SUMMARY OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Teleconference: 866-299-3188/9195415544#
November 19, 2014; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. EST

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB or Board) teleconference was held on November 19, 2014. The agenda for this meeting is provided as Attachment A, a list of the participants is provided as Attachment B, and action items from the teleconference are included as Attachment C. The official certification of the minutes by the Chair or Vice-Chair is included as Attachment D.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. OPENING REMARKS

Ms. Patty Carvajal, Vice-Chair of ELAB, and Ms. Lara Phelps, Designated Federal Official of ELAB, welcomed participants to the teleconference and called an official roll of the Board members and guests. Ms. Phelps has learned new information about managing content on the new EPA website, so she will be able to publish the Board's minutes very shortly.

2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

Ms. Carvajal asked whether any members had comments regarding the October teleconference minutes. Dr. Mahesh Pujari moved to accept the minutes with the change, and Dr. Henry Leibovitz seconded the motion. The Board approved the October minutes unanimously with no changes.

3. REORGANIZE TASK GROUPS

Ms. Carvajal will send an updated Task Group spreadsheet to the ELAB members following this teleconference. The Task Group devoted to on-line and in-line monitoring exceeds the maximum limit of seven members, so the membership will need to be redistributed. Leads also need to be confirmed for each group. Ms. Carvajal reported that Ms. Silky Labie has asked to be removed from the Interagency Data Quality Task Force (IDQTF)/Data Quality Objectives (DQO) Process Task Group, which she previously led. A volunteer is needed to lead this group.

Ms. Carvajal provided a brief overview of the current Task Groups. Dr. Pujari added that Drs. Leibovitz and Kitty Kong had volunteered to be on the Task Group devoted to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)[1]. The Task Groups devoted to IDQTF, in-line and on-line monitoring, and qualification of drinking water data need leaders. The Task Groups focusing on the Method Update Rule (MUR), PCBs and methods harmonization can accept more members.

[1] Note: Although this was reported during the teleconference, Dr. Kong later clarified via email that she had not joined the PCB Task Group.

In response to a question from Dr. Mike Delaney, Ms. Carvajal explained that the Task Group focused on qualification of drinking water data has seven members.

4. UPDATES ON CURRENT TOPICS

MUR

Ms. Carvajal reported that ELAB will be able to provide comments when the Agency proposes the MUR, probably in December.

PCBs

Dr. Pujari explained that Method 1668c is the best method for PCBs, but it is complicated. He had received an email from former ELAB member Mr. John Phillips indicating that EPA was not interested in revising this method. The Agency is looking for a simpler method that will be useful for laboratories. Some laboratories are using modified versions of Methods 8082 and 608. Ultimately, the Task Group may be able to recommend a gas chromatography method for EPA's consideration for congeners. Dr. Leibovitz said that input from EPA was needed to ensure that the Agency was interested in updating Method 608 as the intent was for the 1600-series methods to be used for congeners. The best attempt may be to revise the 1600-series methods to make them less complicated. Dr. Pujari said that Mr. Phillips did not think that EPA would be amenable to this. EPA needs to provide direction about which method it would be willing to update.

In response to a question from Ms. Carvajal, Dr. Pujari explained that the goal of the effort is to streamline and clarify Method 1668c to make it user friendly and more understandable. Mr. Michael Flournoy said that the only difficult part of the method is instrumentation, and the question is whether the permitters will change from aroclors to congeners. Method 608 can be modified for use for congeners. The ultimate issue is how the permits will be affected. Dr. Pujari said that EPA is moving slowly toward congeners, but clarification is needed. Dr. Leibovitz said that a good place to begin is to discuss the best perceived approach to simplify the analysis and which modifications might be proposed. It is important to know how congeners will be used in moving forward because this will determine the direction of this effort.

In response to a question from Ms. Carvajal, Ms. Phelps said that Mr. Adrian Hanley (EPA) and Mr. Lem Walker (EPA) are the most appropriate EPA contacts regarding this issue. She spoke to Mr. Hanley, and although his office is busy with updates, he volunteered to be the point of contact for this topic. Dr. Pujari will contact Mr. Hanley and Mr. Walker via email, copying Ms. Phelps, to determine the best approach for moving forward with this effort.

Methods Harmonization

Dr. Wait explained that the Task Group will monitor the Agency's activities on this issue during the next 6 months. As there are developments, Ms. Phelps will be able to update the group. Dr. Wait reminded the Board that methods harmonization efforts can be pursued internally as well, and he will follow the other Task Group's efforts to determine whether methods harmonization can be included in these as well.

IDQTF/DQO Process

In Ms. Silky Labie's absence, there was no report for this Task Group. Dr. Leibovitz volunteered to move from the Task Group devoted to in-line and on-line monitoring to this topic.

In-Line and On-Line Monitoring

Ms. Carvajal explained that the initial efforts under this topic will focus on research. Ultimately, the Board will report to the Forum on Environmental Measurements (FEM) about its findings and possible next steps.

Qualification of Drinking Water Data

This effort has not yet gotten underway but will shortly.

5. NEW TOPICS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Ms. Phelps explained that the FEM received the Board's letter regarding selected ion monitoring 2 days following its last quarterly meeting, so it will be discussed during the FEM's January meeting. The Board should have some information about this topic prior to its February face-to-face meeting.

6. WRAP-UP/REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Kristen LeBaron reviewed the action items identified during the meeting, which are included in Attachment C.

7. CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Leibovitz moved to close the meeting, and Dr. Delaney seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Attachment A

AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD
Monthly Teleconference: 866-299-3188/9195415544#
October 15, 2014; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (EDT)

Opening Remarks	Phelps
Approval of October Minutes	Carvajal
Reorganize Task Groups	Carvajal
Updates on Current Topics	All
Method Update Rule	
Polychlorinated Biphenyls	
Methods Harmony	
Interagency Data Quality Task Force/Data Quality Objectives Process	
Qualification of Drinking Water Data	
In-Line and On-Line Monitoring	
New Topics/Issues for Consideration	Carvajal
Selected Ion Monitoring	
Wrap-Up/Review Action Items	Carvajal /LeBaron
Closing Remarks/Adjourn	Carvajal

Attachment B

MEMBERSHIP LISTING AND GUESTS

ELAB TELECONFERENCE
November 19, 2014; 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST

Attendance (Y/N)	Name	Affiliation
N	Ms. Patsy Root (Chair)	IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. Representing: Laboratory Product Developers
Y	Ms. Patricia (Patty) M. Carvajal (Vice-Chair)	San Antonio River Authority Representing: Watershed/Restoration
Y	Ms. Lara P. Phelps, DFO	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Representing: EPA
Y	Dr. Charles (Charlie) Carter	TestAmerica, Inc. Representing: TestAmerica
Y	Dr. Michael (Mike) Delaney	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Representing: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
Y	Mr. Michael Flournoy	Eurofins Environment Testing U.S. Representing: American Council of Independent Laboratories
Y	Mr. Keith Greenaway	ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board Representing: The NELAC Institute
Y	Dr. Deyuan (Kitty) Kong	Chevron Energy Technology Company Representing: Chevron
N	Ms. Sylvia (Silky) S. Labie	Environmental Laboratory Consulting & Technology, LLC Representing: Third-Party Assessors
Y	Dr. Henry Leibovitz	Rhode Island State Health Laboratories Representing: Association of Public Health Laboratories
Y	Ms. Susan L. Mazur	Florida Power and Light Representing: Utility Water Act Group
N	Ms. Cindy Nettrour	American Water Representing: American Waterworks
Y	Dr. Mahesh P. Pujari	City of Los Angeles Representing: National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)
N	Dr. James N. Seiber	University of California, Davis Representing: Academic and Research Communities
Y	Ms. Aurora Shields	City of Lawrence, Kansas Representing: Wastewater Laboratories
Y	Ms. Michelle L. Wade	Kansas Department of Health and the Environment Representing: Laboratory Accreditation Bodies
Y	Dr. A. Dallas Wait	Gradient Representing: Consumer Products Industry

Attendance (Y/N)	Name	Affiliation
Y	Ms. Kristen LeBaron (Contractor)	The Scientific Consulting Group, Inc. (SCG)

Attachment C

ACTION ITEMS

1. Ms. LeBaron will finalize the October 2014 meeting minutes and send them to Ms. Phelps via email.

2. Ms. Carvajal will send the updated Task Group spreadsheet to the ELAB members.

3. Dr. Pujari will contact Mr. Hanley and Mr. Walker via email, copying Ms. Phelps, to determine the best approach for moving forward with the PCB effort.

Attachment D

I hereby certify that this is the final version of the minutes for the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board Meeting held on December 17, 2014.

Signature Chair

Ms. Patricia Carvajal

Print Name Chair