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Update on Non-Governmental Accreditation Bodies

Judy Morgan, Chair, TNRC

Alfredo Sotomayor, Chair, NGAB Working Group

Overview

- TNI began developing the process to recognize NGABs in 2013 with the formation of the NGAB working group chaired by Alfredo Sotomayor
- In 2014, the TNI Board appointed the TNI Non-governmental Accreditation Body Recognition Committee (TNRC) to approve NGABs according to the evaluation SOP
- These two groups have been working jointly and are very close to full implementation of the program

NGAB Working Group Members

- Alfredo Sotomayor, Chair
  - Steve Arms
  - Kristin Brown
  - Marlene Moore
  - Cheryl Morton
  - Jim Todaro
  - David Speis
  - Jerry Parr and Carol Batterton, Staff Support

TNI Non-Governmental Accreditation Body Recognition Committee (TNRC)

- Judy Morgan, Chair
  - Daniel Lashbrook
  - Marlene Moore
  - Kim Watson
  - Yumi Creason

  - Jerry Parr and Carol Batterton, Staff Support

Activities to Date

- Developed Evaluation SOP for NGABs using the NELAP and NEFAP evaluation SOPs as a model
- Appointed a Lead Evaluator (LE)
- Posted SOP and application form on TNI website under TNI Board tab
- Held evaluator training (live and webcast)
- Established budget and fees for program
- Designed logo for NGABs and laboratories

Activities to Date

- Began accepting applications mid-August
  - Received three applications
- Formed evaluation teams
  - Lead evaluator
    - Ilona Taunton
  - Team members
    - Kristin Brown
    - Carl Kircher
- Scheduled evaluations for February and March

Timeline

ACTIVITY	DATE
Accept applications	Aug-Sept. 2015
Conduct on-site evaluations	February-March 2016
Conduct onsite observations	Summer 2016
Recommendations to TNRC	Summer meeting 2016*
NGAB Recognitions	

* Final recognition of NGABs will depend on when on-site observations can be scheduled.

NELAP States Accepting NGAB Accreditations

State NELAP AB	Can accept NGAB accreditation
Florida	No
Illinois	Yes
Kansas	?
LADEQ	Yes
LADHH	No
Minnesota	No
New Hampshire	Yes
New Jersey	?
New York	No
Oregon	No
Pennsylvania	No

NELAP States accepting NGAB accreditations

State NELAP AB	Can accept NGAB accreditation
Texas	Yes
Utah	No
Virginia	?

Non-NELAP States positions on NGAB accreditations

- Twenty non-NELAP states interviewed for “Future of Accreditation” project
- Three states uncertain if they could accept an NGAB accreditation. One state said they would defer to EPA for an opinion
- Six states could not accept NGAB accreditation
- Eleven states said they could accept an NGAB accreditation. Several of these states noted that they already accept A2LA, AIHA, and NSF

Location of TNRC in TNI

Background:

- Some state accreditation bodies (AB) cannot allow an NGAB to be a member of the NELAP AC
- NGAB working group recommended that TNRC report directly to the Board
  - Provided direct oversight by TNI Board for a new program
  - Minimized conflict for some members of the NELAP AC

Location of TNRC in TNI

Background:

- Complaint alleged that NGAB recognition constituted a core program
- Investigation team disagreed, but recommended appropriate organizational placement of TNRC
- TNI Board directed NGAB working group to prepare a concept paper outlining options for placement of NGAB recognition activities within TNI's organizational structure

Location of TNRC in TNI

- TNRC and NGAB working group met jointly and determined four possible options for organizational alignment of the TNRC for NGAB recognition

Location of TNRC in TNI

Options:

- Leave the TNRC in its current location reporting to the TNI Board of Directors
- Place the TNRC under the LASEC, but separate from the NELAP AC

Report to the Board

Advantages:

- Close supervision by the Board for a developing effort
- Complete separation from NELAP avoiding any conflict with the AC

Disadvantages:

- Does not mimic other recognition efforts
- Additional admin resources required
- May lead to inconsistent approaches for recognition

Report to LASEC

Advantages:

- Keeps this effort within the NELAP umbrella
- Minimizes administrative support
- Ensures consistent recognition efforts

Disadvantages:

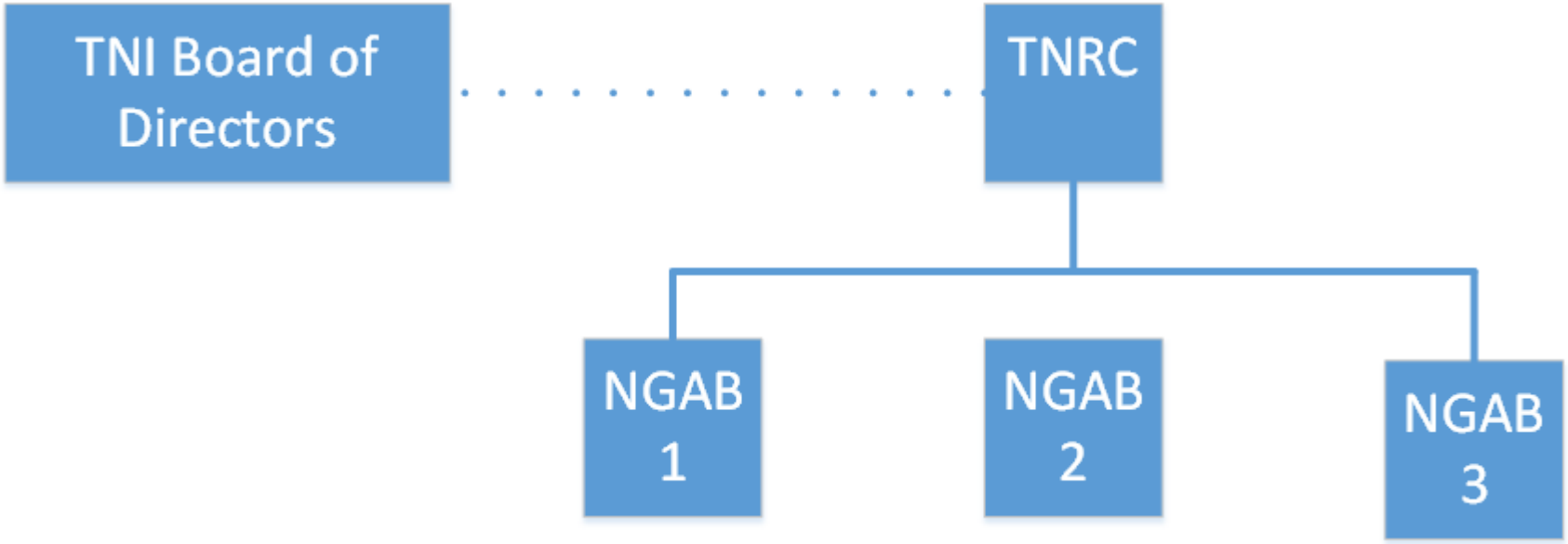
- At least one member of the NELAP AC is opposed to this

Recommendation

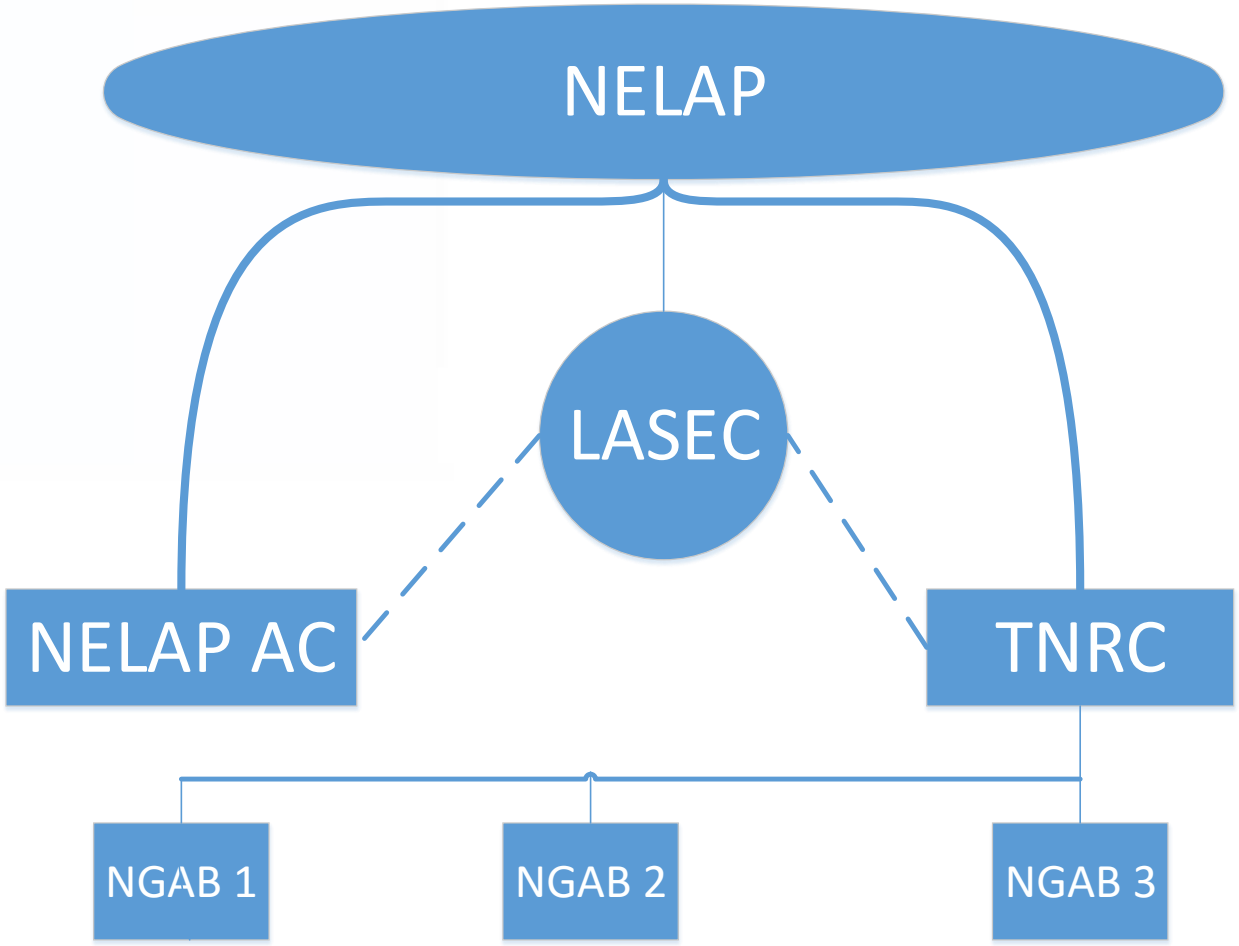
- Place the NGAB recognition activities under the LASEC, but separate from the NELAP AC

- Leave TNRC in its current location reporting to the TNI Board until after the first group of NGABs is recognized and then move to the new structure.

Organizational Chart A



Organizational Chart B



Organizational Chart C

Next Steps

- Conduct evaluations and onsite observations
- Make recommendations for recognition
- Grant recognitions for first class of NGABs
- Make recommendation for organizational placement of TNRC
- Establish/facilitate communication between TNRC, NELAP AC and NEFAP
- Create web page for NGABs

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Questions?

Suggestions?