

Be In The Know!

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Update to our accredited laboratory community March 2018

ELAP ASSESSOR TRAINING CONTRACT

NV5/Dade Moeller and ELAP have concluded an initial round of drinking water laboratory on-site training assessments. We think there is some important information and reminders to share based on what we've learned so far.

Geographic Assessment Scheduling - Assessments are scheduled based on geographic location, which means your assessment may not coincide with when you submit your renewal application. This may also mean you have an NV5 assessment within two years of your most recent ELAP assessment. Your flexibility and cooperation are assisting ELAP in training our assessors. We hope you will use the opportunity to ask questions of the expert assessors to assist in your laboratory operations and preparation to implement TNI. You will be contacted approximately one month ahead to determine an assessment date.

Length of Assessments - Expect a longer assessment than you've received in the past from ELAP. Training and answering questions from both the laboratory and ELAP assessors necessitate extra time on-site.

2016 TNI Standard Gap Analysis - A broad gap analysis will be performed on your laboratory to identify sections of the Standard that the laboratory doesn't currently comply with. You will receive this high-level report with the On-Site Assessment Report following your assessment. The laboratory will not be required to comply with the TNI Standard quality management requirements until after adoption of ELAP's regulations. However, we encourage laboratories to use the NV5 assessment as an opportunity to get feedback from the assessor on elements you have prepared, and to answer any questions you have.

Corrective Action Report Requirements - Laboratories are not required to submit proof of corrections with their Corrective Action Report. ELAP and NV5 will evaluate the laboratory's plan to correct, and either approve or deny it. Implementation of corrective actions will be verified during your next on-site assessment. Repeat findings may result in an enforcement action and loss of accreditation.

Assessment Backlog - The secondary purpose of this contract is to address ELAP's assessment backlog. This means that some assessments will be performed by NV5 without an ELAP assessor. We appreciate the hospitality that our laboratories have shown to these assessors, who are representatives of ELAP and the State of California.

ASSISTANCE WITH THE 2016 TNI STANDARD

ELAP is proposing to assist laboratories make the transition to the 2016 TNI Standard by providing tools, training, and an extended implementation period for many requirements.

Early Implementation Project - A consultant will work with two laboratories to fully implement TNI within one year (excluding any California revisions to the Standard). Those laboratories will also be trained on facilitating workgroups and will pass their new knowledge on to their community. The findings from this project will be used to design the TNI Documentation Workshops. Details about requirements and how to apply to be one of the two laboratories will be sent via ELAP's email subscription and posted to our webpage when available.

TNI Documentation Workshops - We envision a one-day workshop focused on document development that is open to all laboratories. It will be held throughout the state and will include in-class work with a consultant to develop documentation required by the TNI Standard. Laboratories will receive templates and tools as part of this workshop.

TNI Membership - ELAP has negotiated a free 6-month membership for its laboratories, which includes member rates on documents and trainings. In addition to receiving discounted rates on TNI implementation resources, members also have the benefit of participating in the formal consensus process. ELAP encourages laboratories to take an active role in this process and represent California at the national level. This membership can be requested until the time the regulations package is adopted by the State Water Board. Visit [ELAP's Regulations Webpage](#) for details and links to helpful implementation tools.

Updates and Reminders

REVISION TO ELAP FEE STRUCTURE TIMELINE

Based on feedback received from the laboratory community as well as internal discussions, State Water Board staff have decided to postpone the development of a new ELAP fee structure until the pending ELAP regulations for accreditation have been developed. Changes in accreditation regulations could have potential fee implications, so it is necessary to adjust the original timeline to ensure alignment of a new fee structure with the pending accreditation regulations. The current fee structure will remain in place until a new one is developed and adopted.

State Water Board staff anticipate resuming discussions with the ELAP Stakeholder Fees Workgroup once the ELAP accreditation regulations are closer to being finalized, and there will be opportunities for community engagement in the development. Updates will be sent via this email subscription list and posted on [ELAP's webpage](#).

REGULATIONS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

ELAP's Regulations Team has incorporated comments from the community into the preliminary draft text. We anticipate releasing a second preliminary draft in mid-2018 and will accept comments on the changes. We anticipate the regulations becoming effective in second quarter of 2019 following a formal rulemaking process, but this timeline is tentative.

US EPA METHODS UPDATE RULE (MUR)

Updated Methods - ELAP anticipates updating our Fields of Testing lists to include the MUR methods in June 2018. At that time, laboratories can begin submitting amendment applications with the appropriate fee to add the methods to their Accredited Fields of Testing list. A laboratory may choose instead to wait until their next renewal application to add.

Method Detection Limit (MDL) Procedure - Laboratories should implement the new MDL procedure during the first quarter of 2018 per federal requirement.

PROFICIENCY TESTING DEADLINES

Renewal Year - Acceptable proficiency testing results are due as part of your complete renewal application package (three months prior to expiration of your certificate). Submit results as part of your application package to expedite review.

Annual Year - Acceptable proficiency testing results are due by the mid-point date on your two-year certificate at latest, or by the expiration date on your one-year interim certificate. Ensure your PT Provider is submitting results directly to CA ELAP at elapca_pt@waterboards.ca.gov. Failure to meet annual proficiency testing requirements may result in removal of tests from your certificate.

RENEWAL APPLICATION DEADLINE

A complete renewal application package is due 90 days prior to expiration of your current two-year certificate, and failure to submit an application by the deadline may result in lapse of your accreditation. An application is not required if you currently have an "interim" certificate.

Coming Up

ELTAC MEETING - MARCH 28th - 10am

Join in person or watch via webcast at: www.video.calepa.ca.gov/. Visit [ELAP's website](#) for meeting information.

CWEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - APRIL 17th - 20th

ELAP will present an update on the regulations development process at 8:50am on Thursday, April 19th.

