

# The Institute Review

Institute for National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation

Second Quarter 2006

## Draft Interim Standards

On January 23, 2006, INELA published five Working Draft Standards for review and comment. These were:

- ◆ *Requirements for Laboratories*
- ◆ *Requirements for Accrediting Bodies*
- ◆ *Requirements for Proficiency Test (PT) Providers*
- ◆ *Requirements for PT Oversight*
- ◆ *Requirements for Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations*

These documents were discussed extensively at the INELA committee meetings in Chicago from February 1-3, 2006. The INELA Expert Committees have reviewed comments provided, and as appropriate, are in the process of modifying these standards to prepare Draft Interim Standards. On or around June 22, 2006, the Draft Interim Standards will be published on the INELA website. At that time, a notice of a ballot will also be sent to all INELA members. All INELA members will then have the opportunity to vote on these standards, with the vote scheduled for July 7 through August 6, 2006.

The comments accompanying both positive and negative votes will be discussed at the INELA meeting in Overland Park, Kansas from August 14-16, 2006. Following that meeting, the INELA Expert Committees will initiate the final activities required to approve these standards.

Some of these standards use language from ISO/IEC standards 17011 and 17025 as the foundation. Because of copyright laws, the ISO language cannot be made publicly available on the website. A version of the standards that do not have the ISO language will be published on the website.

When the INELA standards are finalized, versions of the standards will be prepared that incorporates the ISO language and will be made available to those INELA members that pay the licensing fee. Controlled draft versions of these documents will be available for anyone to review during the INELA meetings in Kansas in August.

## Website Upgrade

In the very near future, the INELA website will undergo a significant upgrade and will have a new look as a result of hiring a contractor to provide additional capabilities.

Among the first things to be done will be a system to join INELA, or renew your membership, on-line. The new website will also have the capability for a members-only area. We anticipate having this upgrade done sometime in June.

## Kansas Meeting

The US Environmental Protection Agency, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and INELA will be co-hosting the **Kansas Forum on Laboratory Accreditation** in Overland Park, Kansas from August 12 to 19, 2006. This will be a weeklong event consisting of the Twelfth Meeting of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC 12), an open forum of the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB), seminars and training courses, INELA's Semi-Annual Meeting, and other events.

The NELAC meeting will be Monday and Tuesday. This meeting will concentrate on moving forward the self-sufficiency effort and plans for achieving this goal will be presented. The meeting also will

### Special topics of interest:

- INELA website to undergo major upgrade.
- Kansas Forum on Laboratory Accreditation will be held in Overland Park, KS from August 12 to 19, 2006.
- INELA and Independent Laboratories Institute (ILI) will be co-hosting the National Environmental Monitoring Conference (NEMC) from August 28 - 31 in Arlington, Virginia.
- Robert Pristas of ExxonMobil joins the Board.

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## Kansas Meeting cont.

include updates from the Standard Review Committee (SRC), the Proficiency Testing (PT) Board, the Membership and Outreach Committee, the NELAC Board of Directors, the Special committee on the national accreditation effort and the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) Accrediting Authority Committee. The meeting will also include a face to face assessor forum. An open forum of the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) will be held Tuesday afternoon.

INELA will have its meeting beginning Wednesday morning and concluding mid-afternoon on Friday. This INELA meeting will include an update on recent activities of the organization, including an update on INELA's strategic plan. Most of the INELA meeting will be devoted to meetings of the INELA expert and administrative committees, where comments on the INELA Interim Standards will be discussed and INELA's plans for helping support the implementation of a national accreditation program will be further developed.

INELA will be offering the following training courses in conjunction with the Kansas City Forum:

- ◆ *Technical Assessor Training: Metals*
- ◆ *Implementing Your Quality Manual*

The Forum will be held at the Sheraton Overland Park in the Kansas City metropolitan area. An important part of this conference will be the Exhibits and Receptions to be held Monday and Wednesday evening. If you are interested in exhibiting, please contact Jerry Parr at [jparr@inela.org](mailto:jparr@inela.org). More details about the conference, including the on-line registration system, are now available at: <http://www.inela.org/Conferences/conferences.html>.

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## INELA Presentations at EPA's Quality Conference

On April 27, 2006, the INELA Board of Directors participated in a session at the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Quality Conference in Austin, Texas. A series of six presentations described how a laboratory accreditation program is an essential and necessary component for ensuring environmental data quality, then presented in detail the new draft consensus standards that have recently been published by INELA and concluded with INELA's vision of how EPA can participate in this process. The titles of these six presentations were:

- ◆ *Why Laboratory Accreditation is an Essential Element of a Data Quality System*
- ◆ *Accreditation Requirements for Laboratories: Proficiency Testing and On-Site Assessments*
- ◆ *Accreditation Requirements for Laboratories: Quality System*
- ◆ *Requirements for an Accreditation Body*
- ◆ *Accreditation Requirements for Organizations Performing Field Sampling and Measurement*
- ◆ *The Role of the USEPA in a National Accreditation Program*

The presentations and extended abstracts can be downloaded at: [http://www.inela.org/Publications\\_and\\_Presentations/Presentations/presentations.html](http://www.inela.org/Publications_and_Presentations/Presentations/presentations.html).

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## National Environmental Monitoring Conference

In a cooperative agreement with EPA, INELA and the Independent Laboratories Institute (ILI) will be co-hosting the **National Environmental Monitoring Conference** from August 28-31 in Arlington, Virginia at the Westin Arlington Gateway. The focus of this 22nd Annual Conference is on new approaches for analyzing conventional and emerging pollutants in water, soil, and air. The conference is will feature technical sessions on:



### Quality Manual Template

*The Implementation Support Committee is very close to completing the first draft of a Quality Manual template, a document that can be used by laboratories to assist in the generation of a Quality Manual.*

*This document will be made available to members for \$50 or to non-members for \$150. More information about this effort will be provided at the meeting of the committee in Kansas in August.*




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### Contact INELA

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## National Environmental Monitoring Conference cont.

- ◆ *Innovative Approaches for Analyzing Conventional and Emerging Pollutants;*
- ◆ *Homeland Security Monitoring;*
- ◆ *Ensuring the Integrity of Data;*
- ◆ *Advances in Electronic Data Deliverables (EDD);*
- ◆ *Implementing the Triad Approach;*
- ◆ *Measurement Uncertainty;*
- ◆ *Assessing Performance of New Methods;*
- ◆ *The Performance Approach;*
- ◆ *Laboratory Accreditation; and*
- ◆ *Metals Speciation.*

The theme for this year's conference is designed to complement an initiative recently begun by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the NIST Assessment of the U.S. Measurement System. The 2006 NEMC will feature as a series of sessions on the three main topics of the NIST initiative — health, depth and breadth. **Health** will investigate whether the U.S. environmental testing industry is delivering the quality of data needed. **Depth** will look at how well the necessary technologies detect all contaminants of concern at the required levels. **Breadth** will evaluate how comprehensive testing is relative to the needs.

More details about the conference and registration information can be found at [www.nemc.us](http://www.nemc.us).

For 2007 and beyond, INELA plans to expand the conference into a week-long event by combining NEMC with INELA's summer meeting. This change will reduce the travel costs and time commitments for those who have attended both meetings and provide new opportunities for those who have only participated in one of these events.

## New Board Member

We are pleased to announce that the vacant Board position for a representative of regulated industry has been filled with the addition of **Robert Pristas** from ExxonMobil. Robert brings a solid background in laboratory accreditation issues both from his experience at ExxonMobil as well as his participation on the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) accreditation board.

## New Members

Please welcome the following new individual members:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	NAME	ORGANIZATION
Bretz, Rachel	American Water Works	Orr, Les	Environmental Express
Gaylord, Candace	Pace Analytical	Pristas, Robert	ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences
Hart, Kathryn	TestAmerica	Ray, William	California Water Resources Control Board
Hockenbury, Claudia	Sewern Trent Laboratories	Reynolds, Chris	Sewern Trent Laboratories
Holmes, Jennifer	Sewern Trent Laboratories	Ruschke, Maria	Accutest Laboratories
Leeke, Dennis	Underwriters Laboratories	Schneider, Lou	Sewern Trent Laboratories
Leeson, Dorothy	Sewern Trent Laboratories	Simmons, Donald	University of Iowa Hygienic Lab
Li, Yongtao	Underwriters Laboratories	Tracy, Mark	Edward S. Babcock & Sons
Lindblom, Suzy	Sewern Trent Laboratories	Wunderlich, Dave	TestAmerica
Manz, Stacie	Universal Laboratories		
Martino, Robert	QC Labs		



## Texas Training Workshops

INELA has received a small grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to hold a series of training workshops in the state to assist laboratories with their application to become accredited in the new Texas NELAC program. The workshops will be:

July 10-11	Houston
July 13-14	Austin
July 17-18	Abilene
July 20-21	Dallas

A brochure is being prepared and will be mailed to all INELA members who have a Texas address. As well, information about these workshops will be posted on the INELA website. If you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact Jerry Parr at [jparr@inela.org](mailto:jparr@inela.org).



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## Organizational Members

We are grateful for the generosity of the organizations that have joined us as members:

PATRONS	
Accutest Laboratories	New York State DOH
City of Phoenix, Arizona	Oklahoma DEQ
DataChem Laboratories	Severn Trent Laboratories
Environmental Resource Associates	TestAmerica

SPONSORS
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Advanced Systems	Environmental Lab of Texas	New Hampshire ELAP
Analytical Laboratory Services	Environmental Express	Oregon DEQ
Analytical Products Group	Environmental Monitoring and Technology	Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
Austin Energy Laboratory Services	First Environmental Laboratories	Promium
BSK Analytical	IBM Hudson Valley Environmental Lab	RT Corporation
Catalyst Information Resources	Labcal Services	Scott Specialty Gases
Chemware	Louisiana DEQ	SPEX CertiPrep
City of Largo, Florida	Man-Tech Associates	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
City of Las Vegas, Nevada	Naval Facilities Engineering Command	Wibby Environmental
Columbia Analytical Services		
Eastman Chemical		



### Board of Directors

**Steve Arms**  
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US Navy  
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Longview, TX

**Sharon Mertens**  
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District  
Milwaukee, WI

**Robert Pristas**  
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Annandale, NJ

**Alfredo Sotomayor**  
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources  
Madison, WI

**David Speis**  
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**Jerry Parr**  
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