

SAC/ELTAC Feedback to ELAP on WorkPlan Progress

Presented by

Andy Eaton, PhD, BCES
Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc

SAC Chair/ELTAC Chair

Disclaimer – These views may not represent everyone on the SAC but I have tried to reflect input from all who provided it.

ELTAC has been Tasked With a Lot By ELAP

- ELTAC has had full agendas at every meeting. (too full) and frequent meetings...
- The urgent sometimes overtakes the important (e.g. some items on the agendas could “wait” so ELTAC could tackle the two big issues – the standard and fees).
- The SAC feels this has been driven in part by lack of resources in ELAP. ELAP should not add staff for the sake of adding, but also can’t wait for everything to be finalized.

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

- ELAP is still relying on ELTAC for **detailed technical support** and **not just input on policy**.
- 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 a contract for outsider auditors to help train ELAP staff will help, **but ELAP must start from more than a rudimentary understanding and build true expertise.**

There is Still Confusion Amongst Stakeholders on the “Select a Standard” Issue

- ELAP is moving forward on a version of TNI2016, but there is still a lot of pushback from stakeholders, particularly small muni labs. The ERP should weigh in with input to assist ELAP.
- This has been complicated by the short period for comments and the aggressive schedule.

Confusion - continued

- Assuming TNI2016 will be the basis for the CA standard, ELAP needs to determine what kind of assistance is needed by labs unfamiliar with the TNI program.
- Commitment of resources to assist labs (especially small ones) in implementation of the standard is critical.
 - ELAP could survey labs (not rely on ELTAC) to understand the needs.
- Labs are nervous about change and most have never tried to implement the standard and neither has ELAP.

Management System

- Updates to the lab community on status of ELAP generating and implementing SOPs would help in assuring stakeholders (labs and regulators) that there is significant progress towards a strong ELAP.
- This may also reflect the aggressiveness of the timeline for response to ERP relative to capabilities.
- One theme of SAC comments in each webinar has been the timeline.

ELAP Work Plan Timing

- The ELAP Workplan dated December 21, 2015 needs to be reviewed, revised and updated:
 - To reflect actual progress and adjustments made to the timeline to date
 - To reflect projection of future tasks and realistic timeline
 - To add flexibility for an effective process
 - This is also an opportunity for ELAP to keep the lab community informed.




ELAP has to Expand Communications

- Recognize lessons learned from the past in order to move forward with an effective and open process for communication of:
 - The new ELAP standard
 - Regulatory changes process and timeline
 - Implementation process, procedures, and timeline
 - Training resources for the laboratory community

More on Communications

- Communication has improved, but there are still a lot of stakeholders (especially those who do not operate labs directly such as utility managers) who are not sufficiently aware of activity. ELAP should not rely solely on ELTAC to get that information out.
 - Recommend **more frequent LYRIS communications.**
 - Verify that LYRISlistserve on ELAP issues is reaching the intended audience (**opt-out instead of opt-in?**). **SAC suggested this last time, but don't know status.**
 - Have newsletter be more frequent and meaty. Only one newsletter so far.

Conclusions from SAC Perspective

- 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. 