



# TNI's Efforts to Assist Small Laboratories

Leonard Schantz – TNI Small Laboratory Advocate

Chief of Water Quality Operations/Laboratory Director  
City of Rochester Water Bureau





# Today's Outline

- Small Laboratory Stats
- TNI's Efforts
- Small Laboratory Advocate





# Small Laboratory Stats





# What is a Small Laboratory

- No clear definition
- One example
  - City of Rochester's Drinking Water Laboratory
    - ✦ Lab director + 1 full-time lab tech + part-time WPOs
    - ✦ Microbiology & DW non-metals
    - ✦ Compliance monitoring at routine sample locations
    - ✦ Report data monthly to state DOH ("Customer")
    - ✦ Support plant and distribution system operations
  - Quality data for regulatory purposes, process control and systems research with limited resources





# How many of us are there???

- No definitive number
- Possible to estimate # of non-commercial laboratories
  - New York has 269 NELAC laboratories
    - ✦ 92 are certified for DW
  - Florida has 143 NELAC laboratories
    - ✦ 96 are certified for DW
- Assume avg of 100/state  $\approx$  5000 nationally
  - Much higher if commercial laboratories included





# TNI's Efforts





# TNI's Efforts to Help

- Combined efforts on education, outreach, assistance, and proposals to change standards
  - Establish relationships with other organizations (e.g. AWWA, APHL, WEF)
  - Templates for QM and SOPs
  - Standards Interpretation
  - Assistance program for becoming accredited
  - True consensus process for changing the requirements
  - A new standard easier to read and understand
  - Assistance to state assessors to improve consistency and add clarity
  - Open ear for hearing concerns





# TNI's Efforts to Help

- Expect to have discussions on:
  - Documentation requirements
  - Level of quality control
  - Frequency of PTs
  - Scalability of TNI standards to size of laboratory operations
  - Better tools, templates and guidance,
- Small Laboratory Advocate







# Small Laboratory Advocate





# Small Laboratory Advocate

- New Position (October 2008)
  - Member of Advocacy and Technical Assistant committees
  - Seeks input from small laboratories and provides advice to TNI
  - Raises concerns of small laboratories with high visibility, and
  - Has limited budget and support from TNI staff to accomplish goals





# Small Laboratory Advocate

- Goal: *Facilitate Feedback from Small Laboratory Community.*
  - *Establish Small Laboratory Advocacy Group*
    - ✦ *Similar to Assessors group*
    - ✦ *Forum to raise and discuss Small Laboratory issues*
    - ✦ *More members the better*





# Reasons to participate

- Like people, standards are not perfect
- TNI's consensus process guarantees your input
- Times are tough, and standards should have a known and documented benefit
- Your voice can make a difference





# For More Information on Small Laboratory Advocacy Group

Contact:

Leonard Schantz

[lgs@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:lgs@cityofrochester.gov)

