

CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

January 16, 2004

Attendees: Richard Kobylenski	The Home Analyst
Abdel Halim El-Sayed	MDC – Microbiologist
Lucy Dunn	EML – Wallingford
Phil Rusconi	Premier Laboratories
Laura Rival	Town of Manchester
Dermot Jones	Dept. of Public Health
Kim Maloney	Town of Wallingford

Business:

1. Meeting came to order at 10:05 AM.
2. Phil Rusconi will be co-chairing the meetings with Bert Geuser.
3. (Dermot) Presented a history of the Committee
 - Began in 1995 as a result of investigations into NELAP certification
 - (Phil) Issues discussed included Waste Management
4. (Dermot) More issues for discussion i.e. mercury analysis in sludge issue and nutrient analysis for Long Island Sound Study brought advisory committee members together.
5. (Dermot) Distributed to the members CT regulations 19a-36-A57 (defines purpose of the committee) and 19a-36-A63 (defines composition of committee). Kim Maloney will be secretary.
6. (Richard) Are the meetings open to the public?
7. (Dermot) Yes. Minutes can be posted on the DOHS webpage.
8. (Lucy) Agenda items should be discussed among group members prior to opening the meeting to the public.
9. (Dermot) The Legislative Office Building is now being videotaped by the state. The ERI meeting (9/12) was a sensitive issue. Those should not be taped. Once committee is finalized, the meetings should be made public. How often should the committee meet?
10. (Phil) Twice a year is not enough.
11. (Lucy) Lucy suggested quarterly meetings.
12. (Phil) Positions need to be filled.
13. (Abdel) Offered the MDC training center for meetings. Re:ERI letter[#] The Advisory Committee should not be judging or getting involved in the scandal.
14. (Phil) The letter was not drafted for indictment purposes. It was a statement. The data laboratories produce is critical. Laboratories cannot and will not condone such actions.
15. (Dermot) To clarify the events of the September meeting. Media articles were discussed. The letter was meant to be a position letter.

16. (Abdel) Because the letter mentioned ERI, liability becomes an issue. News reports cannot be a reason for the committee to respond.
17. (Phil) The letter was signed by individuals, not the committee as a whole.
18. (Lucy) Suggested that meeting dates should be preset since the September meeting date was set without much notice.
19. (Dermot) Committee composition is described in State of Connecticut Regulations 19a-36-A63. To meet the requirements of this regulation, the members will be looking to fill the positions described in (c), (e), and (f).
 - (a) two private environmental laboratory directors - Lucy Dunn, Bert Geuser
 - (b) two public environmental laboratory directors - Laura Rival, Kim Maloney
 - (c) two members from public water utilities -
 - (d) one specialist in microbiology from a registered or approved environmental laboratory - Abdel Halim El-Sayed
 - (e) one specialist in inorganic chemistry from a registered or approved environmental laboratory -
 - (f) one specialist in organic chemistry from a registered or approved environmental laboratory -
 - (g) one person who is not a laboratory director and has no financial interest in any laboratory registered with the department - Richard Kobylenski
 - (h) one person who is the owner of an environmental laboratory - Phil Rusconi
20. (Dermot) Environmental and Clinical Laboratory Regulations were combined, so overlap can be found. Philip Schlossberg and Dermot Jones are ex officio members. Stated that he will be sending letters of invitation to fill vacancies. Any response letters will be brought to the next meeting.
21. (Phil) Additions to the letter should be 1. Meeting minutes will be posted on the DPH website and 2. provide email addresses.
22. (Abdel) Discussion items should be focused on Regulations and Health Department issues only.
23. (Dermot) Environmental includes water, wastewater, solid waste and food. The DEP gets involved indirectly through NPDES, Pretreatment, DMRs. Water gets involved indirectly through drinking water reporting. Lab Ops committee deals only with drinking water issues. There is also a need to include asbestos testing laboratories.
24. (Abdel) Should we invite a DEP representative as ex officio?
25. (Phil) Invite the representative only to specific meetings.
26. (Dermot) EPA Region I will be putting out a handbook for drinking water sample collection. The responsibility falls upon the laboratory to ensure the certification of the sampler. For private Wells the responsibility falls upon the Local Directors of Health. There are no other regulations to approve samplers or sample collection facilities.

27. (Abdel) The Water section sees the name of the sample collectors and it can be controlled by that department.
28. (Laura) Water supplies has issued new forms in .pdf format.
29. (Dermot) NOV's come from compliance departments. The only time that his department gets involved is if they are asked for a consultation.
30. (Phil) Agenda for Next Meeting
 - A. Establish committee membership
 - B. Draft a mission statement
 - C. Update from DPH on State of CT position on NELAC
 - D. Levelling the playing field in CT with certifications from state agencies.
 - E. Meeting Date – April 23, 2004 at MDC Training Center
31. (Abdel) All members should attend next meeting with a statement of why they belong.
32. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Note: The committee had lengthy discussions regarding the DEP and its involvement in nutrient analysis and Laboratory Analyst Certification. These topics will be discussed further in future meetings.

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Respectfully Submitted by Kim Maloney