



Forum on Laboratory Accreditation

February 2 – 5, 2015
Crystal City, Virginia



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Forum on Laboratory 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 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 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7:30 – 8:00.

Mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks are provided daily.

Lunch is provided Tuesday and Wednesday beginning at noon.

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

Exhibit Hours

Monday

3:00 – 3:30

5:30 – 7:00

Tuesday

10:00 – 10:30

3:00 – 3:30

Monday, February 2

9:30 – 10:15 Networking Session----- Regency AB

10:30 – 12:00 Special Session----- Regency AB

Celebrating 20 Years of a National Accreditation Effort

Session Chair: Sharon Mertens

- Recognition and Awards
- Remembering the Early Years:
Jack Farrell, Ken Jackson, Tom McAninch, and Lara Phelps

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch on Your Own

1:00 – 3:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board
(ELAB) ----- Regency CD**



**Session Chairs: Lara Phelps, USEPA, Office of the Science Advisor,
and Patsy Root, IDEXX Laboratories,
Representing Laboratory Product Developers**

The Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) is managed in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) to solicit consensus advice on issues such as:

- Enhancing EPA's measurement programs; and
- Facilitating the operation and expansion of a national environmental accreditation program.

All ELAB meetings are open to the public.

**Overview of TNI Programs and
Activities ----- Washington A**

Session Chair: Sharon Mertens

The NELAC Institute (TNI) is a non-profit organization with a 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. Among other activities, TNI manages the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP), a program internationally recognized as the gold standard for ensuring the competency of environmental testing laboratories. Over 2,000 US laboratories have been accredited under this program. TNI also manages the National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP), a program that accredits Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations (FSMOs). TNI is a voluntary consensus standards body accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

3:00 – 3:30 Break----- Regency Foyer

3:30 – 5:00 TNI Annual Meeting ----- Regency CD

This session will highlight 2014 activities of TNI programs and discuss plans for 2015.

- Consensus Standards Development Program;
- National Environmental Field Activities Program;
- National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program;
- Proficiency Testing Program; and
- General and Administrative.

**5:30 – 7:00 Reception and
Exhibition----- Regency Foyer**

**Reception
And Exhibition**

**Monday
5:30 – 7:00 pm
Regency Foyer**

Exhibitors

Absolute Standards, Inc.

ANAB

A2LA

Environmental Resource Associates

Khemia Software

Laboratory Accreditation Bureau

LabVantage

NSI Lab Solutions

Phenova

PRōMIUM

QEC

Qualtrax, Inc.

Restek

Shimadzu Scientific Instruments

Spectro Analytical Instruments

SigmaAldrich / RTC

Tuesday, February 3

8:00 – 10:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Chemistry Expert Committee ----- Regency A

Committee Chair: Richard Burrows, TestAmerica, Inc.

The Chemistry Expert Committee is chartered to develop measurement tools to improve the quality of method information, understanding, and flexibility. This includes measurement tools for the calculation of limits of detection (LOD), limits of quantitation (LOQ), calibration curves, and other related values with the most common and diverse techniques.

TNI Proficiency Testing Program

Executive Committee ----- Regency B

Committee Chair: Maria Friedman, TestAmerica, Inc.

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

Radiochemistry Expert Committee-----Washington B

Committee Chair: Bob Shannon, Quality Radioanalytical Support

The mission of this committee is to maintain the radiochemistry standard (TNI Environmental Sector Volume 1, Module 6) based on public input; to provide technical assistance on issues related to radiochemistry; and to develop tools that facilitate the implementation of the standard.

Use of Non-Governmental Accreditation

Bodies for NELAP ----- Washington A

Moderator: Alfredo Sotomayor,
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

TNI's Non-Governmental Accreditation Body Working Group has developed preliminary plans for allowing non-governmental accreditation bodies to accredit laboratories to the TNI standard. This special session is designed to solicit feedback on the proposed plan.

10:00 – 10:30 Break ----- Regency Foyer

10:30 – 12:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Chemistry Expert Committee (Cont.)----- Regency A

Radiochemistry Expert

Committee (Cont.)----- Washington B

TNI Proficiency Testing Program Executive

Committee (Cont.)----- Regency B

Stationary Source Audit Sample (SSAS)

Committee ----- Washington A

Committee Chair: Tom Widera, ERA

The Stationary Source Audit Sample (SASS) Committee develops consensus standards for the manufacture and analysis of air proficiency testing for source emission testing.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch Provided----- Regency CD

1:00 – 5:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Chemistry Expert Committee (Cont.)----- Regency A

Radiochemistry Expert

Committee (Cont.)----- Washington B

Information Technology Committee---- Washington A

Committee Chair: John Kuhn, JEA, Retired

The Information Technology Committee provides recommendations for the design and content of the TNI website; manages the TNI Laboratory Accreditation Management System (LAMS); and maintains TNI databases such as technology codes, method codes, and analyte codes.

Microbiology Expert Committee ----- Regency B

Committee Chair: Robin Cook, City of Daytona Beach

The mission of this committee is to maintain the microbiology standard (TNI Environmental Sector Volume 1, Module 5) based on public input; to provide technical assistance on issues related to radiochemistry; and to develop tools that facilitate the implementation of the standard.

3:00 – 3:30 Break ----- Regency Foyer

Wednesday, February 4

8:00 – 10:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Assessment Forum ----- Regency A

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

The Laboratory Accreditation Systems Executive Committee hosts an Assessment Forum at each TNI semi-annual meeting to share information on topics of interest related to laboratory assessments.

AGENDA

- Raw Data Handling
- Quality Control for Manual Methods

Proficiency Testing Expert Committee ----- Regency B

Committee Chair: **Shawn Kassner, Phenova**

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.

Laboratory Accreditation System

Executive Committee----- Washington B

Committee Chair: **Judy Morgan, ESC Lab Sciences**

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.

Field Activities Committee----- Washington A

Committee Chair: **Justin Brown, Environmental Monitoring and Technology**

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

10:00 – 10:30 Break ----- Regency Foyer

10:30 – 12:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Assessment Forum (Cont.) ----- Regency A

Laboratory Accreditation System

Executive Committee (Cont.)----- Washington B

Proficiency Testing Expert

Committee (Cont.) -----Regency B

National Environmental Field Activities Program

(NEFAP) Executive Committee-----Washington A

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 (FSMOs) as defined in the TNI field activities standards. The NEFAP Executive Committee is responsible for the recognition of accreditation bodies to ensure consistent implementation of the TNI field activity standards.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch Provided----- Regency CD

1:00 – 3:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Assessment Forum (Cont.) ----- Regency A

Laboratory Quality Systems

Committee -----Washington A

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.

Proficiency Testing Expert Committee

(Cont.) -----Regency B

3:00 – 3:30 Break ----- Regency Foyer

Wednesday, February 4

3:30 – 5:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Assessment Forum (Cont.) -----Regency A

**Laboratory Quality Systems Committee
(Cont.) -----Washington A**

NELAP Accreditation Council ----- Washington B

**Council Chair: Aaren Alger, Pennsylvania Department of
Environmental Protection**

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

**Proficiency Testing Expert Committee
(Cont.) -----Regency B**

5:30 – 7:00

**TNI Committee Member
Reception ----- Chesapeake View**

Attendees welcome.

Thursday, February 5

8:00 – 11:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Advocacy Committee ----- Washington AB
Committee Chair: Steve Arms, Florida Department of Health

The Advocacy Committee is charged with promoting the efforts of TNI.

**Consensus Standards Development Program
Executive Committee-----Regency B**
Committee Chair: Bob Wyeth, Independent Consultant

The purpose of this program is to develop consensus standards for use by TNI's accreditation and proficiency test programs.

**Mentor Session: Selecting and Maintaining
Instruments -----Regency A**
Presenter: William Lipps, Shimadzu Scientific Instruments

**11:15 – 12:00 General Session:
Committee Reports ---- Washington AB**

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

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch On Your Own

**1:00 – 3:00 Training:
Using Social Media ----- Washington A**

You must be pre-registered to attend.

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, QC Laboratories
	Information Technology:	John Kuhn, JEA, Retired
Laboratory Accreditation Body:		Carl Kircher, Florida DOH
Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee:		Judy Morgan, ESC Lab Sciences
	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, Phenova
Proficiency Testing Executive Committee:		Maria Friedman, TestAmerica, Inc.
	Radiochemistry:	Bob Shannon, Quality Radioanalytical Support
	Stationary Source Audit Sample:	Tom Widera, ERA



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 at our future meetings.

Environmental Measurement Symposium

“Big Data:
Environmental Measurement and
Monitoring Data in the Twenty-First Century”

July 13 – 17, 2015
Chicago, Illinois



and the



The Forum on Laboratory Accreditation

Tulsa, Oklahoma
January 25 – 29, 2016

