

Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee
Minutes for October 28, 2025 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anita Martin, Chester Water Authority (Municipal Authority)
John Stolz, Duquesne University (Academic Laboratory)
Joel Jordan, PA Rural Water Association (Association of Community Water Supply Systems)
Molly Campbell, Sharon Sanitary Authority (Association of Wastewater Systems)
Richard Stump, SPL (Technical expertise in the Testing and Analysis of Environmental Samples)
Andrew Yench, Penn State University (General Public, Member)
Terry Obal, SGS North America (General Public, Member)
Nicholas Lynn, Hawk Mountain (Environmental Laboratory)
Justin Matincheck, Skelly and Loy (Environmental Engineer)

OTHER ATTENDEES

Jack Palumbo (DEP – Policy Office)
Lauren Imgrund (DEP – Policy Office)
Torrey Anderson-Green (DEP – Bureau of Labs (BOL))
Pamela Higgins (DEP – BOL)
Annmarie Beach (DEP – BOL)

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Richard Stump, Chair, called the Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee (LAAC) meeting to order at 9:00 am. Committee Liaison Torrey Anderson performed a roll call to take attendance of the committee members. Mr. Stump clarified the rules for the committee, stating committee members must wait to be acknowledged before speaking and all attendees must introduce themselves prior to speaking.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 11/19/24 MEETING MINUTES

Rich Stump requested comments or a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 19, 2024. Dr. John Stolz motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Molly Campbell seconded the motion. Anita Martin added that she commented in the November 2024 meeting that the increase of lab fees would impact the residents in the state of Pennsylvania because increased lab fees would increase the cost of analysis of water and wastewater, cost to the wastewater systems, and potentially result in an increase of water

and wastewater rates. Rich Stump stated that those notes can be included in the approval. All present committee members voted to approve the meeting minutes as amended.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LAAC MEMBER- NICHOLAS LYNN

Rich Stump introduced a new LAAC Member, Nicholas Lynn. Nicholas gave a brief introduction about himself and career.

REPORT ON RULEMAKING - FEE SCHEDULE

Annmarie Beach reported that the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Fees proposed rulemaking was presented to the Environmental Quality Board on September 9, 2025. Annmarie added that fees are proposed to be increased by 27 percent, rounded to the nearest \$50. The rulemaking is scheduled to be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on November 1, 2025, and the public comment period will close on December 1, 2025.

Consideration of Recommendations to DEP Secretary Regarding Laboratory Reporting Practices under PA-DEP Regulations

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2025-01

Rich Stump requested a motion to review two recommendations to the DEP Secretary regarding laboratory reporting practices that have been drafted. Terry Obal made a motion to review the proposals, and Nick Lynn seconded the motion. Rich Stump asked if there was any discussion on the proposals and provided background on the process of officially sending LAAC's recommendations to the Secretary.

Rich Stump presented the first recommendation of requiring the use of detection limits in Drinking Water Electronic Lab Reporting (DWELR). Currently, laboratories are allowed to enter '0' in that field without an associated minimum reporting limit (MRL) or method detection limit (MDL), which could raise the question of whether the non-detect result is an acceptable level or not.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2025-02

Rich Stump presented the second recommendation to revise the one-hour reporting requirements for drinking water results that exceed a maximum contaminant level (MCL), treatment technique, or action level. The current language to report any result that exceeds any of those items to the client within one hour and to the DEP within two hours, including secondary action levels and raw water samples which are expected to exceed the MCL. This creates many notifications with very few of them being acute health related risks. The committee's recommendation is to decrease the number of situations that require the one-hour notification.

Nick Lynn asked what the alternative would be to reporting within one hour. Rich Stump clarified that the recommendation would be to report the non-acute health risks the next business day in writing and that it would be consistent with the notification in writing that is already required on the next business day.

DISCUSSION

Terry Obal asked if the first recommendation should be revised to say that the recommendation is to require the reporting of detection limits. Rich Stump indicated that he would revise both recommendations as discussed.

Terry Obal asked about the process of submitting the recommendations with the committee's agreement in the form of a letter and what happens after it is submitted to the DEP. Lauren Imgrund, DEP Policy Director, explained that the proposal would go to the Secretary's Office for the DEP's consideration on how to move forward and clarified that it is the committee who is making the recommendations, not the DEP itself.

Anita Martin suggested that the first recommendation should say "quantitation limit" since everyone's interpretation of less than zero can be different. Anita Martin added that she had reached out to other laboratories for comments on the recommendations and did not receive any feedback yet. She indicated that she would like to hear if there are any impacts to the laboratories from these recommendations and is holding off on voting on them. Rich Stump clarified that the first recommendation was worded based off the NELAC Institute(TNI) definitions.

A discussion occurred between Terry Obal, Rich Stump, and Aaren Alger on the wording of the first recommendation and what limit should be reported. It was discussed that not all labs use TNI or calculate detection limits. Aaren Alger suggested that the recommendation use the terms that DEP uses, because Chapter 252 uses quantitation limit and all labs calculate a quantitation limit.

Rich Stump indicated that he would make changes to the proposed recommendations. The first recommendation would be changed from requiring either the MDL or MRL to the language of Chapter 252 and the second recommendation would include that non-acute health risks require notification in writing within the next business day.

Rich Stump asked for a motion to approve the revised letter based on the feedback and send the letter. Terry Obal moved the motion, and Nicholas Lynn seconded the motion. All present committee members, except for Anita Martin, voted to approve the chair to revise and send the letter to the Secretary's office. Anita Martin abstained from voting at the time.

Lauren Imgrund suggested that going forward, the committee should have a roll call vote since it is hard to follow who votes aye or nay on Teams.

Rich Stump concluded the consideration of recommendations for the DEP Secretary and asked if there had been any public comments. Annmarie Beach and Torrey Anderson indicated that there had not been any comments yet.

NEW BUSINESS/GENERAL DISCUSSION

Aaren Alger asked whether the committee would be discussing when the meetings would be next year or if that is a discussion that is offline. A discussion occurred between Rich Stump, Anita Martin, and Terry Obal of scheduling future meetings. Rich Stump suggested scheduling the 2026 meetings tentatively for the second week of April and the second week of October.

ADJOURN

Molly Campbell motioned to adjourn the meeting. John Stolz seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 am.