



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) FINAL Meeting Minutes September 14, 2023

Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business:

The meeting was called to order at 9:34am by Acting ELAC Chair, Nick Straccione (EMSL), Meeting minutes were taken by Steve Witkowski (Pace). This meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

The July ELAC Meeting Minutes were approved with a motion by Olga Azarian (SGS) and seconded by Eileen Synder (Alpha).

Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ELCP): Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA) provided an update.

No Update

Questions on the certification program should be directed to Rachel Ellis at rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov.

Rule Amendment: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA) provided an update.

No update.

Proficiency Test (PT) Program: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA) provided an update.
2024 schedule should be posted in the beginning of October

AE starts 7/1 due 9/23
NPW starts 9/1 due 11/11
SCM starts 10/1 due 12/234

2023 PT dates are published on the OQA website.
<https://dep.nj.gov/dsr/oqa/proficiency-testing/>

The most current method is listed on the ACPL, it should be reflected on all logbooks etc. If the method reported for PTs does not match the method on the ACPL it will be considered a failure.

Questions on the proficiency testing program should be directed to Rachel Ellis at rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov.

The NELAC Institute (TNI):

Committees are currently working on the next revision of the standard.

Check the TNI website for additional information <http://www.nelac-institute.org/>.

Division of Water Supply/Safe Drinking Water:

No update.

Questions on the Drinking Water Program may be emailed to Kelley Meccia Kelley.Meccia@dep.nj.gov or Joanna Caporossi joanna.caporossi@dep.nj.gov

Contaminated Site Remediation & Redevelopment (CSRR): Chelsea Bray (NJDEP-SRP) provided an update.
The stakeholder meeting for PFOS occurred July 12, 2023. The question was raised if the methanol interim standard was for everyone or site specific. Safe drinking water will get back to ELAC with the answer

Questions on the CSRR program may be emailed to Greg Toffoli at greg.toffoli@dep.nj.gov or Chelsea Bray, Chelsea.Bray@dep.nj.gov

New Business:

I am suggesting that, for example Steve or I contact each Dept contact for update status the week before the meeting. If NO updates are available, we could cancel the meeting. I will continue to ask the ELAC members to email any questions, adding the caveat to be submitted one week prior to scheduled meeting giving the appropriate person the time to get the information needed.

A question was raised by Harvy Klien (Garden State) of the availability of Spill Fund funds and the impact of the new MCL established by the EPA. Will a homeowner be able to apply for Spill Fund if their water is currently under the MCL but will exceed the new established MCL.

Future Business: In the **October** meeting, there needs to be some discussion in the committee, as to what the intent of ELAC is overall. At some point in time the meetings turned into just being about updates from DEP programs which is not what the committee was originally intended to be. The description on the ELAC website states the intent of the committee is for the LABS to provide the DEP input and function as an avenue to bring up concerns to the DEP. The lab participation has been waning especially since COVID and it is a concern that participation has been so low when the whole intent of the committee is for labs to have an avenue to bring their concerns to the table.

Article III, Purpose and Article IV, Mission of the bylaws states: ARTICLE III. PURPOSE: The purpose of the Committee is to provide NJDEP with input from a representative cross section of New Jersey accredited laboratories on matters related to laboratory accreditation and practice. The mission of the Committee is to advise the NJDEP on environmental monitoring issues relating to the NJDEP, the environment and public health. ARTICLE IV. MISSION: The Committee shall serve as a means of communication between the NJDEP and the laboratory community. The Committee shall act as a forum for open discussion among laboratories and the NJDEP. The Committee will inform the laboratory community of its activities. The Committee will hold regularly scheduled monthly meetings to review and discuss topics of interest and concern to the laboratory community and the NJDEP. The Committee, as it deems appropriate, will comment on proposed or pending legislation and regulations. The Committee will, as it deems appropriate, issue statements concerning issues of importance to the laboratory community.

The committee needs to come up with some ideas on how to get more labs to be involved with the committee. With all the acquisitions and consolidation of laboratories, there must be new people that need to be involved. Also interested in how to ensure discussions that occur during committee or workgroup meetings are shared with ELAC so that all interested parties are informed.

EDD Subcommittee

No updates. This committee will be placed on hold for the time being until the NJDEP-SRWMP-BIS department notifies the ELAC committee of any changes.

Questions and comments may be directed to Ken Liao (NJDEP-SRWMP-BIS) at ken.liao@dep.nj.gov

Communications / OQA Website:

ELAC website is not currently up to date.

<https://dep.nj.gov/dsr/oqa/elac/>

Meeting Schedule:

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:46 am with a motion by Eileen Synder (Alpha) and seconded by Olga Azarian (SGS).

The next scheduled ELAC Meeting will be held on **October 12, 2023, at 9:30am**, via Microsoft Teams. **Those planning to attend must email the ELAC chair or secretary.**

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