

**SUMMARY OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Monthly Teleconference Meeting: 866-299-3188/9195415544#
April 20, 2016; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. EDT**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB or Board) teleconference was held on April 20, 2016. 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.

ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Dr. Dallas Wait, Chair of ELAB, and Ms. Lara Phelps, Designated Federal Official (DFO) of ELAB, welcomed participants to the teleconference. Ms. Kristen LeBaron called the roll of the Board members and guests.

OPENING REMARKS AND UPDATES FROM THE DFO

Ms. Phelps explained that she would be meeting with Ms. Lu-Ann Kleibacker, who serves as Ms. Phelps' backup, the following week to discuss the availability of past ELAB products on the Board's website and the upcoming membership package. The Forum on Environmental Measurements' next meeting will be the first week of May.

Ms. Phelps has received a good response from the *Federal Register* notice regarding the ELAB membership drive, although she is dealing with a unique situation regarding an institution nominating multiple representatives in several different disciplines. The applicant pool will allow Board membership to reach its prior levels while maintaining the necessary broad expertise. If she and Ms. Kleibacker identify any gaps not addressed by the applicant pool, it will be possible to solicit additional applications.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Dr. Wait asked for comments regarding the Board's January and March meeting minutes. "Gradient Corporation" will be changed to "Gradient" in the participants lists of both minutes. A footnote explaining the "dirty dozen" mentioned by Dr. Ed Askew (Askew Scientific Consulting) will be added to the January minutes.

Dr. Henry Leibovitz moved to accept the January minutes; Mr. Mike Flournoy seconded the motion. ELAB unanimously approved the January minutes with the above changes and one abstention. Dr. Mahesh Pujari moved to accept the March minutes; Dr. Mike Delaney seconded the motion. ELAB unanimously approved the March minutes with the above change and one abstention.

UPDATES ON CURRENT TOPICS

Interagency Data Quality Task Force (IDQTF)/Data Quality Objective (DQO) Process

Dr. Leibovitz explained that, based on the revisions suggested by the ELAB members during the March Board meeting, Ms. LeBaron had edited the letter regarding IDQTF and the DQO process. During its March meeting, the Board agreed to vote on the revised, edited letter via email. Ms. LeBaron will send the final letter to the Board for voting.

Methods Harmonization

Dr. Wait reported that the methods harmonization letter would be sent to the Board members following the meeting. This topic will remain open until the Board receives EPA's response to the letter. Methods harmonization should be considered in all future, relevant ELAB efforts.

In-Line and On-Line Monitoring

Mr. Flournoy reported that the Task Group engaged in a productive discussion during its teleconference on March 24. The next step is to schedule a call between the Task Group and EPA staff. The Office of Water (OW) is expected to approve continuous monitoring for compliance when the issues, which include how to develop appropriate quality controls and how to deal with the abundance of data and any anomalies, have been resolved. The Task Group will focus next on addressing these issues. Mr. Flournoy indicated that Dr. Joel Creswell (EPA ORD) plans to send the Task Group a PowerPoint presentation from a November 2015 workshop. Dr. Creswell also has promised to invite the Task Group members to participate in EPA teleconferences on this subject.

Ms. Patsy Root noted that OW, particularly Dr. Alan Lindquist, had provided four presentations within the last few weeks regarding in-line monitoring and field sensors. OW will provide more in-depth presentations during Session G8 at the National Water Quality Monitoring Conference, which is being held the first week of May in Tampa, Florida. Ms. Root will be attending the conference and can serve as a liaison for the Task Group while in attendance if Mr. Flournoy identifies any issues that she should raise. Ms. Root will ask Dr. Lindquist whether she can share his slides with the Task Group.

Selected Ion Monitoring (SIM)

Dr. Delaney explained that the Task Group had met for a second time recently, and three guests had been present on the teleconference. The objective of the Task Group is to determine the minimum set of SIM criteria to develop an acceptable method. The key issue is balancing the potential for false positives and negatives. The Task Group plans to meet again on April 27.

Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Testing

During its previous meeting, the Board had agreed to determine whether to establish a Task Group to explore the WET testing issue once ELAB had determined whether to reorganize the Board's Task Groups. When the topic of reorganizing the Task Groups initially was introduced approximately 6 months prior, the Board was addressing several different topics, but many have

been completed, so reorganization may not be necessary. The Board members agreed that a reorganization of Task Groups was unnecessary at this point, but ELAB will revisit its organizational structure when the new Board is convened in October 2016.

In terms of establishing a group to address the WET testing issue, Dr. Leibovitz noted that the Board members may not have direct expertise in this area, and the leader needs to be resourceful to ensure that the Task Group includes outside expertise as necessary. Dr. Kitty Kong thought that she might be able to identify experts within her company.

The following ELAB members volunteered to serve on the WET Testing Task Group: Drs. Wait, Pujari, Leibovitz, Kong and Delaney. Dr. Wait will serve as Task Group leader. The objectives of the Task Group will be to review the WET testing white paper and educate the Board members regarding any issues related to WET testing so that the Board as a whole can determine how to address any issues. Ms. Phelps strongly recommended that the Task Group invite experts to participate in the effort and/or serve on the Task Group to ensure that ELAB members are as informed as possible when making a decision on this issue. Dr. Wait will schedule a Task Group teleconference within the next 2 weeks.

NEW TOPICS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Dr. Wait asked whether any ELAB members had any information regarding data quality issues associated with the analysis (EPA Method 537) being performed to identify perfluoroalkyl (PFA) compounds and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in drinking water. Dr. Leibovitz was aware of an upcoming summit focusing on perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) being held in Worcester, Massachusetts; he will send the information to Dr. Wait.

Ms. Phelps agreed that this is becoming a topic of concern, particularly in the Department of Defense (DoD) community, because currently only one method exists, and questions have arisen about whether it is appropriate or needs to be modified. This issue was the topic of an entire session during the recent DoD Environmental Monitoring and Data Quality Workshop in St. Louis, Missouri. The DoD community also has created workgroups to explore this issue. If the Board is interested, Ms. Phelps can connect the Board with any relevant materials.

Dr. Leibovitz commented that currently no vendors provide performance evaluation samples for PFA compounds. Perhaps the Board could recommend that the Agency engage with vendors if there will be a growing need to provide this type of service. Ms. Phelps agreed that this would be an appropriate recommendation for ELAB to make to the Agency. The Board agreed to monitor this issue and address it if necessary.

WRAP-UP/SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

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

CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Silky Labie moved to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Leibovitz seconded the motion. The Board adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Attachment A

**AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD
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Roll Call/Introduction of Guests	Wait/Phelps
Opening Remarks and Updates From the DFO	Phelps
Approval of Prior Minutes	Wait
Updates on Current Topics	All
Interagency Data Quality Task Force/Data Quality Objectives Process: Leibovitz	
Methods Harmonization: Wait	
In-Line and On-Line Monitoring: Flournoy	
Selected Ion Monitoring: Delaney	
Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing: Carvajal	
New Topics/Issues for Consideration	Wait
Wrap-Up/Summary of Action Items	Wait/LeBaron
Closing Remarks/Adjournment	Phelps/Wait

Attachment B

PARTICIPANTS LIST

Board Members

Attendance (Y/N)	Name	Affiliation
Y	Dr. A. Dallas Wait (Chair)	Gradient Representing: Consumer Products Industry
Y	Dr. Henry Leibovitz (Vice-Chair)	Rhode Island State Health Laboratories Representing: Association of Public Health Laboratories
Y	Ms. Lara Phelps (DFO)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Representing: EPA
Y	Ms. Patricia (Patty) Carvajal	San Antonio River Authority Representing: Watershed/Restoration
Y	Dr. Michael (Mike) Delaney	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Representing: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
Y	Mr. Michael Flournoy	Eurofins Environment Testing USA Representing: American Council of Independent Laboratories
Y	Dr. Deyuan (Kitty) Kong	Chevron Energy Technology Company Representing: Chevron
Y	Ms. Sylvia (Silky) Labie	Environmental Laboratory Consulting & Technology, LLC Representing: Third-Party Assessors
Y	Dr. Mahesh Pujari	City of Los Angeles Representing: National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Y	Ms. Patsy Root	IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. Representing: Laboratory Product Developers
N	Ms. Aurora Shields	City of Lawrence, Kansas Representing: Wastewater Laboratories
N	Ms. Michelle Wade	Kansas Department of Health and the Environment Representing: Laboratory Accreditation Bodies

PARTICIPANTS LIST (CONT)

Guests

Attendance (Y/N)	Name	Affiliation
Y	Ms. Lu-Ann Kleibacker (Alternate DFO)	EPA/OSA
Y	Ms. Kristen LeBaron (Contractor)	The Scientific Consulting Group, Inc. (SCG)
N	Ms. Marie Russell (EPA ASPPH Fellow)	EPA/OSP
Y	Mr. Phil Worby (Guest)	Accutest Laboratories

Attachment C

ACTION ITEMS

1. Ms. LeBaron will finalize the January and March meeting minutes and send them to Ms. Phelps via email.
2. Ms. LeBaron will send the final IDQTF/DQO process letter to the Board for voting.
3. Ms. Root will determine whether she can share Dr. Lindquist's presentation on in-line monitoring and field sensors with the In-Line and On-Line Monitoring Task Group.
4. Dr. Wait will schedule a WET Testing Task Group teleconference during the next 2 weeks.
5. Dr. Leibovitz will send information about the upcoming summit on PFA to Dr. Wait.
6. The Board will monitor the PFA/PFOA/PFOS analysis situation and determine whether it becomes necessary to address the issue.

Attachment D

I hereby certify that this is the final version of the minutes for the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board Meeting held on April 20, 2016.



Signature, Chair

Dr. Dallas Wait

Print Name, Chair