

## 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 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                      | 07/10/2019                       |
| <b>8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?</b>                                   | <b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b>                  |                                 | <b>8c. Actual Term Date</b>      |
| Yes   | EO 13875   |                                 | 07/10/2019                       |
| <b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year</b>                            | <b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b>                  |                                 | <b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b> |
| Terminate   | 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   |                                 | No                               |
| <b>15. Description of Committee</b> Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board |  |                                 |                                  |
| <b>16a. Total Number of Reports</b> 3   |  |                                 |                                  |
| <b>16b. Report</b>  |  |                                 |                                  |
| Date  | Report Title   |                                 |                                  |
| 10/17/2018  | Drinking Water Method Approvals                            |                                 |                                  |
|   | Laboratory Involvement in the                              |                                 |                                  |
| 10/17/2018  | Quality Assurance Project Plan Development Process         |                                 |                                  |
| 10/17/2018  | Minimum Criteria for Selected Ion Monitoring (SIM) Methods |                                 |                                  |
| <b>Number of Committee Reports Listed:</b> 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<br>FY | Next<br>FY |
|--|---------------|------------|
| <b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to<br/>Non-Federal Members</b>   | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to<br/>Federal Members</b>   | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to<br/>Federal Staff</b>   | \$47,507.00   | \$0.00     |
| <b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to<br/>Non-Member Consultants</b>  | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to<br/>Non-Federal Members</b>  | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to<br/>Federal Members</b>  | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to<br/>Federal Staff</b>  | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to<br/>Non-member Consultants</b>   | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18c. Administrative Costs<br/>(FRNs, contractor support,<br/>In-person/hybrid/virtual<br/>meetings)</b> | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18d. Other (all other funds not<br/>captured by any other cost<br/>category)</b>                        | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18e. Total Costs</b>  | \$47,507.00   | \$0.00     |

**19. Federal Staff Support**

0.30 0.00

**Years (FTE)****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

| <b>Committee Members</b> | <b>Start</b> | <b>End</b> | <b>Occupation</b>  | <b>Member Designation</b> |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------|--|---------------------------|
| Anderson, Kim            | 10/15/2016   | 07/10/2019 | Tier 1, Professor,<br>Oregon State University,<br>Corvallis, OR  | Representative Member     |
| Buckley, Brian           | 10/15/2016   | 10/14/2018 | Tier 1, Executive Director<br>Laboratories,<br>Environmental & Health Sciences<br>Institute, Rutgers University,<br>Piscataway, NJ | Representative Member     |
| Carvajal, Patricia       | 10/15/2012   | 10/14/2018 | Tier 1, Senior Water Quality Planner and<br>Quality Assurance Officer, San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio, TX                | Representative Member     |

|                            |            |            |   |                       |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|---|-----------------------|
| Chauvin,<br>Francoise      | 10/15/2018 | 07/10/2019 | Tier 1, Quality Assurance Supervisor, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection, New York, NY           | Representative Member |
| Crandall,<br>Stacie        | 10/15/2018 | 07/10/2019 | Tier 1, Laboratory Chief, Hampton Roads Sanitation District, Virginia Beach, VA                     | Representative Member |
| Delaney,<br>Michael        | 10/15/2014 | 07/10/2019 | Tier 1, Retired Director of Laboratory Services, MWRA, Winthrop, MA                                 | Representative Member |
| Flournoy,<br>Michael       | 10/15/2014 | 07/10/2019 | Tier 1, Division Manager, Eurofin, Bothell, WA  | Representative Member |
| Frederici,<br>Raymond      | 10/15/2018 | 07/10/2019 | Tier 1, Vice President of Quality, TestAmerica, University Park, IL                                 | Representative Member |
| Gandhi,<br>Jayesh          | 10/15/2018 | 07/10/2019 | Tier 1, Regulatory Affairs Manager, Metrohm USA, Friendswood, TX                                    | Representative Member |
| Gossett,<br>Richard        | 10/15/2018 | 07/10/2019 | Tier 1, Technical Director, Physis Environmental Laboratories, Anaheim, CA                          | Representative Member |
| Kong,<br>Deyuan<br>(Kitty) | 10/15/2014 | 07/10/2019 | Tier 1, Senior Research Scientist, Chevron Energy Technology Company, Richmond, CA                  | Representative Member |
| Leibovitz,<br>Henry        | 10/15/2014 | 07/10/2019 | Tier 1, Chief of the Environmental Sciences, Rhode Island State Health Laboratories, Providence, RI | Representative Member |
| Loewe,<br>Jeffrey          | 10/15/2016 | 07/10/2019 | Tier 1, Principal, NiSource Environmental, Merrillville, IN   | Representative Member |
| Meadows,<br>Brad           | 10/15/2016 | 07/10/2019 | Tier 1, Vice President, Lab Director, Babcock Laboratories, Fresno, CA                              | Representative Member |

|                    |            |            |   |                          |
|--------------------|------------|------------|---|--------------------------|
| Mertens,<br>Sharon | 10/15/2016 | 07/10/2019 | Tier 1, Director,<br>Milwaukee<br>Metropolitan<br>Sewerage District,<br>Milwaukee, WI   | Representative<br>Member |
| Pujari,<br>Mahesh  | 10/15/2012 | 10/14/2018 | Tier 1, Senior<br>Chemist and<br>Quality Assurance<br>Officer,<br>Environmental<br>Monitoring<br>Division, City of<br>Los Angeles, Los<br>Angeles, CA | Representative<br>Member |
| Rieser,<br>Elan    | 10/15/2016 | 10/14/2018 | Tier 1, Senior<br>Specialist, Con<br>Edison Company<br>of New York,<br>Astoria, NY  | Representative<br>Member |
| Thal, David        | 10/15/2018 | 07/10/2019 | Tier 1, Principal<br>Chemist,<br>Environmental<br>Standards, Inc.,<br>Knowville, TN   | Representative<br>Member |
| Wait, A.           | 10/15/2012 | 10/14/2018 | Tier 1, Principal,<br>Gradient,<br>Cambridge, MA  | Representative<br>Member |
| Waller,<br>Debra   | 10/15/2016 | 07/10/2019 | Tier 1, Research<br>Scientist, NJ<br>Department of<br>Environmental<br>Protection,<br>Trenton, NJ   | Representative<br>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.