

## 2019 Current Fiscal Year Report: Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>		<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>	
Environmental Protection Agency		2019	
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>		<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>	
Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board		2010	
<b>4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>5. Current Charter</b>	<b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b>	<b>7. Expected Term Date</b>
No	07/10/2017	07/10/2019	
<b>8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?</b>	<b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b>	<b>8c. Actual Term Date</b>	
No			
<b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear</b>	<b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b>	<b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b>	
Continue	No	Not Applicable	
<b>11. Establishment Authority</b>	Agency Authority		
<b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>	<b>13. Effective Date</b>	<b>14. Committee Type</b>	<b>14c. Presidential?</b>
Request for Approval	04/21/1995	Continuing	No
<b>15. Description of Committee</b>	Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board		
<b>16a. Total Number of Reports</b>	No Reports for this FiscalYear		
<b>17a. Open Meetings and Dates</b>	<b>17b. Closed</b>	<b>17c. Partially Closed</b>	<b>Other Activities</b>
No Meetings	0	0	0

	Current FY	Next FY
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00

**19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)**

0.00 0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

FY 2018 Accomplishments: ELAB started the new fiscal year 2018 by continuing efforts that had begun in FY 17. Topics included, among others: selected ion monitoring; method challenges for cyanide; user-generated library acceptance criteria; drinking water certification officer's training; and whole effluent toxicity performance study requirements. Task groups in each topical area meet to more efficiently gather information for the full Board to discuss in order to be more effective in offering opinions to the Agency based on more detailed information. Comments and recommendations were solicited at each of the ELAB public meetings enabling future consensus advice to be given to the EPA Science Advisor for the Office of the Science Advisor. ELAB accomplishes the purpose of providing advice and counsel to the EPA Administrator by making critical recommendations on enhancing EPA's measurement programs and facilitating the development, establishment, and operation of a national environmental laboratory accreditation program.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

Diverse interests relative to the accreditation of environmental laboratories are represented in ELAB: Chemical industry societies, environmental laboratories, tribal government, and local government. Each of these groups are a potential user of accredited laboratories or the data produced thereof. Members from analytical laboratories are representative of varied businesses analyzing environmental samples. Representatives of tribal governments and local government represent users of this data. Representatives of chemical industry organizations represent societies that give oversight of environmental laboratories. Members are geographically located across the United States and from different community sectors (e.g., academia, government, laboratories, private), as well.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

In FY 18, ELAB held 12 open meetings. Generally, ELAB meets a minimum of 2 times per year face-to-face and has monthly teleconferences as well. The ELAB face-to-face meetings were scheduled to coincide with other conferences to facilitate greater participation from an applicable audience: The NELAC Institute (TNI) interim and annual conference. Open Forum sessions were also held in conjunction with the Forum on Environmental Accreditation and the Environmental Measurement Symposium, which was a joint meeting of the NEMC and Forum on Environmental Accreditation, to give peers an opportunity to share thoughts of other areas for the Board to consider in future deliberations. Monthly teleconferences allow ELAB to focus on key issues and distribute

work within the membership to seek additional input if necessary prior to the overall Board making final recommendations to the Agency.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

ELAB advises EPA. ELAB's charter covers the areas that are very important to activities relating to data integrity and homeland security that are current and important topics within the Agency that could benefit greatly from a unified voice of the private sector, and local and tribal governments. With the expansion of the charter for ELAB, the Board also provides advice on enhancing EPA's measurement programs. As the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAC) has become self-sufficient in the formation of a nonprofit organization, of which ELAB was critical to providing the Agency with the private sector viewpoint when it was managed internally, the focus has switched to ensuring the Agency is supportive of national accreditation and doing our part to participate. The private sector viewpoint is critical to making sure EPA is not only aware of opportunities, but participating in a way that is publically recognized.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

No meetings were closed to the public.

**21. Remarks**

All members are Tier 1 (parent committee members). There are no Tier 2 (subcommittee) members serving.

**Designated Federal Officer**

Thomas J. O'Farrell Physical Scientist

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Anderson, Kim	10/15/2016	10/14/2018	Tier 1, Professor, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR	Representative Member
Buckley, Brian	10/15/2016	10/14/2018	Tier 1, Executive Director Laboratories, Environmental & Health Sciences Institute, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ	Representative Member
Carvajal, Patricia	10/15/2012	10/14/2018	Tier 1, Senior Water Quality Planner and Quality Assurance Officer, San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio, TX	Representative Member
Delaney, Michael	10/15/2014	10/14/2018	Tier 1, Director of Laboratory Services, MWRA, Winthrop, MA	Representative Member
Flournoy, Michael	10/15/2014	10/14/2018	Tier 1, Division Manager, Eurofin, Bothell, WA	Representative Member
Kong, Deyuan (Kitty)	10/15/2014	10/14/2018	Tier 1, Senior Research Scientist, Chevron Energy Technology Company, Richmond, CA	Representative Member
Leibovitz, Henry	10/15/2014	10/14/2018	Tier 1, Chief of the Environmental Sciences, Rhode Island State Health Laboratories, Providence, RI	Representative Member
Loewe, Jeffrey	10/15/2016	10/14/2018	Tier 1, Principal, NiSource Environmental, Merrillville, IN	Representative Member
Meadows, Brad	10/15/2016	10/14/2018	Tier 1, Vice President, Lab Director, Babcock Laboratories, Fresno, CA	Representative Member

Mertens, Sharon	10/15/2016	10/14/2018	Tier 1, Director, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, Milwaukee, WI	Representative Member
Pujari, Mahesh	10/15/2012	10/14/2018	Tier 1, Senior Chemist and Quality Assurance Officer, Environmental Monitoring Division, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA	Representative Member
Rieser, Elan	10/15/2016	10/14/2018	Tier 1, Senior Specialist, Con Edison Company of New York, Astoria, NY	Representative Member
Wait, A.	10/15/2012	10/14/2018	Tier 1, Principal, Gradient, Cambridge, MA	Representative Member
Waller, Debra	10/15/2016	10/14/2018	Tier 1, Research Scientist, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Trenton, NJ	Representative Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 14**

**Narrative Description**

The ELAB addresses EPA Strategic Goal 3: Cleaning Up Communities and Advancing Sustainable Development. In Fiscal Year 2018 the ELAB continued efforts that had begun at the end of FY 17. Topics included, among others: selected ion monitoring; method challenges for cyanide; user-generated library acceptance criteria; drinking water certification officer's training; and whole effluent toxicity performance study requirements. Work groups and now topical (or task) groups meet to more efficiently gather information for the full Board to discuss in order to be more effective in offering opinions to the Agency based on more detailed information. Comments and recommendations were solicited at each of the ELAB public meetings enabling future consensus advice to be given to the EPA Science Advisor for the Office of the Science Advisor. ELAB accomplishes the purpose of providing advice and counsel to the EPA Administrator by making critical recommendations on enhancing EPA's measurement programs and facilitating the development, establishment, and operation of a national environmental laboratory accreditation program.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

**Outcome Comments**

NA

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000
- Cost Savings Other

**Cost Savings Comments**

The advice of this committee that would otherwise come to the Agency in the form of adverse action and/or from paying consulting fees is the initial savings. However, the recommendations of this Board that almost always recommends unity across the various program offices are all duplicative costs that could be avoided and in some cases have been avoided by taking a unified approach in tackling a problem together (one fee) versus separately (multiple fees, differing by approach per program).

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

28

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

The Board issued 6 advice letters in FY 2018. Although the Board makes formal presentations during the two face-to-face meetings as a mechanism of sharing further detail and information on the topics vetted, all recommendation letters are sent to their decision maker and also to relevant Offices in EPA.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

29%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

This percentage has increased over the last couple years of life for this committee due to more specific questions being asked of the Board directly from the Agency versus the community input that mainly formed their agenda items previously. The expansion of the

ELAB Charter to include advising the FEM has made much of the feedback from the Board more visible across the Agency. The feedback from the private/public sector regarding specific tasks indicates the Agency has added efficiency to the Board and the Agency in utilizing the information requested. This percentage will only increase implementation by the Agency. Some of these recommendations have only begun or are only a piece to a larger puzzle. Most of the recommendations made by ELAB in FY 18 are still under consideration by EPA.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

82%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

This percentage has increased over the last couple years of life for this committee due to more specific questions being asked of the Board directly from the Agency versus the community input that mainly formed their agenda items from previously. The expansion of the ELAB Charter to include advising the FEM has made much of the feedback from the Board more visible across the Agency for use. With specific tasks that the Agency needs the feedback from the private/public sector, this has added efficiency to the Board and the Agency in utilizing the information requested.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes  No  Not Applicable

**Agency Feedback Comments**

The decision maker has always provided the Board with a response to any of their thoughts and/or recommendations via letters. When recommendation letters are submitted to EPA, they are analyzed by the Office of Science Advisor and then sent to relevant Offices in EPA to provide a response. The responses are then combined and then submitted as one collective response to ELAB through the decision maker.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

- Reorganized Priorities
- Reallocated resources
- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation

Approved grants or other payments



Other



### **Action Comments**

The Agency has worked together a lot more within laboratory and measurement science areas, as a result of requests and recommendations by the Board for Agency consistency.

### **Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

### **Grant Review Comments**

There were no new packages for review in FY 2018.

### **How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO



Online Agency Web Site



Online Committee Web Site



Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other



### **Access Comments**

The Agency and the ELAB website are both run by the Agency with ELAB having there own section.