site Assessments of Laboratories
 - Evaluations of Accreditation Bodies
 - Laboratories and Users of Laboratory Services
- Accreditation Body Task Force
 - TNI support to NELAP ABs
 - Final Report to the Board on July 13
 - 8 options recommended with priorities, time frames and leads for implementation





Advocacy Activities

Recent Accomplishments

- ❑ Presentations at >10 regional and national meetings
- ❑ Published newsletters
- ❑ Met with EPA RS&T Directors
- ❑ Exhibited at ASDWA meeting
- ❑ Developed new logos and banners

Future Plans

- ❑ Continue outreach to stakeholders
- ❑ Continue publication of newsletters
- ❑ Develop new brochures
- ❑ Meet with EPA program offices
- ❑ Work with APHL
- ❑ Legislation





Small Laboratory Advocacy Group (SLAG)

- Open to TNI members and non-members
 - <http://www.nelac-institute.org/board/>
- Keith Chapman, City of Salem
 - kchapman@cityofsalem.net
- Seeks input from small laboratories and provides advice to TNI
- Raises concerns of small laboratories to high visibility in TNI





Information Technology

- Develop and maintain the TNI website
- Develop and maintain TNI databases
 - Analyte codes, Method codes, etc.
- Develop and maintain the TNI Laboratory Accreditation Management System (LAMS)





IT Activities

Accomplishments

- ❑ Began work on LAMS
- ❑ Continued improvements to website
 - Standard Interpretation Requests
 - SLAG Bulletin Board
 - Document listing
- ❑ Merged National Database and Website Committees

Future Plans

- ❑ Implement LAMS
- ❑ Continue to improve website





Laboratory Accreditation Management System (LAMS)

- Assist ABs with secondary accreditation
- Allow accredited labs to verify information about their lab
- Allow the public to find NELAP-accredited labs
- Allow vendors to find labs





Policy Committee

- Develop policies and procedures that affect all of TNI
- Review policies and procedures from other programs





Policy Activities

Accomplishments

- ❑ Reviewed SOPs from other TNI programs
- ❑ Bylaw revisions to accommodate NEFAP and SSAS
- ❑ New policies on ethics and complaints

Plans

- ❑ SOP for use of guidance documents
- ❑ SOP for dispute resolution
- ❑ SOP for complaints
- ❑ New IRS rules for non-profits





Conference Planning

- Put on two conferences for TNI each year
- Winter Conference
 - Forum on Laboratory Accreditation
- Summer Conference
 - Environmental Measurement Symposium





Future Meetings

Winter Meeting

- Sarasota, FL
 - January 2012

Summer Meeting

- Washington, DC
 - August 2012

HYATT.





TNI Cooperative Agreements with EPA

Former (2006 – 2010)

- \$400,000 for Standards Development and Technical Assistance
- \$300,000 to manage the National Environmental Monitoring Conference

New (2010 – 2015)

- \$750,000 to develop measurement tools, accreditation standards and technical support
- \$500,000 to manage the National Environmental Monitoring Conference





Measurement Tools

- Establish the Environmental Measurement Methods Expert Committee (EMMEC)
- Implement a comprehensive educational delivery system
- Provide assessor training, support outreach to organizations that are not accredited and refine TNI's consensus standards
- Establish a robust and effective on-line Methods Compendium





Educational Delivery System

- New EDS/training pages on TNI website
 - Educational opportunities
 - Application to provide training
 - Needs survey
- Training developed by TNI and others
 - “Live” training courses
 - Webinars
 - Webcasts





New Quality Manual Template

- Now available
- Organized according to V1, M2
- Price is \$95 for TNI members
 - \$250 for non-members
- Will include free access to Webinar/Webcast for training
- \$50 credit for those that purchased the old template





2011 and Beyond

- Implement the adopted NELAP standards
- Implement the FSMO accreditation program
- Implement a Stationary Source Audit Sample Program
- Develop and refine a comprehensive training program
- Implement a national database of accredited laboratories
- Continue to develop consensus standards that meet the needs of the community





Summary

- TNI has had a terrific 2011 and is planning continued growth for 2012
- We invite you to actively participate in our activities
- Join TNI – Now over 850 active members!
- Join a TNI committee – Nothing happens without our volunteers!

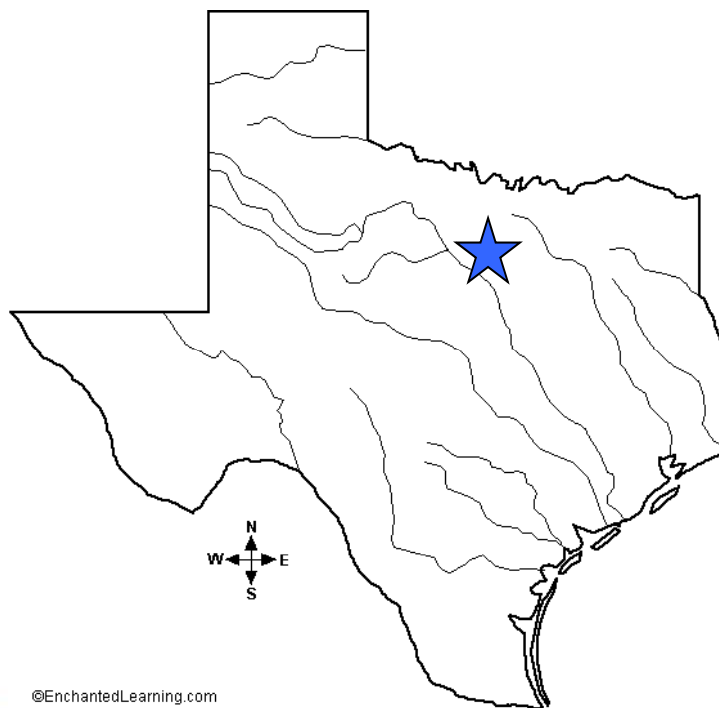




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