



ELAP PROGRAM YEAR 1 ASSESSMENT–

STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) AND ELTAC PERSPECTIVE

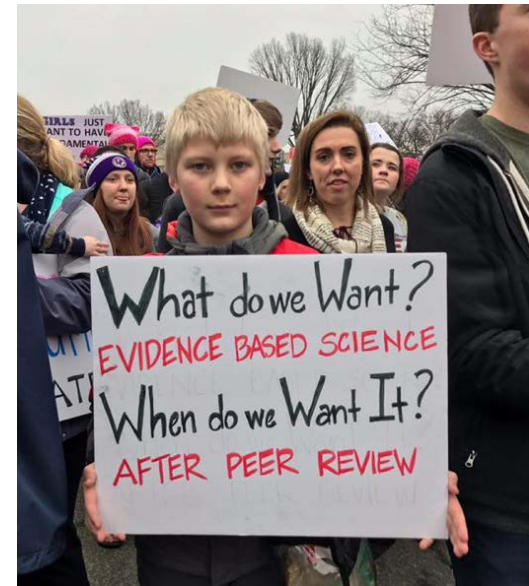
Disclaimer (per Usual)



- While I have solicited comments from ELTAC and the SAC, consensus is hard to come by.




- Ultimately the remarks are my own, but we are all in agreement on some things.



What Have ELTAC and the SAC Done the Last Year?



Spent a LOT of time in the weeds (ELTAC)... and minimal role (SAC)

- ELTAC spent a lot of meetings re-debating some of the ERP recommendations.
 - **Not always clear when we are advisory and when we guide policy;**
- We found our initial agendas were “overfull”
- We did provide valuable input, but... **the devil's in the details** 
- In some cases ELAP's use of ELTAC went beyond the By-Laws (more on a later slide)

Has ELAP been responsive to the recommendations provided by the Panel?



- It is clear to all that ELAP 2.0 is an improvement on ELAP 1.0....
- ELAP has tried to address each recommendation, some with more consistency than others.
 - Beginning to hire staff with knowledge of the environmental industry, which is a good step forward.
 - Training contract should help a lot, but only if long term ELAP staff are open to change.
 - Plans to re-invigorate and engage in succession planning could be more transparent.

Has the Program become more effective as a result of those changes?



- One key to improvement is clearly the transfer of ELAP to the State Water Board. Strong support from the SWB **+** **+** **+** **+**
- Until a Standard is finalized this will always be a difficult question to answer.
 - ELAP audits (anecdotally) are improved, but... **+** **-**
 - ELAP communications are improved, but have a ways to go. **+** **-**
 - ELAP is working closely with ELTAC **+**
 - ELAP is still relatively low on the learning curve. **+** **-**
 - ELAP management system is much improved. **+**

Conclusions from SAC Perspective: October 2016 for Comparison



ELTAC is a much more vigorous entity than at any time in the past. + + + +

ELAP needs to build internal technical expertise, and has barely started down that path. + -

Many members of the SAC are concerned that there is more of an emphasis on timeline than on product. - -

Communications to the community have improved but there are ways to make it better. -

Modifications as a result of lessons learned by the program in the last year?



This is ultimately a question for you (the panel) and not something the SAC/ELTAC has a lot of say on.

- BUT... there is a lot of concern by many ELTAC members and many SAC members on the pace of change, without ELAP being higher on the learning curve. Going from 0 to 60 fast should only be done in a car with a good engine. **We think that increasing ELAP's internal knowledge of lab accreditation is crucial.**



- There is still a need to improve ELAP's outreach to the broader lab community, and not rely on ELTAC as the primary go-between.



ELTAC is still not playing the role it was supposed to play (Advisory panel)



ELAP is still relying on ELTAC for detailed technical support and not just input on policy and technical considerations.

ELTAC is still a technical resource for ELAP (FOTs, Checklists) because ELAP still lacks technical depth. ELAP needs to add staff with strong lab knowledge and experience and familiarity with standards.

The awarding of the external training contract to help train ELAP staff will help, but ELAP must start from more than a rudimentary understanding and continue to build true expertise.

What are the biggest challenges remaining for the program?



- Finalizing the Standard and bringing 700+ labs (and ELAP) up to speed on it.
 - Finalize modifications to TNI2016 for the CA standard
 - More transparency on the process, particularly for training
- Coming up with a fair fee structure such that accredited labs feel they are getting their money's worth.
 - It should ultimately not be ELAP's official budget that drives those decisions, although the ability to change that is limited.
 - ERP should weigh in.
- ELAP getting the technical training they need to understand and perform lab accreditation.
- Succession planning to maintain strong technical skills

Is the timeline outlined by ELAP for meeting remaining challenges appropriate?



- **ELTAC/SAC is just seeing the proposed timeline in the meeting, but this issue comes to mind.**
 - **Not completely clear how ELAP will address the needs of WW and HW labs in a timely and effective manner since the training contract is focused on DW. ELAP should develop a plan and look for feedback from ELTAC and the broader stakeholder lab community.**

What new activities should the Program engage in next to take it beyond minimum acceptability?



- **ELAP needs to stay focused on its core mission for the foreseeable future and earn it's stripes.**
- **But some things to consider for the future:**
 - Act as a bridge with labs in terms of methods for “emerging” contaminants to ensure that only reliable validated methods are used for decision making.
 - Develop a template/guidance manual for small labs once the standard is finalized.
 - **EVENTUALLY** consider real world based PT programs (levels, matrices, etc.)
 - **EVENTUALLY** become a training center for labs on quality systems

What Metrics Should the Program use for Self Assessment?



Long term

- What actually constitutes long term in this case?
- Possible ways of evaluating self-assessment
 - **Only minimal findings on EPA audits of program?**
 - Review of the program by another external accrediting body/bodies farther down the road (TNI?, DOD?, another panel?)

What Metrics Should the Program use for Self Assessment?



- Shorter term- it seems like many of the metrics are by nature qualitative. And we need baselines. These are all random thoughts.
 - **Reality check – ELAP develops 1-10 performance measures and surveys all accredited labs periodically** (input on questions could come from ELTAC, SAPC, general lab community)
 - **Track lab closures and new lab certs once the standard is finalized.** ELAP should know the impact, regardless of the cause.
 - **# of reciprocity agreements** (acceptance of standard by others)?
 - **Frequency of assessments and turnaround time for reports and resolutions.** Since assessment frequency (or lack thereof) was a big issue before, this seems critical to measure.

Any Questions?



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