

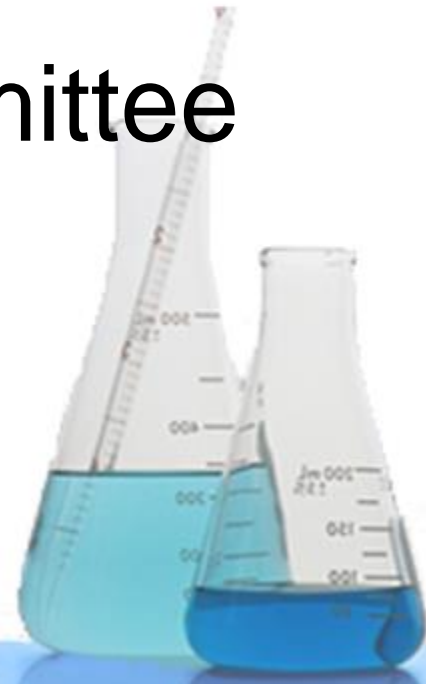


The NELAC Institute

Information Technology Committee

February 3, 2015

Washington, DC – Crystal City





Committee Members:

- ❑ John Kuhn, Chair
- ❑ Keith Ward, Vice-Chair, Phenova
- ❑ Pam Varner, ASI
- ❑ Rip Starr, Alabama DEM
- ❑ Maria Friedman, Test America
- ❑ Rebecca Pierrot, ALS
- ❑ Mei Beth Shepherd, Shepherd Technical
- ❑ Nick Evans, JEA
- ❑ Jerry Parr, TNI
- ❑ Jan Wlodarski, TNI
- ❑ Dan Hickman, TNI
- ❑ William Daystrom, TNI



Mission:

- ❑ To support the information technology needs of TNI members and programs through a user-friendly and attractive communications center and database.



Objectives:

- Provide and maintain a user-friendly website that is accessible to the public, laboratories, Accreditation Bodies, and data users to act as a portal into The NELAC Institute organization.
- House TNI news, standards and information.
- Provide means of communication to and among members and to labs, governmental programs and the public.
- Provide member services (e.g., membership applications)
- Promote TNI events (e.g., electronic registration, posting agendas)
- Maintain the TNI Laboratory Accreditation Management System (LAMS)
- Maintain codes (methods, analytes, technologies)
- Provide web-based education and training to members, labs





Considerations: *(assumptions/constraints/obstacles/risks)*

- ❑ IT Committee is a support function to TNI
- ❑ Committee membership consists of both volunteers and TNI staff personnel
- ❑ State Accreditation Body budget & staff limitations cause problems in keeping current data uploaded into LAMS
- ❑ Assurance of available resources; reasonable funding to accomplish tasks at hand





2014 Committee Snapshot:

- ❑ Discuss, research, & consider new initiative requests:
 - ❑ Add NEFAP FSMOs to LAMS
 - ❑ Not initiated at this time. Not compatible with LAMS DB. NEFAP ABs also were not interested in adding their FSMOs to LAMS
 - ❑ Electronic Data Informatics (EDI) committee
 - ❑ Not initiated at this time. Commercial entities already providing services. Choose not to compete with them.
 - ❑ General user ability to download FOAs from LAMS
 - ❑ Stakeholder OK to proceed. Any user will be able download FOAs vs just view them
- ❑ LAMS with Method Compendium add on:
 - ❑ Most EPA water methods 141, 143, pt 146, USGS, and some Lachat methods are now loaded into LAMS. This allows any user quick & easy access to methods to view or print.





2014 Committee Snapshot:

- ❑ LAMS with Method Compendium add on:
 - ❑ SW-856 methods & other proprietary methods will continue to be added in 2015
 - ❑ Dan recorded webinar on LAMS usage at DC meeting in August. Will be available to all as reference in near future.
- ❑ Generic Laboratory Application form
 - ❑ Would allow laboratories to enter their information once and apply it to all states they are interested in obtaining accreditation.
 - ❑ Approved to be built in 2014. Dan demonstrated some potential screenshots and discussed possible functionality at 2014 August DC meeting. Currently a work in progress
- ❑ Website:
 - ❑ William (TNI Webmaster) researched NEW potential ISPs to relocate the TNI website as slow downs and problems with current ISP were becoming an issue
 - ❑ Moved to a new faster & stable ISP which was completed in 2014 after QC compatibility testing was assured. Completed off hour times to minimize disruption to users.





2014 Committee Snapshot:

- ❑ Website review & update request:
 - ❑ TNI workgroup requested IT Committee review current TNI Website layout and update it to easier to navigate
 - ❑ We have a stakeholder suggestion session at today's meeting to collect input
 - ❑ William has already built new improvements for categorical access to key data on TNI website which can be shown at this session.
- ❑ Request to consider TNI issue EPA Lab IDs
- ❑ Retirement of key person @ EPA driving this request. Common thread that ties PT reporting in most states.
 - ❑ Was huge issue to consider with estimated ~20K Lab IDs to be managed across both NELAC & non-NELAC labs/states.
 - ❑ Safe Drinking Water program also wanted a separate code not consolidated with other programs which adds additional complexity to the request

Resolution: EPA decided to retain this process





Continuing Meeting Agenda

- William Daystrom
 - TNI Website Update
 - Discussion with stakeholders on suggestions for website
 - Q & A

- Dan Hickman
 - LAMS & Method Compendium update & Demo
 - Generic Laboratory Application form
 - Q & A

- Open Forum- END

