



# Forum on Environmental Accreditation

January 25 – 28, 2016  
Tulsa, Oklahoma



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# Forum on Environmental Accreditation

## Agenda



## TNI Mobile Phone App

For up-to-the-minute information about the Forum, download the TNI Mobile App to your smart phone or tablet.

Features include:

- Daily Schedule;
- List of Exhibitors;
- An Area Map; and
- TNI News and General Information.

Search for "TNI" in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store on your device. If you have trouble locating the app, visit [nelac-institute.org/mobile](http://nelac-institute.org/mobile) for help.

Twitter feed: [nelacinstitute](https://twitter.com/nelacinstitute)



## Internet Access

Internet access in your room is complimentary.

Free internet access is also available in the conference area and hotel lobby.

## Meals and Breaks

- Continental breakfast is served daily from 7:30 – 8:00.
- Mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks are provided daily.
- Lunch is provided Tuesday and Wednesday.

*If you have special dietary needs, inform the registration staff.*

### Reception And Exhibition

Monday  
5:30 – 7:00 pm  
Regency Foyer

### Exhibitors

A2LA  
Absolute Standards  
AGS Scientific  
Autoscribe Informatics  
Environmental Express  
ERA, A Waters Company  
Khemia Scientific  
Laboratory Accreditation Bureau  
Metrohm, USA  
MilliporeSigma  
NSI Lab Solutions  
Phenova, A Phenomenex Company  
PRōMIUM  
QEC  
Qualtrax, Inc.  
Restek Corporation  
Spectro Analytical Instruments

# Monday, January 25

## 8:00 – 9:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### Special Session on Reference Materials -----Promenade C/D

**Session Moderators:** Joe Konschnik, Restek Corporation, and  
Steve Arpie, Absolute Standards

This special session is designed to share knowledge about Clause 5.6.3.2 in ISO 17025 and debunk the mystic of NIST-traceable standards. The session will also cover issues surrounding second source standards for instrument calibration.

### Introduction to TNI Programs and Services ----- Promenade A

**Session Moderator:** Sharon Mertens, Milwaukee  
Metropolitan Sewerage District

If this is your first time to come to a TNI meeting, or if you just want to find out more about TNI's efforts to improve the quality of environmental data, come to this special session.

## 10:15 – 12:00 GENERAL SESSION TNI Annual Meeting -----Promenade C/D

**Session Moderator:** Sharon Mertens, Milwaukee  
Metropolitan Sewerage District

- Consensus Standards Development Program (CSDP) Report
- National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP) Report
- National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) Report
- Proficiency Testing (PT) Program Report
- Report on TNI Administrative Activities
- Report from the Chair

## 12:00 – 1:30 LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

### Exhibit Hours

Monday  
9:45 – 10:15  
3:00 – 3:30  
5:30 – 7:00

Tuesday  
10:00 – 10:30  
3:00 – 3:30

## 1:30 – 5:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) ----- Promenade C

**Session Chairs:** Lara Phelps, USEPA Office of the  
Science Advisor, and  
Patricia Carvajal, San Antonio River Authority

EPA's Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) is managed in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) to solicit consensus advice from the environmental laboratory community. The recommendations ELAB provides includes issues such as:

- Developing scientifically rigorous, statistically sound, and representative measurements; and
- Facilitating the operation and expansion of a national environmental accreditation program.

### Laboratory Proficiency Testing Expert Committee----- Promenade B

**Committee Chair:** Shawn Kassner, Neptune and Company

The mission of the Laboratory Proficiency Testing Committee is to develop standards for :

- the development and testing of PT samples;
- evaluation of PT Providers;
- evaluation of PT Provider Oversight Organizations; and
- use of PT samples by laboratories and laboratory accrediting bodies.

### Assessment Forum: Preparing to be TNI Compliant-----Promenade D

**Session Moderator:** Barbara Escobar, Pima County

TNI's Assessment Forum is structured to provide an opportunity for laboratories and laboratory assessors to share information on how to improve the laboratory assessment process.

### Non-Governmental Accreditation Body Working Group (1:30 – 3:00)----- Promenade A

**Session Moderator:** Alfredo Sotomayor, Milwaukee  
Metropolitan Sewerage District

The purpose of this effort is to develop an implementation plan to recognize non-governmental accreditation bodies to grant NELAP accreditations and to have such accreditations accepted by state NELAP accreditation bodies, where appropriate.

## 5:30 – 7:00 RECEPTION AND EXHIBITION Promenade Foyer

# Tuesday, January 26

## 8:00 – 12:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### Assessment Forum: Preparing for TNI Assessments ----- Promenade D

Session Moderator: **Barbara Escobar, Pima County**

TNI's Assessment Forum is structured to provide an opportunity for laboratories and laboratory assessors to share information on how to improve the laboratory assessment process.

### Chemistry Expert Committee ----- Promenade B

Committee Chair: **Richard Burrows, TestAmerica, Inc.**

The Chemistry Expert Committee is responsible for Module 4 of the TNI laboratory accreditation standard. This includes requirements for the calculation of limits of detection (LOD), limits of quantitation (LOQ), calibration curves, and other related values.

### Laboratory Accreditation Body Expert Committee ----- Promenade A

Committee Chair: **Carl Kircher, Florida DEP**

The Laboratory Accreditation Body Committee develops the standard for operation of laboratory accreditation bodies.

### Laboratory Quality Systems Expert Committee ----- Promenade C

Committee Chair: **Paul Junio, Northern Lake Services**

The Laboratory Quality Systems Committee develops a standard for the quality systems in environmental laboratories. The elements of the quality system include organizational structure, responsibilities, procedures, processes, and resources (e.g., facilities, staff, equipment) for implementing quality management in testing operations.

## 12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH PROVIDED Tulsa South Ballroom

## 1:00 – 3:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### Chemistry Expert Committee (Cont.) ----- Promenade B

### Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee ----- Promenade A

Committee Chair: **Maria Friedman, TestAmerica, Inc.**

The purpose of the Proficiency Testing (PT) Program Executive Committee is to establish and maintain a national PT program to support a national environmental accreditation program.

### Mentor Session: How to do a Corrective Action / Root Cause Analysis ----- Promenade D

Session Moderator: **Barbara Escobar, Pima County**

TNI hosts a Mentor Session at each of TNI's semi-annual meetings to share information on topics of interest to laboratories and Accreditation Bodies.

### Whole Effluent Toxicity Expert Committee ----- Promenade C

Committee Chair: **Rami Naddy, TRE Environmental Strategies**

The mission of this committee is to update and maintain the whole effluent toxicity testing Standard (TNI Volume 1, Module 7) based upon public comment, to provide technical assistance on issues related to whole effluent toxicity, to develop tools to facilitate the implementation of the Standard.

## 3:30 – 5:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### Chemistry Expert Committee (Cont.) ----- Promenade B

### Mentor Session (Cont.) ----- Promenade D

### Microbiology Expert Committee ---- Promenade A

Committee Chair: **Robin Cook, City of Daytona Beach**

The Microbiology Expert Committee is responsible for Module 5 of the TNI laboratory accreditation standard.

### Information Technology Committee ----- Promenade C

Session Moderator: **Dan Hickman, TNI**

The Information Technology Committee maintains the TNI website; the TNI Laboratory Accreditation Management System (LAMS); and TNI databases such as technology codes, method codes, and analyte codes.

# Wednesday, January 27

## 8:00 – 10:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### Field Activities Committee ----- Promenade B

Committee Chair: Justin Brown, EMT

The Field Activities Committee develops standards for the accreditation of field sampling and measurement organizations (FSMO).

### National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) Accreditation Council ----- Promenade C

Committee Chair: Aaren Alger, Pennsylvania DEP

The purpose of this program is to establish and implement a program for the accreditation of environmental laboratories.

## 10:30 – 12:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP) Executive Committee ----- Promenade B

Committee Chair: Kim Watson, Stone Environmental

The National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP) involves the recognition of accreditation bodies for the accreditation of field sampling and measurement organizations (FSMO) as defined in the TNI field activities standards. The NEFAP Executive Committee is responsible for the recognition of accreditation bodies in order to ensure consistent implementation of the TNI Field Activity Standards.

### Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee (LASEC) ----- Promenade C

Committee Chair: Judy Morgan, PACE Analytical

The mission of the Executive Committee is to manage TNI's efforts in supporting a national program for the accreditation of environmental laboratories. Activities of the Committee include developing and establishing policies and procedures, interpretations, guidance documents, and any related tools used by accreditation bodies to implement NELAP.

### Advocacy Committee ----- Promenade D

Committee Chair: Steve Arms, Florida DEP

The Advocacy Committee is charged with promoting the efforts of TNI nationally. This session will focus on conference planning.

## 12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH PROVIDED Tulsa South Ballroom

## 1:00 – 4:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### The 2015 TNI Standard ----- Promenade C

Session Moderator: Bob Wyeth, Independent Consultant

This joint session of the Consensus Standards Development Program Executive Committee, the LASEC and the NELAP AC, is designed to discuss the implementation plans for the new TNI standard.

### Radiochemistry Expert Committee ----- Promenade B

Committee Chair: Bob Shannon,  
Quality Radioanalytical Support

The Radiochemistry Expert Committee is responsible for Module 6 of the TNI laboratory accreditation standard.

### Advocacy Committee (Cont.) ----- Promenade D

Committee Chair: Steve Arms, Florida DEP

The Advocacy Committee is charged with promoting the efforts of TNI nationally. This session will focus on outreach.

## 4:15 – 5:00 GENERAL SESSION Summary of the 2016 Tulsa Forum ----- Promenade C

Session Moderator: Sharon Mertens, Milwaukee  
Metropolitan Sewerage District

Each committee chair will provide a recap of events that occurred during the week.

5:30 – 7:00

TNI COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
RECEPTION

TULSA BALLROOM

All conference attendees are welcome.

# Thursday, January 28

## 8:00 – 12:00 Training Course on Radiochemistry ----- Promenade C

The 2015 Radiochemistry Standard (Module 6 of the TNI standard) has been extensively rewritten. This course is designed to discuss in detail all the changes made to the standard and why. The course is designed for laboratories performing radiochemical testing and laboratory assessors.

## Acronyms

AB	Accreditation Body
AC	NELAP Accreditation Council
CSDP	Consensus Standards Development Program
CSD EC	Consensus Standards Development Executive Committee
DW	Drinking Water
FAC	Field Activities Expert Committee
FoPT	Field of Proficiency Testing
FSMO	Field Sampling and Measurement Organization
IEC	International Electrochemical Commission
IS	Interim Standard
ISO	International Standards Organization
LAB	Laboratory Accreditation Body Expert Committee
LASEC	Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee
NEFAP	National Environmental Field Activities Program
NEFAP EC	National Environmental Field Activities Program Executive Committee
NELAP	National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program
NGAB	Non-Governmental Accreditation Body
PT	Proficiency Testing
PTP	Proficiency Testing Program
PTPEC	Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee
QS	Quality System
SIR	Standard Interpretation Request
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SSAS	Stationary Source Audit Sample
TNI	The NELAC Institute*
VDS	Voting Draft Standard
WDS	Working Draft Standard
WET	Whole Effluent Toxicity

\*NELAC is *not* an acronym.



## The NELAC Institute (TNI) Committees

The work of TNI is done by volunteers working on committees tasked with specific functions. Meetings are open to all attendees. The following Committees have meetings during the Forum:

Advocacy:	Steve Arms, Florida DOH
Consensus Standards Development Executive Committee:	Bob Wyeth, Independent Consultant
Chemistry:	Richard Burrows, TestAmerica, Inc.
Field Activities:	Justin Brown, Environmental Monitoring & Technology
Finance:	David Speis, Eurofins QC, Inc.
Information Technology:	John Kuhn, JEA, Retired
Laboratory Accreditation Body:	Carl Kircher, Florida DOH
Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee:	Judy Morgan, Pace Analytical
Laboratory Quality Systems:	Paul Junio, Northern Lake Services
Microbiology:	Robin Cook, City of Daytona Beach, FL
NEFAP Executive Committee:	Kim Watson, Stone Environmental
NELAP Accreditation Council:	Aaren Alger, Pennsylvania DEP
Nominating:	Steve Arms, Florida DOH
Policy:	Alfredo Sotomayor, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Dist.
Proficiency Testing:	Shawn Kassner, Neptune and Co., Inc.
Proficiency Testing Executive Committee:	Maria Friedman, TestAmerica, Inc.
Radiochemistry:	Bob Shannon, Quality Radioanalytical Support
Stationary Source Audit Sample:	Tom Widera, ERA
Whole Effluent Toxicity:	Rami Naddy, TRE Environmental Strategies



The NELAC Institute (TNI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to foster the generation of environmental data of known and documented quality through an open, inclusive, and transparent process that is responsive to the needs of the community. TNI's vision is a true national accreditation program, whereby all entities involved in the generation of environmental measurement data within the United States are accredited to one uniform, rigorous, and robust program that has been implemented consistently nationwide and focuses on the technical competence of the entity pursuing accreditation. TNI believes such a program will improve the quality and reliability of environmental data used by federal and state agencies.

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Please join us !

## Environmental Measurement Symposium

“Technology Innovation, Citizen Science:  
What’s Next ?”

August 8 – 12, 2016  
Orange County, California



and the



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