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September 15, 2016

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
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NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0053651  
ELAP Certificate 1193

Subject: Comment Letter \_ ELAP Regulations Development and Laboratory Standard

To the State Water Resources Control Board members,

I received an email on September 8 stating The Environmental Accreditation Program (ELAP) had decided to use The NELAC Institute (TNI), Volume 1 with modification as the standard for certifying laboratories in California. Comments would be accepted for October 6 workshop until noon on September 16. I would like to submit the following comments to the board.

1. I attended portion of the August 2016 NELAC conference Orange County. Much of the discussion on TNI was foreign to me. Since The City had not purchase 2016 TNI, Volume 1. The City has purchased the manual but other laboratories have not, which could be attributed to the cost of the manual. I have had it for a couple of weeks, which is not adequate time to review the document to make educated decisions on the sections to keep or the sections to remove. The comment period for what will be drastic changes for most laboratories is too short. Nine and half days, if you were among the first to get the notice is not justifiable. I understand ELAP needs to make some changes. However, this timeframe will not give everyone the opportunity to do so.
2. After the ELTAC Webinar Meeting on August 24, I understood the 2016 TNI Standard in full was off the table. ELAP would follow the Environmental Laboratory Technical Advisory Committee (ELTAC) recommendations and write new regulations for California using Title 22, US EPA and portion of 2016 TNI. What happened to cause the change? ELAP, on this heel of this change, should allow as many interested parties as possible, especially all California certified laboratories, the opportunity to examine the 2016 TNI before requesting comments. Providing a PDF copy of the document on ELAP website would give access to everyone.
3. ELAP should conduct an impact study with laboratories to find out how the physical and financial effect on them. The scope of changes made will/can be significant for some laboratories. A survey with the accredited laboratories to hear the pros and cons on how the switch to 2016 TNI will affect them is advisable. Unlike large commercial labs, many municipal and small labs staff are tasked with multiple duties.

4. Technical manager qualification is of great concern in 2016 TNI Standard, Volume 1. It was discussed at the conference. "Any technical manager of an accredited environmental laboratory engaged in chemical analysis shall be a person with a bachelor's degree in the chemical, environmental, biological sciences, physical sciences or engineering, with at least twenty-four (24) college semester credit hours in chemistry and at least two (2) years of experiences in the environmental analysis of representative inorganic analysis for which the laboratory seeks or maintains accreditation. A master's or doctoral degree in one of the above discipline may be substituted for one (1) year of experience." This statement put education over experience. Individuals with years of experience and technical certifications are not considered.

5. The 2016 TNI Standard is a large document. As stated nine and half day is not a reasonable amount of time to read and make educated comments. If this will be the standard for laboratory accreditation, the Board should extend the period for comments and reschedule the workshop.

Thank You,



Florence B. Jay  
Laboratory Supervisor  
City of Ventura