

The Institute Review

The NELAC Institute

Editor-In-Chief
Ms. Lara Autry, USEPA

Second Quarter 2008

2008 Summer Forum on Laboratory Accreditation

By Jerry Parr

The 2008 summer Forum on Laboratory Accreditation (The Forum), which is a conference featuring meetings of The NELAC Institute (TNI) committees and related events, will be held August 10 — 16, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Capital Hill in Washington, DC. The Forum will include:

- ◆ meetings of 14 TNI committees and boards;
- ◆ a meeting of the National Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) Board, who will be discussing their plans for implementation of the new TNI standards and providing an update on progress for renewal of accreditation body recognitions;
- ◆ meetings of five expert committees, who will be discussing recently adopted accreditation standards that are easier to use, plans for implementation of these standards, and in some cases, future plans for their further development;
- ◆ an Assessment Forum, where current topics of interest to laboratories and state assessors will be presented;
- ◆ the first meeting of a new expert committee developing standards for air proficiency testing; and
- ◆ a mentoring session designed to help both laboratories and state agencies in implementing accreditation programs.

Training courses will also be offered on the weekends before and after The Forum. Courses include:

- ◆ *How to Make the Right Decision with Environmental Data;*
- ◆ *Microwave-Enhanced Chemistry Sample Preparation;*
- ◆ *Staged Electronic Data Deliverables; Standard Methods: A detailed course in the use of the compendium to meet regulatory requirements under the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act; and*
- ◆ *Compliant Analysis of Water, Liquid and Solid Wastes by ICP-AES and MS.*

As in 2007, this year's conference is being combined with the National Environmental Monitoring Conference (NEMC) under the umbrella of the Environmental Measurement Symposium to allow many attendees to minimize travel costs. NEMC will include:

- ◆ 120 technical presentations and posters on a variety of cutting-edge environmental monitoring issues;
- ◆ An exhibit program with 40 exhibitors and two networking receptions;
- ◆ Four special keynote presentations on topics of general interest;
- ◆ A special half-day session providing updates from each of the major program offices of USEPA; and
- ◆ A special half-day session with presentations on EPA Analytical Needs of the Future and Future Trends in Monitoring.

More details about the training courses and the technical presentations are on the NEMC website (www.nemc.us). Online registration and the full schedule for the Environmental Measurement Symposium are available now on the TNI website (www.nelac-institute.org).

Special topics of interest:

- *New Board/Officers Announced* (page 2)
- *New TNI Website On the Way!* (page 6)
- *Standard Methods Seeks Volunteers for Joint Task Groups* (page 4)
- *Member Spotlight: Ken Busch* (page 8)

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Announcement of New Board/Officers and Notes from the Chair

By Judy Duncan

Elections for the 2008 TNI Board of Directors were held in March of this year and we are pleased to announce the following individuals were elected for three-year terms.

- ◆ Kenneth Jackson, New York State Department of Health,
- ◆ Matthew Sica, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and
- ◆ Robert Wyeth, Columbia Analytical Services.

Mark Mensik was also elected by the membership, but after the election, Mr. Mensik changed jobs which changed his affiliation from the 'Other' category to the 'Laboratory' category and he consequently resigned his position. In accordance with TNI Bylaws, the Board of Directors, after seeking advice of the Nominating Committee, appointed Curtis Wood of Environmental Resource Associates to a one-year term.

The 2008 Board began work on April 9, 2008 and the first order of business was to elect officers. The officers for 2008 are:

- Chair: Judith Duncan, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
- Vice Chair: David Speis, Accutest Laboratories
- Secretary: Stephen Arms, Florida Department of Health
- Treasurer: Sharon Mertens, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Past Chair: Aurora Shields, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

I was pleased to be asked to serve again as TNI Chair and look forward to the coming year. TNI programs are maturing and moving forward, while at the same time, we are expanding accreditation efforts into new areas. You will find stories of all of this progress in this issue of the newsletter. Registration for our August meeting in Washington, DC is open and I look forward to seeing all of you in the nation's capitol!

Small Laboratory Advocate

By Jerry Parr

The NELAC Institute (TNI) is committed to implementing a national cost-effective accreditation program that addresses the needs of everyone: small laboratories, large laboratories, regulators, and data users. TNI also recognizes that concerted outreach is needed to better engage and be responsive to key participants.

Addressing the concerns of small laboratories is integral to accomplishing TNI's vision. The small laboratory community could be served more strategically and efficiently by appointing an advocate functioning within the Technical Assistance and Advocacy Committees. TNI is seeking a motivated individual to become an advocate of and for small laboratories. The Small Laboratory Advocate would serve as the focal point for small laboratory concerns within TNI.

The Small Laboratory Advocate will be the principal link between TNI and the small laboratory community by:

- ◆ seeking actively the opinions, ideas, and viewpoints of the small laboratory community regarding accreditation;
- ◆ presenting TNI's positions and ideas on accreditation to appropriate small laboratory associations and groups outside of TNI;
- ◆ answering questions internally and externally regarding small laboratory issues and implementation of accreditation standards;
- ◆ serving in the Advocacy and Technical Assistance Committees as a full voting member;



24th Annual National Environmental Monitoring Conference

The 24th Annual National Environmental Monitoring Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Capital Hill, Washington, DC, from August 11-15, 2008.

NEMC provides the principal forum for addressing policy and technical issues affecting monitoring in all environmental media (i.e., water, air, soil, and wastes) and across all environmental programs.

Organized jointly by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), The NELAC Institute (TNI) and the Independent Laboratories Institute (ILI), the focus of NEMC 2008 is on new approaches for analyzing conventional and emerging pollutants in water, soil, and air. NEMC brings together scientists and managers from federal and state agencies, the regulated community, and laboratory and engineering support communities. It includes a policy session, technical sessions, training courses, exhibits, and networking opportunities. For the second year, NEMC will be combined with the Forum on Laboratory Accreditation as the *Environmental Measurements Symposium*.

www.nemc.us



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Small Laboratory Advocate (continued)

- ◆ advising TNI on the most effective means to promote the participation of small laboratories in TNI programs; and
- ◆ raising the visibility within TNI of small laboratory concerns by attending regularly face-to-face meetings and teleconferences.

The ideal Small Laboratory Advocate candidate should: understand the unique concerns of small laboratories regarding accreditation; have a strong belief in the desirability of establishing a national laboratory accreditation program; communicate effectively and credibly with small laboratories and TNI members; analyze, synthesize, and relay information in terms that can be understood by laboratories less familiar with accreditation; and possess superior problem-solving skills. Although not required, good candidates would be employed by, or otherwise connected to a small laboratory or a small laboratory organization.

If you would like further details, believe you can represent the interests of small laboratories, and wish to apply for this position, please complete the special application form posted on the TNI website (www.nelac-institute.org) under News.

TNI/EPA Efforts on Cooperation

By Judy Duncan

Late in 2007, the TNI Advocacy Committee sent a letter to the EPA Forum on Environmental Measurements (FEM) discussing the importance of ensuring environmental data of known and documented quality and recommending actions that could be taken by EPA to further this effort. This letter was followed by discussions with several representatives of EPA at the Forum on Laboratory Accreditation in Newport Beach, CA. In a March letter to TNI, FEM Co-Chairs, Michael Shapiro and Kathleen C. Callahan, commended TNI on their first year of self-sufficiency and reported several FEM initiatives that are currently underway. These include:

- ◆ working with EPA procurement officials to incorporate the use of accredited laboratories into their contractual process in a manner similar to that in use by the Department of Defense.
- ◆ working to introduce flexible approaches in environmental measurement, which capture the Agency's ten years of performance based measurement systems and set the stage for future progress with a goal of increased collaboration with stakeholders.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find reports of cooperation in the areas of water programs and the air PT program as well as progress on the performance approach.

When the NELAC self-sufficiency effort started four years ago, there was a fear that EPA was abandoning the national laboratory accreditation movement. What we have seen instead is a strengthening of support from EPA, not only in the sense of the financial support that EPA has provided to TNI through cooperative agreements, but also in an openness to incorporation of laboratory accreditation requirements in many voluntary ways such as these. The FEM has been a key part of EPA's efforts in this regard and TNI looks forward to continuing to work closely with EPA in the future.

Flexible Approaches to Environmental Measurement — The Evolution of the Performance Approach

By Lara Autry

Assuring the quality of environmental measurements is essential to implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's or the Agency's) environmental programs, both regulatory and voluntary. In a 1997 Notice of Intent, the Agency outlined a "Performance Based Measurement System" concept that would "have the overall effect of improving data quality and encouraging advancement of analytical technologies." Ten years later, the Forum on Environmental



Future Meetings

Forum on Laboratory Accreditation

January 11 — 16, 2009
Hyatt Regency Miami
Miami, FL

Environmental Measurements Symposium

Forum on Laboratory Accreditation and National Environmental Monitoring Conference (NEMC)
August 10 — 14, 2009
Hyatt Regency San Antonio
San Antonio, TX

Forum on Laboratory Accreditation

January 25 — 29, 2010
Hyatt Regency Chicago
Chicago, IL

Environmental Measurements Symposium

Forum on Laboratory Accreditation and National Environmental Monitoring Conference (NEMC)
August 9 — 13, 2010
Hyatt Regency on Capital Hill
Washington, DC



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Flexible Approaches to Environmental Measurement — The Evolution of the Performance Approach (continued)

Measurements (FEM) in the EPA has revisited the 1997 concept, gauged Agency progress towards achieving its goals, and redefined steps needed to ensure continued progress.

Formed in April of 2003 by the Science Policy Council (SPC), the FEM is composed of senior Agency managers with a central focus for addressing measurement and methods issues with multi-program impact. The SPC, formed by the Administrator in December 1993, is chaired by the Agency's Science Advisor with a goal to integrate policies that guide Agency decision makers in their use of scientific and technical information.

The Agency now believes that while it may be possible to specify performance criteria in a manner that is independent of methods, techniques, or instruments, the development of a single protocol for the validation of these measurements that could be applied to all measurements, including measurements made with techniques yet to be invented, is simply not possible. Accordingly, EPA is introducing flexible approaches in environmental measurement, which capture the Agency's experience of the past ten years and sets the stage for future progress.

Key goals for these flexible approaches are as follows:

- 1) Increased emphasis on flexibility in choosing sampling and analytical approaches to meet regulatory requirements for measurements;
- 2) Development of processes for validation that confirm that measurements meet quality requirements;
- 3) Increased collaboration with stakeholders to develop validation processes for new measurement technology; and
- 4) Rapid assessment of new or modified technologies, methods and procedures.

In February 2008, the SPC formally approved this new direction and our program offices have now put into place individual plans for implementing these goals. Over the next couple months, the FEM will be formally putting into place a communication plan that includes working with our stakeholders, marketing and outreach, and training.

EPA Water Alliance Forum

By Michael Wichman and Pamela Bernard

Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented a forum to discuss EPA's developing Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA) program on Saturday, May 17th in St Louis, Missouri. The forum was held prior to the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Annual Meeting and Second State Environmental Laboratory Conference. EPA presenters included Latisha P. Mapp, MS, Anand Mudambi, PhD, and Patricia Tidwell-Shelton, MBA all with the EPA's Office of Water, Water Security Division. Greg Beumel from Computer Sciences Corporation and Jack Bennett from the CT Department of Health and Chair of the APHL Environmental Laboratory Subcommittee also presented.

The forum provided an overview of EPA's developing Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA) program, designed to provide the water sector (e.g., states, utilities, and the EPA Regional laboratories) with an integrated nationwide network of laboratories with the analytical capabilities to support monitoring surveillance, response, and remediation in response to an intentional or unintentional contamination event. Information presented at the forum is summarized below:

◆ WLA Programmatic Overview

- The objective of the WLA is to develop an integrated network of laboratories to provide capability and capacity to analyze samples for non-regulated contaminants and to provide surge capacity for determination of routine contaminants.



TNI Accreditation Standards

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY SECTOR

Volume 1: Management and Technical Requirements for Laboratories Performing Environmental Analysis

- ◆ Module 1 — Proficiency Testing
- ◆ Module 2 — Quality Systems General Requirements
- ◆ Module 3 — Quality Systems for Asbestos Testing
- ◆ Module 4 — Quality Systems for Chemical Testing
- ◆ Module 5 — Quality Systems for Microbiological Testing
- ◆ Module 6 — Quality Systems for Radiochemical Testing
- ◆ Module 7 — Quality Systems for Toxicity Testing

Volume 2: General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Environmental Laboratories

- ◆ Module 1 — General Requirements
- ◆ Module 2 — Proficiency Testing
- ◆ Module 3 — On-Site Assessment

Volume 3: General Requirements for Environmental Proficiency Test Providers

Volume 4: General Requirements for an Accreditor of Environmental Proficiency Test Providers



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EPA Water Alliance Forum (continued)

- To achieve this objective, the water security division will align and partner with existing laboratory networks and organizations (i.e., the Association of Public Health Laboratories [APHL] CDC Laboratory Response Network [LRN] and EPA Environmental Response Laboratory Network [ERLN]).
 - The approach of the WLA is to develop regional networks with collaborations between state public health, environmental, drinking water utility, and EPA regional laboratories.
 - The Regional Laboratory Response Plans (10 EPA regions + Hawaii), currently being developed, will form the basis of a nationally consistent drinking water emergency response plan.
 - Benefits of the WLA are (1) access to a laboratory network to supplement in-house analytical capability and capacity, (2) access to EPA water security-related training opportunities, (3) coordination and standardization of analytical methods and data reporting systems, (4) opportunity to review and comment on federal documents related to drinking water laboratory issues, and (5) improved analytical support for emergency response.
- ◆ **Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN) and Emergency Response Proposal**
- Phase I launched in March 2008 and included EPA Regional Labs, and Virginia and Florida state public health laboratories.
 - Phase II, which will accept additional laboratories into the ERLN, will be launched by the end of 2008.
- ◆ **Laboratory Tools**
- Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT)
 - ✦ WCIT - EPA's secure web-based database of information on priority contaminants of concern for "all-hazards" in wastewater and drinking water systems.
 - ✦ Describes nearly 100 contaminants that pose a serious threat in intentionally and unintentionally introduced into water systems.
 - ✦ Data can be used by utilities, laboratories, and others involved in an incident response. Register at www.epa.gov/wcit.
 - National Environmental Methods Index for Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Methods (NEMI-CBR)
 - ✦ A secure web-based database of analytical methods for the determination of chemical, biological and radiochemical-related contaminants that could pose a threat to public water supplies.
 - ✦ Includes methods for screening and confirmation.
 - ✦ The CBR advisor enables users to obtain advice in response to an incident and to access detailed information for planning and training purposes. Register at <https://cdx.epa.gov/>.
 - APHL Environmental Workgroups
 - ✦ The APHL Environmental Laboratory Subcommittee works closely with EPA's Water Security Division to develop outreach activities and training opportunities for Environmental Laboratories.

The forum was well attended by state, county, city, and local environmental and public health lab directors and laboratory professionals, government and private laboratory personnel, and others interested in laboratory issues.



TNI Accreditation Standards

FIELD SAMPLING AND MEASUREMENT ORGANIZATION (FSMO) SECTOR

Volume 1: General Requirements for Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations

Volume 2: General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations



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Forum for State Environmental Labs

By Louise Liao

State environmental laboratories are invited to join the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL). Earlier this year, APHL created the Subcommittee on State Environmental Laboratory Accreditation. It is developing a vision that addresses the inherent challenges when states are being assessed by their peers. The vision would recognize the NELAC standards, the strength of existing environmental laboratory certification programs, and a critical role for EPA in overseeing a consistent application of the NELAC standards.

The APHL subcommittee members welcome input on the following topics:

- ◆ Communications between state labs and TNI;
- ◆ Interactions between state labs and EPA on SDWA accreditation; and
- ◆ Needs of state labs for national accreditation.

Founded in 1951, APHL has a long history as the professional association for state public health laboratories. In the past few years, APHL has also become the professional home for state environmental laboratories as well as for local and regional labs. APHL is dedicated to safeguarding the public's health via leadership-through-science.

To learn more about this subcommittee or to provide input, please contact Jennifer Beck at jennifer.beck@aphl.org. If your environmental laboratory is a government entity, please consider becoming an APHL member. Information is provided at the website: www.aphl.org.

New TNI Website Coming Soon

By Art Clark

If you have been frustrated and bewildered with trying to find relevant accurate information about TNI's efforts to further national laboratory accreditation, you have not been alone. We are pleased to announce that within the next few days TNI will be launching a completely redesigned website that has retained all of the information and functionality from the previous site, but has many new features with the most important one being the ability to handle e-commerce. This new site is the result of many, many hours of hard work by the TNI Website Committee.

In developing this new site, the TNI Website Committee had several goals:

- ◆ Eliminate the old EPA NELAC site while retaining useful information.
- ◆ Improve the membership area.
- ◆ Add e-commerce functionality to allow on-line purchasing of documents and merchandise.
- ◆ Improve the general appearance and functionality.
- ◆ Add a better search capability.

The new site has eight major areas: *Standards, Accreditation, Membership, Committees, Conferences, Store, General Information, and Help*. A *calendar* showing committee meetings and a *News* area will always be visible.

✓The **Standards** area has everything related to current pending and future TNI standards. Like most of the other main areas in the new website, this area is organized into what is called collapsible panels that allows an individual to quickly scan the content of the area and move quickly and easily from one area to another. Each panel (e.g., Current Standard) is a web page that contains information about that topic.

✓The **Accreditation** area has everything about TNI's National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP), including how to get accredited, lists of accredited laboratories, links to the NELAP-recognized Accreditation Bodies, and information about the TNI Proficiency Testing program.



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New TNI Website Coming Soon (continued)

- ✓The **Membership** area describes the benefits of becoming a member of TNI and has the online application form.
- ✓The **Committees** page allows an individual to quickly go to an area for every TNI Committee or Board. Each Committee and Board has its own collapsible panel area where everything about the Committee or Board can easily be found.
- ✓The **Conferences** page has links to information about upcoming meetings, as well as links to presentations and related information from previous meetings.
- ✓The **Store** area is a new page that allows members to purchase TNI merchandise such as golf shirts. There are currently only two items available for purchase, but this area will grow in the future.
- ✓The **General Information** area contains background information about TNI including the organizational bylaws and all policies and procedures. Policies and procedures that are specific to a given committee or board are replicated in the committee's or board's home page. This area also contains general TNI presentations as well as information that has been archived from the News area.
- ✓The **Help** area is primarily designed to assist laboratories that have questions about their current accreditation or those who are seeking accreditation. This area contains a Frequently Asked Questions page, a listing of consultants who help laboratories with accreditation issues, clarifications and interpretations about the standards, a form to request a clarification or interpretation, and related topics that all are concerned with technical assistance.

Our plan is to have this new site operational by June 20. Some of the items listed above may not be functional by that date, but our plan is to have everything fully operational by August 1. Once this new site is launched, we invite you to explore it and provide us feedback. The Website committee will be meeting in Washington, DC on Friday, August 15 and we invite you to come to our meeting and share your ideas for future enhancements.

TNI Speaker's Bureau

By Aurora Shields

The purpose of the Advocacy Committee is to promote a national program for the accreditation of environmental laboratories. One of the ways the Advocacy Committee achieves this purpose is by having an active Speaker's Bureau. This is a group of individuals who attend various national, regional, state and local meetings, and give presentations about TNI in addition to other talks related to laboratory accreditation. In the last few months, TNI representatives gave presentations at the following meetings:

- ◆ EPA's Conference on Managing Environmental Quality Systems in Seattle, WA on April 21-24;
- ◆ The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Trade Fair in Austin, TX on April 30;
- ◆ The Oregon Environmental Laboratory Association in Salem, OR on May 15; and
- ◆ The Florida Society of Environmental Analysts meeting in St. Petersburg Beach, FL on May 23.

Later this year, TNI will be giving presentations at the annual meeting of the New York and Pennsylvania laboratories in Syracuse, NY; at the annual meeting of the Water Environment Federation in Chicago, IL; and the EPA Region 6 meeting in Dallas, TX.

If your group would like to have someone from TNI come and speak at a local meeting, or you would like to give a presentation yourself and need help with putting the material together, please feel free to contact any member of the Advocacy Committee.



Other Meetings This Summer

New York and Pennsylvania Association of Accredited Environmental Laboratories Annual Meeting

July 20 – 22
Syracuse, New York
www.nyaael.org

Virginia Good Laboratory Practices Conference

August 4 – 5
www.vwea.org

American Chemical Society National Meeting & Exposition

August 17 – 21
Philadelphia, PA
www.acs.org

If you know of an upcoming meeting of interest to environmental laboratory professionals, please contact Jerry Parr at jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org.



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Standard Methods Seeks Volunteers to Assist with Revising Metals, Wet Chemistry, and Organics Methods

By Andy Eaton and Edward Askew

Tired of having others interpret a statement in Standard Methods for you? Now you can help make things clear. Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater is actively recruiting laboratory analysts, chemists or laboratory managers in the water and wastewater field to participate in Joint Task Groups (JTGs) to update current Part 3000 (metals), 4000 (inorganic non-metals) and 6000 (organics) Methods. Volunteer analyst/chemist/laboratory manager participation is needed for all sections, to help ensure that Standard Methods continues to reflect appropriate rigorous quality control practices and current methods. If you would like to volunteer your time for JTGs already in progress or for JTGs that will open soon, go to <http://www.standardmethods.org/JoinSMCommittee/> and fill out the application (no charge to join).

For further information on part 3000 methods where assistance is needed, contact Randy Gottler (randy.gottler@phoenix.gov). For information on part 4000 methods where assistance is needed, contact Ed Askew (efaskew@hotmail.com). For information on part 6000 methods where assistance is needed, contact John Gumpper (jgumpper@chemval.com)

Member Spotlight: Ken Busch

By Kirstin McCracken

This issue's Member Spotlight features TNI Member, Ken Busch.

Ken is the QA Manager for the TestAmerica facility located in Valparaiso, Indiana. The Valparaiso facility is a commercial laboratory located in Northwest Indiana about ninety miles from Chicago. Ken classifies his facility as a smaller laboratory specializing in wastewater testing for NPDES permittees with about 60-70% of work requests for classical wet chemistry. His facility routinely employs eighteen full-time technical staff and the heavy influx of quick turnaround-time tests keeps his facility in the know on the latest technological advances in automated instrumentation for this type of work, including automated chemistry systems and automated BOD instrumentation. The "Valpo" facility also specializes in field service activities employing ten full time field service technicians.

Ken holds a BS in Biology from Oklahoma Wesleyan College. He began his career in this industry eleven years ago, when he accepted a position with the NET laboratory located in Indianapolis, which was acquired by TestAmerica shortly thereafter. After two years with TestAmerica, Ken made a career move and accepted a position in Project Management with Severn Trent Laboratories, Inc. (STL) at the facility located in Valparaiso. In 2007, TestAmerica and Severn Trent Laboratories, Inc. became one and Ken once again works for TestAmerica!

After five years of work in Project Management, Ken decided to take on the challenge of quality assurance and assumed the role of QA Manager. Ken told me his first priority in his new role was to bring the laboratory's quality system in line with the 2003 NELAC Standard. Ken's laboratory maintains primary NELAC accreditation with the State of Illinois and also holds certification with three Non-NELAC ABs including his home state certification, which is a drinking water program.

When I asked Ken how he thought the NELAC Standard had benefited his organization, he told me that the NELAC Standard has helped him establish a framework for the quality system in his laboratory and a routine schedule for assessment for those test methods that were not covered by the program in his home state and the recognition of NELAC accreditation helped boost credibility with his client base. On the flip side, Ken says that NELAC accreditation has increased the amount of paperwork and documentation that he needs to track. He says he was fortunate to receive tips from mentors within his laboratory network on how best to manage the paper trail.

Ken has not had the opportunity to attend any of the meetings of TNI, but he did take advantage of his laboratory's proximity to Chicago when he participated in one of the weekend training seminars held during the Chicago meeting in 2006. Ken says he is able to stay on top of TNI activities through



TNI MISSION

The NELAC Institute 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.



VISION

All entities generating environmental data in the United States will be accredited to consensus national standards.



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Member Spotlight: Ken Busch (continued)

communication with network laboratories and with his Primary AB, but he thought that attending the meetings might provide him with a broader perspective of the decisions behind the consensus standard process.

When he is not working Ken enjoys computer and video games, but he told me his favorite free-time activity is spending quality time with his wife and two children, ages 11 and 12. They especially enjoy kicking back with a big tub of popcorn and a movie.

Now that you have gotten to know a little more about Ken, don't be shy — shout out a hello next time you see him at an industry event and ask him what he has been up to.

Organizational Members

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

PATRONS		SPONSORS
Accutest Laboratories City of Phoenix Lab Services Div. Environmental Resource Associates New Jersey DEP—OQA	New York City DEP New York State DOH Oklahoma DEQ TestAmerica Analytical Testing Corp.	DataChem Laboratories Kansas DHE Orange County Utilities Laboratory
PARTNERS		
Accelerated Technology Laboratories	Columbia Analytical Services, Inc.	NSI Solutions
ADPEN Laboratories, Inc.	e-Lab Analytical, Inc.	Oregon DEQ
Analytical Excellence, Inc.	Environmental Quality Management, Inc.	PC&B Environmental Laboratories, Inc.
Analytical Products Group, Inc.	First Environmental Laboratories	PDC Laboratories
Analytical Quality Associates	IBM Hudson Valley Environmental Lab	PROMIUM
Analytical Resources, Inc.	Illinois EPA, Division of Laboratories	Quality Assurance Solutions
Axys Analytical Services Ltd.	Laboratory Data Consultants	R.T. Corporation
Brazos River Authority	Louisiana Dept of Environmental Quality	Spectrum Analytical, Inc.
BSK Analytical Laboratories	LCRA Environmental Laboratory Services	SPEX Certiprep, Inc.
Catalyst Information Resources	Micro Methods Laboratory, Inc.	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
ChemVal Consulting	Microcheck, Inc.	USEPA Region 5
City of Largo, FL WWRF	NAVFAC Southwest — Env Svcs Core	USEPA Office of Water
City of Las Vegas EDL	New Hampshire ELAP	Wyoming Dept of Environmental Quality
City of West Palm Beach, FL		

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Stakeholder Group:
A = Accreditation body
L = Laboratory
O = Other



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