

**Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee
Minutes for December 1, 2020 – Virtual Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anita Martin, Chester Water Authority (Municipal Authority)
Danielle Cappellini, A.E. Kirby Memorial Health Center (Commercial Environmental Laboratory)
Cristin Geletei, US Steel Clairton Works Lab (Industrial Environmental Laboratory)
Joel Jordan, PA Rural Water Association (Association of Community Water Supply Systems)
John Stolz, Department of Biological Services Duquesne University (Academic Laboratory)
Marykay Steinman, Analytical Quality Assistance (General Public Member)
Twila Dixon, M.J. Reider Associates, Inc. (Technical Expertise in Testing and Analysis of Environmental Samples)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STAFF PRESENT

Martina McGarvey, Bureau of Laboratories
Laura Griffin, Policy Office
Annmarie Beach, Laboratory Accreditation Program Chief
Jason Minnich, Drinking Water Data Management
Dwayne Burkholder, Laboratory Accreditation Program
Amber Ross, Laboratory Accreditation Program

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order by Marykay Steinman at 9:00 am. Initially, there were not enough committee members on the call for a quorum.

INTRODUCTION

Annmarie Beach welcomed members, introduced herself, and gave a brief background of her professional experience. Laura Griffin also introduced herself as DEP's new Regulatory Coordinator and gave a brief background of her experience.

QUORUM

At 9:07 am, Marykay Steinman called for a quorum and called for a vote on the minutes from the previous meeting on December 12, 2019. John Stolz moved to approve the minutes and Danielle Cappellini seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

CYANOTOXIN ACCREDITATION

Dwayne Burkholder discussed cyanotoxin accreditation. He gave a background on harmful algal blooms (HABs), cyanobacteria, and cyanotoxins. He stated that cyanotoxin accreditation is a new program and the accreditation and methods being offered. Testing is seasonal because HABs occur during the summer.

Discussion:

Members asked if a high-tech lab is needed to do testing and if DEP is offering accreditation for ELISA testing. Dwayne Burkholder responded that ELISA is the easiest test, so it is currently the one used the most. Martina McGarvey clarified stated the Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) is having success with the ELISA test. She then asked Dwayne Burkholder if the ELISA is positive, then the results must be confirmed with an LC-MS-MS method. Dwayne confirmed that is correct and EPA 546 is the initial test. A positive ELISA must be confirmed with the LC-MS-MS method under UCMR4.

PFAS AND DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION

Amber Ross gave a presentation on the background of PFAS and the impact of PFAS on humans and animals. She also explained all the differences between EPAS 533 and EPA 537/537.1, as well as explaining how to apply for accreditation and what modifications are allowed and in what matrices.

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR REPORTING RADIOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Jason Minnich provided an overview of the Reporting of Radiochemical Analyses guidance document, including requirements for monthly reporting; contacting the DEP and client about an MCL exceedance; contact information for Regional and District offices for reporting MCL exceedances; electronic assistance tools; requirements for different types of radiologicals by specifically between natural radiologicals and human-made radiologicals; analysis methods and contaminate codes for naturally occurring radiologicals; MCLs and triggers for human-made radiologicals; instructions for submitting corrections; updated case studies, dates, and screen shots.

Discussion:

John Stoltz asked if "human-made" is confined to the nuclear and by-products. Jason Minnich. answered yes. John Stolz inquired if this covered Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (TENORM). Jason responded that TENORM is not regulated by this program and therefore is not referenced in the guidance. John S. asked how is TENORM addressed and who is responsible for determining how often a facility must test. Jason responded that monitoring frequency is based on previous results reported. If previous reporting was "non-detect", then re-testing is done every 9 years. If it was detected as 1/2, then re-testing is done every 6 years. Jason responded that BOL provides monitoring calendars, so water systems should know when they have to retest.

Jason also stated a notice will be sent out when the guidance document is published as a draft and BOL will wait for public comments.

Jason Minnich also discussed the Safe Drinking Water Program's overhaul of Drinking Water Electronic Lab Reporting system (DWELR), which is technologically outdated. The Department will send a survey to users to get feedback of what does and does not work in DWELR. Jason M. stated that beginning in January 2021, DEP Greenport will look different.

OTHER BUSINESS

Annmarie Beach asked for other business items. Annmarie stated the proposed meeting schedule for 2021 would be sent to members.

CLOSE OF MEETING

Marykay Steinman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Stolz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Cristin Gelete seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously voted to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.