



LELAP Update

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Formation of NELAC

- Organization of state and federal officials who vote on requirements.
- Input from others considered.
- Implementation a voluntary decision by individual states.
- National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) created on February 16, 1995.



NELAC Programs

- Develop uniform accreditation standards
- Adopt standards for use in accreditation programs
- Develop system for recognition of state agencies (Accrediting Authorities)
- Implementation of the accreditation program done voluntary by those states who choose to participate



Maturation of Program

- EPA required these changes to NELAC:
- Institute for National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation (INELA) formed in 2002 to fill gap in standards development effort
- NELAC recognition of need for self-supporting program
- EPA provided funding support to assist in the transition

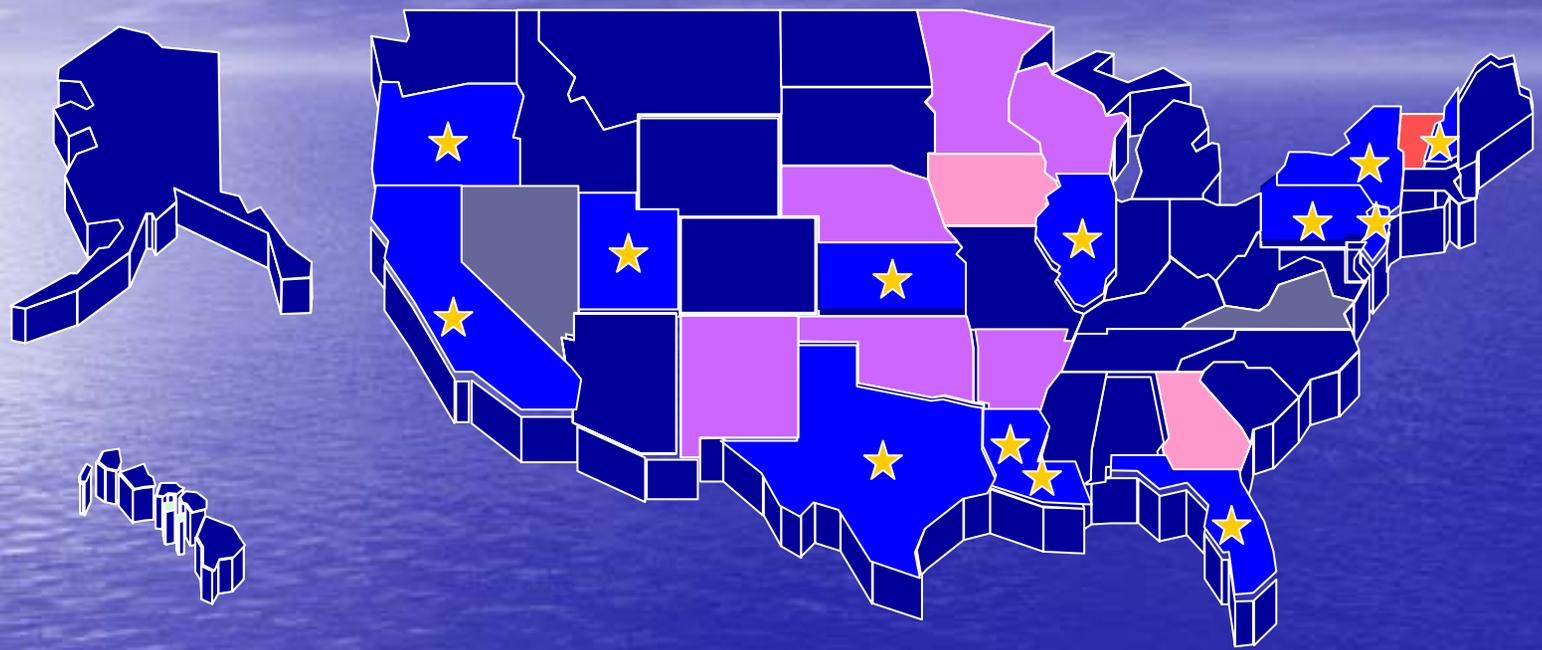


Current Status

- The national program has achieved some success
 - 13 accrediting authorities
 - > 2000 accredited laboratories
 - Recognized competency standard
- Much more needs to be done



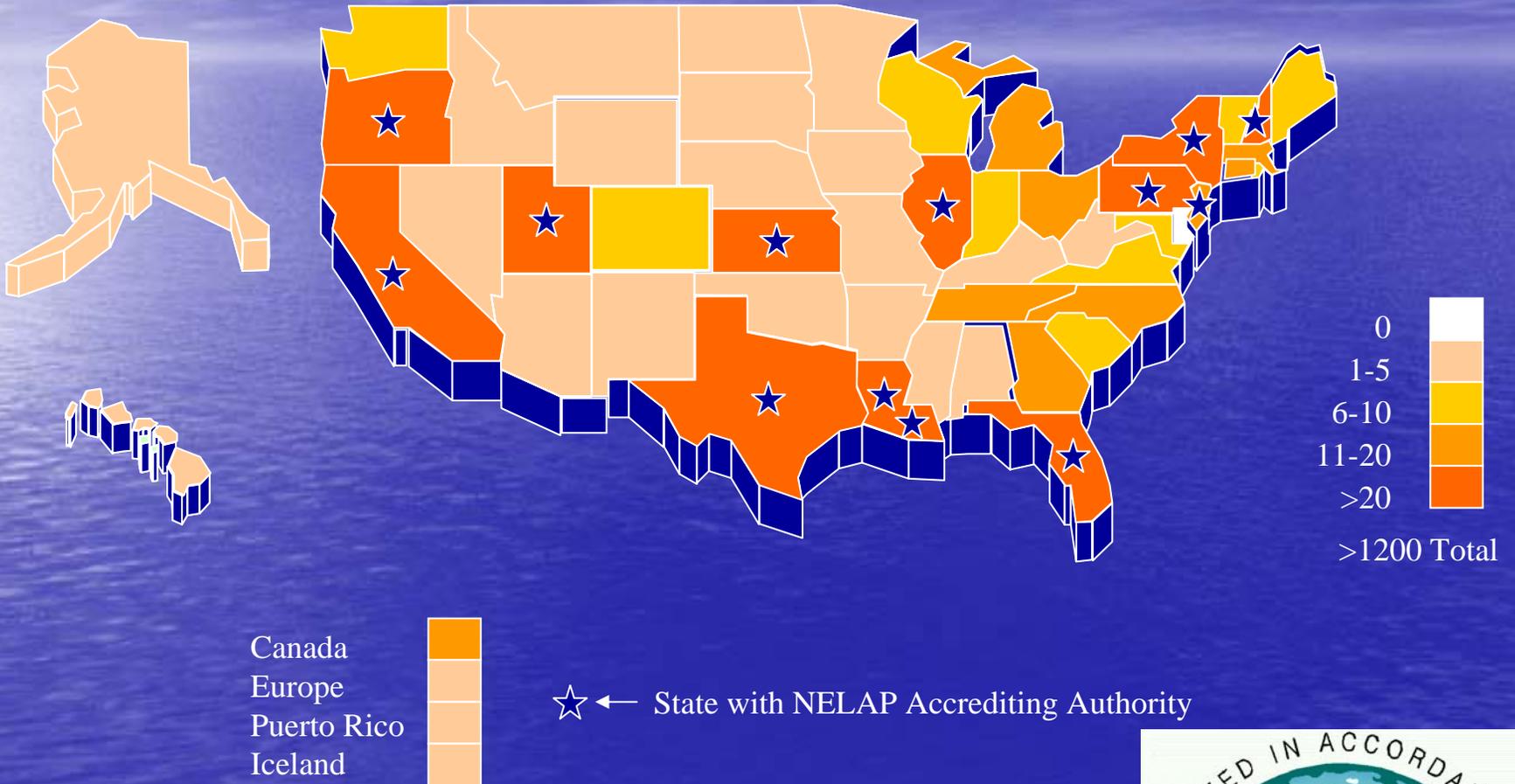
ACCREDITING AUTHORITIES



-  Accrediting Authority
-  Application Being Processed
-  Working on Program/Application
-  Require Program
-  Recognize Program
-  Incorporated Program Components



LAB PARTICIPATION IN NELAP BY LOCATION



January 2005





The Future: NELAC and INELA Partnership

- EPA now funds through grants
- NELAC and INELA combined forces on November 6, 2006 to become The NELAC Institute (TNI)
- All key functions of both organizations were continued



Underlying Assumptions

- Combining operations of NELAC and INELA will result in a stronger organization.
- Combining operations is less disruptive to laboratories and other stakeholders.



The NELAC Institute

- 501(c)3 non-profit organization with **members**, managed by a **Board of Directors**
- Organized into **Programs** that focus on the mission and vision of the organization



Who Are Our Members?

- **Organizations that accredit laboratories**
 - Accrediting Authorities
 - States that are not Accrediting Authorities
 - Federal agencies that operate accreditation programs
- **Accredited laboratories**
 - Commercial, Municipal, University, State, Federal, etc.
- **Others**
 - State and federal agencies that do not operate accreditation programs
 - Data users, consultants, PT Providers, vendors, etc.
 - Anyone interested in laboratory accreditation



Board of Directors

- 10-18 Directors
- Balanced Stakeholder representation
 - At least 3 Accrediting Authorities
 - At least 3 Accredited Laboratories
 - Others
- Election was held in March 2007



Governing Principles

- Consensus standards process used for the development of accreditation standards (Expert Committees)
- Implementation of the program will continue to be voluntary by states
- The concept of “balance” used where possible



Programs of TNI

- **Core Programs**
 - Consensus Standards Development
 - Laboratory Accreditation System
 - National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation
 - Proficiency Testing
- **Program Support**
 - Administration
 - Policy Development
 - Advocacy
 - Technical Assistance



Consensus Standards Development Program

Coordination Committee

– Expert Committees

- Develop standards for the accreditation of environmental laboratories.
- Assist the Laboratory Accreditation Committee with guidance.



Technical Assistance Program

Technical Assistance Committee

- Develop tools and templates to assist laboratories and accreditation bodies with implementing accreditation programs.
- Ensure that training programs relevant to the needs of the stakeholder community are provided.
- Ensure that laboratory assessors have a forum to discuss common issues.
- Develop a mentoring program to assist both laboratories and accreditation bodies with implementing accreditation programs.



NELAC/NELAP Operations

- NELAC Board will continue to deal with NELAP issues in the interim.
- NELAC Board will help AARB and PT Board until the new organization is formed and programs are functional.
- The NELAC Standard is a public record and it will not go away.
- Program to recognize AAs is needed before migration to TNI can take place.



The NELAC Institute

<http://www.NELAC-Institute.org>

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LELAP

- LELAP staff is changing.
- Traci Green, Liz Kashefi and Zach Smith are no longer a part of LELAP.
- Calista Daigle and Jennifer Boudreaux have joined the Program & have almost completed training.
- David Boucher and Karen Varnado are still around.



Renewal vs. Annual Fees

- All fees are non-refundable
- Renewal Fees - \$660 sent with the renewal application, every 3 years
- Annual Fees – \$330/Test Category every year.



Test Categories

- Metals
- Air Pollutants
- Micro
- Biomointoring
- Geotechnical Soil Testing
- ▶ Minor Conventional Parameters
- Organics (Semi-Volatiles, Volatiles, Pesticides, Herbicides & PCB's)
- Dioxins and Furans
- Radiochemistry
- Asbestos



Minor Conventional Parameters

- BOD₅, Oil & Grease, TSS, Fecal & Total Coliform, and Residual Chlorine **ONLY**
- Different Cost - \$264
- Annual Surveillance and Evaluation Fee is applicable - \$330.



Schedules

- Renewal Application – every 3 years
- Annual Fees – every year
- Renewal Fees – every 3 years
- Assessments – every 2 years
- Proficiency Tests – Twice a year ~ 6 months apart



ASSESSMENT TEAMS

- Assessment teams are comprised of Assessors from LELAP and/or the AEX and EQM.
- To assist with the cost of a third party assessment LELAP can place an assessor into the team.
- All assessments require at least two assessors



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

- LELAP recently meet with AEX and EQM to insure consistency in assessments
- Due to the meeting, LELAP is revising its Standard Operating Procedures
- Changes are being made based on efficiencies discussed during the meeting.



Method Update Rule

- On March 12, 2007 EPA promulgated the Method Update Rule(MUR).
- MUR went into effect April 12, 2007.
- The rule has been published in the 40 CFR 136
- MUR removed approximately 200 old EPA methods from the list of approved methods for Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act.
- The rule approved the use of Standard Methods 18th, 19th, and 20th edition.



Method Update Rule Cont.

- LELAP Primary AA – accreditation will be granted if the new method requires the same technology, matrix and analytes.
- LELAP Secondary AA – accreditation will be grant via recognition of the Primary AA's accreditation.



Methods Update Rule Cont.

- LELAP has sent correspondence to the laboratories notifying them of the MUR Changes
- Permittees may continue to use previously approved methods until their laboratory is accredited for the new methods.
- The Department is initiating action to address permits that specify analytical methods that are no longer approved.



Method Update Rule Cont.

- LELAP as Primary AA – accreditation will be granted if the new method requires the same technology, matrix and analytes.
- LELAP as Secondary AA – accreditation will be grant via recognition of the Primary AA's accreditation.



Method Update Rule Cont.

- LELAP as Secondary AA & Primary AA has not grant accreditation – State accreditation will be granted for a temporary time. Accreditation will expire June 30, 2008.



DEPA Updates – Discrete Analyzers

- 40 CFR 136.6 now allows laboratories to use discrete analyzers without receiving ATP approval from EPA prior to using the new analyzers.



Contact

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