

2019 Current Fiscal Year Report: Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board

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1. Department or Agency		2. Fiscal Year	
Environmental Protection Agency		2019	
3. Committee or Subcommittee		3b. GSA Committee No.	
Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board		2010	
4. Is this New Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	07/10/2017	07/10/2019	07/10/2019
8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority		8c. Actual Term Date
Yes	EO 13875		07/10/2019
9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?		10b. Legislation Pending?
Terminate	No		Not Applicable
11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority			
12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
Request for Approval	04/21/1995		No
15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board			
16a. Total Number of Reports 3			
16b. Report			
Date	Report Title		
10/17/2018	Drinking Water Method Approvals		
	Laboratory Involvement in the		
10/17/2018	Quality Assurance Project Plan Development Process		
	Minimum Criteria for Selected Ion		
10/17/2018	Monitoring (SIM) Methods		
Number of Committee Reports Listed: 3			

17a. 9 17b. Closed0 17c. Partially Closed0 Other Activities0 17d. Total9
Open

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
Discuss on-going ELAB topics	10/17/2018	- 10/17/2018
Discuss on-going ELAB topics	11/21/2018	- 11/21/2018
Discuss on-going ELAB topics	12/19/2018	- 12/19/2018
Discuss on-going ELAB topics	01/28/2019	- 01/28/2019
Discuss on-going ELAB topics	02/20/2019	- 02/20/2019
Discuss on-going ELAB topics	03/20/2019	- 03/20/2019
Discuss on-going ELAB topics	04/17/2019	- 04/17/2019
Discuss on-going ELAB topics	05/15/2019	- 05/15/2019
Discuss on-going ELAB topics	06/19/2019	- 06/19/2019

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 9

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$47,507.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$47,507.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.30	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

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. FY 2019 topics included, among others: selected ion monitoring; user-generated library acceptance criteria; laboratory involvement in the quality assurance plan development process; drinking water method approvals; and whole effluent toxicity performance study requirements.

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 state 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 19, ELAB held 9 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 are scheduled to coincide with other conferences to facilitate greater participation from an applicable audience: The NELAC Institute (TNI) interim and annual conference. 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. Committee did not renew charter and in response to to EO 13875 committee was terminated.

Designated Federal Officer

Thomas J. O'Farrell Physical Scientist

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Anderson, Kim	10/15/2016	07/10/2019	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
Chauvin, Francoise	10/15/2018	07/10/2019	Tier 1, Quality Assurance Supervisor, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection, New York, NY	Representative Member
Crandall, Stacie	10/15/2018	07/10/2019	Tier 1, Laboratory Chief, Hampton Roads Sanitation District, Virginia Beach, VA	Representative Member

Delaney, Michael	10/15/2014	07/10/2019	Tier 1, Retired Director of Laboratory Services, MWRA, Winthrop, MA	Representative Member
Flournoy, Michael	10/15/2014	07/10/2019	Tier 1, Division Manager, Eurofin, Bothell, WA	Representative Member
Frederici, Raymond	10/15/2018	07/10/2019	Tier 1, Vice President of Quality, TestAmerica, University Park, IL	Representative Member
Gandhi, Jayesh	10/15/2018	07/10/2019	Tier 1, Regulatory Affairs Manager, Metrohm USA, Friendswood, TX	Representative Member
Gossett, Richard	10/15/2018	07/10/2019	Tier 1, Technical Director, Physis Environmental Laboratories, Anaheim, CA	Representative Member
Kong, Deyuan (Kitty)	10/15/2014	07/10/2019	Tier 1, Senior Research Scientist, Chevron Energy Technology Company, Richmond, CA	Representative Member
Leibovitz, Henry	10/15/2014	07/10/2019	Tier 1, Chief of the Environmental Sciences, Rhode Island State Health Laboratories, Providence, RI	Representative Member
Loewe, Jeffrey	10/15/2016	07/10/2019	Tier 1, Principal, NiSource Environmental, Merrillville, IN	Representative Member
Meadows, Brad	10/15/2016	07/10/2019	Tier 1, Vice President, Lab Director, Babcock Laboratories, Fresno, CA	Representative Member
Mertens, Sharon	10/15/2016	07/10/2019	Tier 1, Director, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, Milwaukee, WI	Representative Member

			Tier 1, Senior Chemist and Quality Assurance Officer,	
Pujari, Mahesh	10/15/2012	10/14/2018	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
Thal, David	10/15/2018	07/10/2019	Tier 1, Principal Chemist, Environmental Standards, Inc., Knoxville, TN	Representative Member
Wait, A.	10/15/2012	10/14/2018	Tier 1, Principal, Gradient, Cambridge, MA	Representative Member
Waller, Debra	10/15/2016	07/10/2019	Tier 1, Research Scientist, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Trenton, NJ	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 20

Narrative Description

The ELAB addresses EPA Strategic Goal 1, Objective 1.2: Provide for Clean and Safe Water. 2019 ELAB topics included selected ion monitoring; user-generated library acceptance criteria; laboratory involvement in the quality assurance plan development process; drinking water method approvals; and whole effluent toxicity performance study requirements. Work groups and now 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. Committee terminated in response to EO 13875.

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

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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?

25

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Board issued 3 advice letters in FY 2019. 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?

1%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

See below

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

8%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Most of the recommendations submitted by ELAB in FY 2019 were not implemented as the Agency clarified that it was effectively already implementing ELAB's recommended actions.

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Reallocated resources | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Issued new regulation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Proposed legislation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Approved grants or other payments | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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 2019.

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

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Contact DFO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Agency Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Publications | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Access Comments

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