



## TNI Vision

All entities generating environmental data in the United States will be accredited to consensus national standards.



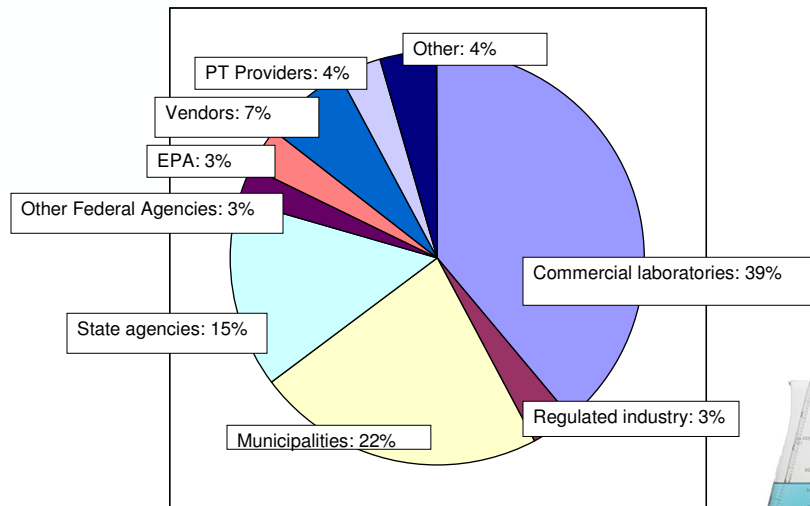
## Advocacy Committee Charter

- Establish relationships with trade organizations that have an interest in accreditation issues,
- Establish relationships with EPA program offices,
- Develop presentations and papers to promote national accreditation, and
- Develop presentations and papers to promote TNI.





## Member Demographics



## PRESENTATIONS





## Outreach Efforts: Trade Associations

- Small focus group meetings at the Denver Forum with representatives from:
  - American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL)
  - Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)
  - American Water Works Association (AWWA)
  - Water Environment Federation (WEF)
  - “Non-NELAP” states



## ACIL Feedback

- Endorses the NELAC special committee report for national accreditation.
- All environmental data should come from accredited laboratories.
- The rigor of the standard should not be based on the size of the lab but on the use of the data.
- There is a need for help of small organizations.
- Support for scaled implementation models





## AWWA Feedback

- Cost of implementation is high.
- Too difficult for small laboratories.
- Frequency, cost and type of PTs is an issue.
- Standard should specify the minimum requirements for data quality.
- Data of known and documented quality is a benefit.
- One uniform requirement for accreditation to deal with lack of consistency issues caused by EPA program offices.



## APHL Feedback

- Strong support for EPA to become an accrediting authority or at least EPA oversight of the state laboratories.
- They need accreditation for all programs.





## WEF Feedback

- The standards should be developed to support data quality.
- Support a national program based on quality systems and performance approach.
- NELAC can not demonstrate cost benefit.
- Small laboratories are overwhelmed with administrative requirements.
- The program should have EPA oversight.



## Non-NELAP State Feedback

- Issues with consistency and stability of NELAC as an organization.
- Not clear that the NELAC standard results or improves data quality.
- Statutory authority issues having to do with fees and the use of those fees.
- Too much work for a state with no resources.
- No support from constituency.
- Legislative difficulties.





## Outreach Efforts: EPA

- NELAC Special Committee letter in 2006
- TNI letter to EPA in 2006
- TNI meetings in 2007
  - Office of Solid Waste
  - Office of Water
  - Forum on Environmental Measurements (FEM)
  - Office of Inspector General
  - Office of Environmental Information
- Primary focus of meetings was to introduce TNI and indicate willingness to harmonize efforts and meet program needs



## Preliminary Outcomes: EPA

- FEM designated EPA liaison to serve on TNI Board of Directors.
  - Barbara Finazzo, Region 2
- TNI requested regions continue to provide individuals to serve as state evaluators.
- Mutual interest in harmonizing drinking water certification program with TNI efforts. (See letter from EPA OW)
- Continued active participation of EPA staff in TNI activities.





## Preliminary Outcomes: TRADE ORGANIZATIONS

- Continue broad-based outreach efforts with trade associations.
- Conduct Focus Group meetings on potential changes needed to accreditation/standard approach.
- Take results to appropriate committees in TNI



## Focus Group 1: Water Laboratories

- By far, the largest group of laboratories that is currently not accredited to NELAC standard.
  - Includes drinking water and wastewater laboratories.
  - Municipal, industrial, and commercial laboratories.
  - First Focus Group meeting was conducted August 2007 with AWWA, WEF, and NACWA





## FUTURE PLANS

- Continue outreach efforts with trade organizations, EPA, other Federal Agencies, and states
- Outreach efforts to laboratories
- Presentations
- Collect data about the benefits of national accreditation

