

Agenda

Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee

September 18, 2008

10:00 AM

Welcome/Introductions:

Cynthia Bain, Chairperson

Steve Baker, Office Chief, Laboratory Services

Review & Approval of June 05, 2008 minutes

Cynthia Bain

Items for Discussion:

Fluoride/Ammonia distillation

Barbara Escobar

Solids overnight drying/Study

Barbara Escobar

Unannounced audits (statistics)

Barbara Escobar

Technical presentations during ELAC

Barbara Escobar

LFB @ MRL

Barbara Escobar

CCV/LFB for 524.2

Barbara Escobar

ADEQ Update

8260 Air method (draft method)

Julie Hoskin/delegate

Subcommittee Reports:

Training

Joe Harmon

Rules

Steve Baker

TNI/NEMC

Baker/Escobar

Set Next Meeting Date & Adjournment

New Business:

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 18, 2008

MINUTES

Members Present

Matthew Rexing
Cynthia Bain
Nancy Turner*
Laura McCasland
Randy Gottler
Robert Vertefeuille
Linda Johnson
Rick Amalfi

Members Absent

Christina Krosnicki
Mel Biringer
Robert Teece
Abram Munoz
Jim Boerst
Elizabeth Proffitt
Lee Hecht
Anne Nichols
Mary Tyer
Michael Dew
Elizabeth Wueschner

Guests Present

Kim Eberenz
Kim Caggiano
Dipti Shah
Garry Brussels
Kiera Hunter
Shari Bauman*
Jim Williams
Gail Adams
Leanne Neukirk*
Trina Spangle
Shawn Kusuma
Mark Rico
Anupa Jain
Christina Hoppes
Tracy Dutton

SLS Staff

Prabha Acharya
Steve Baker
Joe Harmon
Gary Shipley
Kathryn Wangsness
Imelda Guevara
Galan Larson
Barbara Escobar
Frank Martinez

ADEQ Staff

Jeanene Hanley

* By phone

CALL TO ORDER

Cindy Bain called the meeting to order at 10.06 AM; she welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves.

INTRODUCTION

Steve Baker introduced the new surveyor, Frank Martinez; after his certification from EPA Cincinnati, he will start to audit the labs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Steve Baker said a quorum was not present. The minutes from June 05, 2008 meeting was reviewed; on page 3, 2nd paragraph, Steve Hoatson should be corrected to Scott Hoatson. The minutes could not be approved because of the absence of a quorum.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Fluoride/Ammonia Distillation:

Barbara Escobar informed the handout that is given out at the meeting was the table sent to Region IX on ammonia and fluoride distillation requirements, ADHS has not received any definite response from EPA; only the methods that are licensed by the labs are included in the table; the comparability study needs to be done, if a lab chooses not to do the distillation; for obtaining exemption, the labs must contact Region IX directly. This is effective right away.

Barbara emphasized that this table refers to wastewaters (CWA) only; drinking water distillation requirements will be posted in the next Information Update. Questions can be sent to Prabha or Barbara and they will be addressed. The final table will be posted on the next Info Update. Hach 8029 for fluoride in drinking water requires distillation.

Solids overnight drying /Study:

ADHS has not received any specific instructions from Region IX on this; ADHS requires that after drying for specific amount of time, the samples must be re-dried, cooled and weighed again as per the method; for variation the labs must work with the Region IX directly.

Unannounced Audits (statistics):

Barbara explained that for in-state labs 93% were unannounced audits and for out-of-state labs 97%; the exemptions were the military labs due to security and the new labs; the new labs were told that their next audit would be unannounced.

The lab's reactions to unannounced audits were given by surveyors:

Kathryn said that out-of-state labs were more surprised than in-state labs that ADHS would actually do unannounced audits.

Steve described his experience: recently when he went to an out-of-state lab to audit, he was informed that the lab had moved 70 miles away; when he got there, the lab had been made aware

of the audit, which didn't matter because the lab had too many deficiencies in the micro area only for which they were licensed.

Steve gave an update on the continuation of unannounced audits: if there weren't any significant difference between announced and unannounced audits, then at the next round, those labs will be have announced audits; the other labs with significant difference will continue to have unannounced audits until they come into compliance.

Technical presentations during ELAC:

Barbara tried to get a feel for if there were any interest in short technical presentations by ADHS or licensed lab staff after the ELAC meetings; other states do it during the meetings and if interested to let Prabha/Barbara know. Steve added that if Arizona is interested in Data Validation Workshop, which is a 3-day course, it will be considered; the registration fee might be lower than usual 400-500 dollars/person if presented in AZ due to lower travel expenses.

LFB @ MRL:

Barbara: Drinking water cert manual requires an LFB @ MRL to be run as a sample in addition to mid-level LFB and the MRL calibration standard, daily; this is applicable to procedural calibration standards as well; for acceptance limits, either historical limits or $\pm 50\%$ can be used as per the rules. We will include this in the next Update.

CCV/LFB for 524.2:

Barbara: LFB @ mid-level as well as @ MRL need to be analyzed; the acceptance limits will be different; mid level LFB should be within the method limits and the one at MRL can be either at the historical limits or $\pm 50\%$; if only the LFB at MRL is analyzed, then the acceptance limits will be at the method required for mid-level LFB.

ADEQ UPDATE:

8260 Air Method:

Jeanene Hanley described the regulatory development at ADEQ which led to the need for 8260 Air Method : when the Soil Rule was revised, the definition of soil was changed to include soil vapor as well as dissolved aqueous phase; reliable soil vapor results was required because the data would be used to determine if the cleanup goals were met and if further monitoring of the contaminated sites was required; ADEQ was not satisfied with the TO15 QC; a few more chemicals from the soil rule may need to be added to the current list of 8260AZ Vapor Method; labs will be receiving more vapor samples in future for accurate quantification of VOCs from Superfund and WQARF projects using this method.

Prabha Acharya gave key points of the method; draft method will be posted on ADHS website to receive comments; once finalized will be Director Approved to make it a compliance method; Tedlar bags, airtight syringes (mobile labs) and canisters for sampling; 3 types of standards; aqueous calibration, aqueous secondary and tertiary gas standards; subcommittee decided to use aqueous 8260 calibration curve instead of labs having to develop gas curve to make it more practical for the labs to accept vapor samples; tertiary standard to compare recoverability; for

calculation, made reference to ADHS CD; QC similar to 8260B; batch changed from 12 hours to 24 hours since each run takes longer; IDOC using tertiary standard; report as mg/m³.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Training:

Joe Harmon: Planning a SW/GW workshop for 10/21 thru 10/23 cosponsoring with AWPCA; Wastewater workshop similar to one last year is also being planned. He added that ADEQ will work on building better communication between permit writers and the permittee.

Matt Rexing; ADEQ experiencing problems with smaller systems meeting permit requirements; met with ADHS and ADEQ for planning; 2-day workshop covering hold time, chlorine, Hach presentation, QC, Colilert, MF, TKN and others; date has not been set. Matt added that there were a couple of new parameters being added by ADEQ, like ammonia and mercury required to be reported at 10 ppt! Rick Amalfi suggested adding the requirements of DMRQA to the training since the small systems do not understand at all.

Rules:

Rules aren't being revised now; experiencing more cuts; Flagstaff lab was removed.

TNI:

Barbara gave an update on the TNI/NEMC conference: there were a number of presentations that triggered a lot of discussion, like the inconsistencies between the states on audits; all the presentations get posted on the TNI website; Barbara would like to go over the inconsistencies between the different auditing programs at the next ELAC meeting; there aren't much difference between NELAC and ADHS audits, only that more emphasis is given on documentation by NELAC.

Steve added that there is a huge difference between NY and ADHS way of auditing: NY might have repeat documentation deficiencies for media where as ADHS might refuse to license the lab due to severe deficiencies like leaving the samples for too long/too hot in the incubators. Data Audit workshop was presented in New Jersey recently, there were 30 people from NJ represented; more emphasis is given by all the states on the data audits since the Supplement to the DW Manual was published which requires more data validation.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT:

Steve mentioned that a new chairperson needs to be selected along with a co-chair since Cindy is not interested in serving another term. The next meeting was scheduled for December 11, 2008.