

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 31, 2011

MINUTES

Members Present

Laura McCasland
Matthew Rexing
*Nancy Turner
Robert Vertefeuille
Cynthia Garcia
(Amy Baker)
Anne Nichols
Jim Williams
Elizabeth Baker
Randy Gottler
Mary Tyer
Rick Amalfi

* by phone

** names removed
due to prolonged
absence

Members Absent

**Lee Hecht
**Christina Krosnicki
Linda Johnson
Evelyn Dawson
Michael Dew
Elizabeth Proffitt

Guests Present

Melinda Seibel
Trina Spangle
Anupa Jain
*Nancy Powell
*Barbara Escobar
Cassandra Dasalla
*Dawn Weyer
Peggy Cota
Melissa Spencer
Lynn Schulz
Gail Adams
*Leanne Nieukirk
Garry Brussels
Dipti Shah
Kurt Novy
Casey Loflin
Robert Metzger
Bob Woods
Patrick Freeman
Vic Nielsen
Kim Caggiano
*Terri Garcia

SLS Staff

Prabha Acharya
Steve Baker
Ali Mayfield
Kathryn Wangsness
Gary Shipley
Isaac Robert

ADEQ Staff

Julie Hoskin

CALL TO ORDER

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

Matt Rexing called the meeting to order at 10.05 AM; he welcomed everyone; he was chairing since Linda Johnson was under the weather and could not make it to the meeting. There were a few changes to the agenda; Julie Hoskin will speak in place of Jeanene Hanley, Garry Brussels will represent in place of Beth Proffitt and Bob Metzger will give a presentation on Daiichi accident. Matt requested Tucson attendees to begin the introductions. Everyone introduced themselves.

Steve Baker welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming; there is a packed agenda for today's meeting. Steve later on during the meeting introduced Isaac Robert as the new Manager of the Licensure Program, he had worked for more than 20 years as the Supervisor of Inorganic Unit in Chemistry, State Lab; he was very knowledgeable, Cincinnati certified; has been auditing the labs for about a year and is good at it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from December 16, 2010 meeting were approved as written. A quorum was present.

ADEQ UPDATE

Additional Fuel Compounds:

Julie Hoskin gave an update; Jeanene Hanley has been working on updating the 8260AZ list from lab's input through emails and subcommittee meetings; most of these additional compounds are already being reported by many labs; it has not yet been decided if the new list will be called 8260AZR1 (the extra compounds will become part of the 8260AZ list and the extended list of compounds will be required to be reported each time 8260AZ is requested) or Additional Fuels List (this will be requested on certain applicable projects only); this will be decided at a later date with the input from the labs; Elizabeth Baker voiced her concern that there appears to be some confusion as to which compounds will be added as additional fuels compounds, maybe another subcommittee meeting needs to be scheduled to sort out this confusion; Julie responded that Jeanene would set up a meeting.

Loss of regulatory usefulness of 8015AZ:

Julie Hoskin reported that the previous Soil Rule had C10-C32 as the parameter to test for the presence of TPH and 8015AZ was the method of choice; but the Soil Rule has since then been changed; now it is the measure of individual GRO, DRO and ORO parameter or the mixtures by 8015, measures the presence TPH.

Prabha Acharya added, the reason behind the change of the parameters for TPH measurement was now the type of release, GRO, DRO or ORO, can be identified and also can gather information if the detected fuel has been degraded. The difference between 8015AZ and 8015 is, 8015AZ measures the total hydrocarbons between C10-C32, irrespective of the type of fuel spill, whereas with 8015 test, one can make the recognition of individual fuel pattern – if it is GRO, jet fuel, DRO etc., and also can tell if they have been degraded; the current requirement is same as it was during the pre-8015AZ days.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

List of common Findings from the Licensure Audits:

Isaac showed a PowerPoint presentation and there was a handout as well;

1. Not documenting the traceability of all reagents or standards
2. Not checking the pH of the calibration samples, or the QC samples for EPA 524.2
3. Not maintaining testing equipment in proper operating condition, examples are thermometers (digital, glass, IR etc.) not calibrated against a NIST certified thermometer
4. Not following/documenting critical method step; examples- not evaporating the samples to dryness before drying in an oven at $180 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ (SM 2540C.3.d); SM 4500-CN C & E; not documenting that the color development was done for eight minutes and the samples/standards were read within fifteen minutes;
SM 6251B- laboratory neither checking amount of sulfuric acid added to reduce the pH to <0.5 prior to micro extraction, nor recording the pH result.
5. Not showing the temperatures of samples to be about 25°C (SM 2510B)
6. Not making proper error corrections
7. Not achieving the BOD results for the Glucose Glutamic Acid control limit (SM 5210B)
8. Not maintaining and adhering to a complete & current SOP
9. Not performing duplicate analyses for quantifiable microbiological methods
10. Not performing repeat drying, cooling, desiccating and weighing for residue samples until the weight change was less than 4% of the previous weight or 0.5 mg (SM 2540C.3.d, 2540D.3.c & 2540G, 3.b.)

A question was raised on item #5 above, by Dipti Shah, that there was no need to have the temperature of samples close to 25 degs since the temperature compensator takes care of the temperature differences. She was told that ADHS would research on this and get back to her.

Licensure Budget:

Steve gave a PowerPoint presentation and there was a handout to go with it. In summary, there are 7.43 FTEs, FY 2010 revenue was \$703,470 and FY 2011 revenue through 2/2011 was \$481,529; settlement was \$80,580.

Allocation:	FY 2009 – \$900,400	FY 2010 – \$935,198	FY 2011 - \$942,000 (as of 3/28/2011)
Expenditures:	FY 2009 - \$752,118	FY 2010 - \$693,174	FY 2011 - \$569,088 (as of 3/28/2011)
Surplus	FY 2009 - \$148, 282	FY 2010 - \$242,024	FY 2011 - \$234,210 (as of 3/28/2011)

ALA Update:

Garry Brussels announced that he was nominated as the president of ALA this week; former president was replaced because there is a requirement in the by-laws for the president should belong to an Arizona certified lab in Arizona; the items currently being discussed in ALA are; Arizona residency requirement for labs for state contracts; fuel list; radiochemistry findings; legislators taking licensure's back-up fund (surplus).

Requirement of Residency for Arizona State Contracts:

Garry Brussels said that they had not yet researched on the job specifications for Arizona state contracts and he had nothing to report.

WWTP Inspections:

Steve reported that there were many problems found in the WWTP like documentation, calibration, instrument maintenance and general lack of knowledge about testing; Gary Shipley has been put on charge of this program as a consultant and he is paid out of other funds; other auditors are not involved anymore unless the WWTP is connected to the lab they are auditing; looking for good faith effort from WWTP to improve.

SDWTP Exempt Tests with QA/QC:

Steve said the DW plant's tests are similar to WWTP plant tests; a number of DW operators attend the WW training and have received PDHs; it will be several years before DWTPs are audited. Prabha gave the list of required DWTP tests; they were similar to WWTP tests; temperature, pH, specific conductivity, turbidity, disinfectant residuals which are total chlorine, chlorine dioxide and chlorite. Gary added that in some locations the same person tests at both the plants and uses the same instruments, it might be efficient to do both inspections at the same time.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Rules:

Steve reported rules revision will not happen soon; Julie reported that there were a couple of ADEQ rules that are being processed.

TNI/NEMC:

Kathryn said that she is the Chair for Association of Public Health Laboratory Accreditation Subcommittee and they paid for her to attend the TNI meeting as a representative of Public Health Laboratories.

Training:

Matt Rexing reported that they were considering putting on the following workshops this year – repeating WW workshops, maybe help out Steve with WWTP operator workshops and possibly on how to interpret WET testing reports. Looking for ways to resurrect the 3-day DW/SW sampling workshops like cosponsoring with Gateway.

DMRQA:

Kathryn reported that during WWTPs inspections, it was noted that several of them with AzPDES permits were not participating in DMRQA; official dates for 2011; March 15th through July 1st; WP Study results count from 1/1 through 7/1; EPA will send out packets to major plants only, ADEQ will mail out to minor facilities. Gary added that he has been telling the plants that if they do not discharge they do not have to participate in DMRQA studies.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting was scheduled for June 09, 2011; the meeting was adjourned.

New Business:

Bob Metzger gave a presentation on Daiichi accident and the resulting plume of I-131 over Arizona.