

**HASQARD Focus Group**  
Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Sarah Nagel, the HASQARD Focus Group Chair, at 2:02 PM on January 22, 2020 in Conference Room 199 at 2430 Stevens Center Place.

Those attending were: Sarah Nagel – Focus Group Chair (Mission Support Alliance (MSA)), Cliff Watkins - Focus Group Secretary (Corporate Allocation Services, U.S. Department of Energy – Richland Operations Office (RL) Support Contractor), Samuel Adams (Battelle Memorial Institute – Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)), Glen Clark (Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS)), Erika Cutsforth (CH2MHILL Plateau Remediation Company (CHPRC)), Scot Fitzgerald (CHPRC), Heather Medley (CHPRC), Anthony Nagel (CHPRC), Karl Pool (PNNL), Geoff Schramm (WRPS), Walter Scott (U.S. Department of Energy – Office of River Protection (ORP)), Chris Sellers (Booth Management Consulting, RL Support Contractor), Noe'l Smith-Jackson (Washington State Department of Ecology), Chris Thompson (PNNL), Rich Weiss (MSA), Tricia Wood (Wastren Hanford Laboratory).

- I. The Focus Group Chair requested review and approval of the meeting minutes from the HASQARD Focus Group held on December 3, 2019. The draft minutes were distributed and time was allowed for one final review. Hearing no additional comments and no objections to approval, the minutes from the December 3, 2019 meeting were approved.

Upon reviewing the minutes from the December 3 meeting, Chris Thompson asked a follow-up question concerning the content of the minutes. Chris asked about the accreditation status of the Eurofins laboratory in Fife, WA for inductively coupled plasma (ICP) metals. Glen Clark stated that the lead assessor from the accrediting body (AB), Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc. (PJLA), determined that because the laboratory was not prepared to conduct those analyses, that they would have to return for a follow-up assessment to accredit the laboratory for ICP metals. The HASQARD Focus Group Secretary asked if it was known when the follow-up assessment would be scheduled. It was stated that this is one of the weaknesses of the DOE Consolidated Audit Program – Accreditation Program (DOECAP-AP). That is, the schedule of upcoming activities is not well communicated, especially for follow-up activities such as the assessment required to accredit Eurofins-Fife for ICP metals.

II. The HASQARD Focus Group has a standing agenda item to discuss the status of activities associated with the DOECAP-AP at all HASQARD Focus Group meetings. This month, the following updates were discussed:

A. Heather Medley stated that Scot Fitzgerald was at the TestAmerica – St. Louis (TASL) laboratory the week of December 9. Scot added that there was not much to report because the DOE portion of the assessment being conducted was an annual surveillance rather than a full-blown accreditation assessment. To maintain State of Florida accreditation, the State requires an annual on-site assessment be performed at accredited laboratories. Therefore, the AB was conducting the annual review to meet Florida requirements and performed what the DOECAP-AP would refer to as a desk top surveillance within the processes/procedures used by the DOECAP-AP at the same time. Scot stated that perhaps the most remarkable information gleaned from his presence at the TASL surveillance was that there has been a very large turnover of laboratory personnel in the last 12 months. Scot estimated the turnover to be as much as 50% of the staff. Scot noted that CHPRC this turnover is likely contributing to the loss of productivity at the laboratory they have recognized recently. Noe'l Smith-Jackson asked if anybody knew why TASL was losing so many personnel. Scot did not have any speculations regarding the TASL facility but noted that Test America – Denver is having personnel retention issues related to the growth of the marijuana testing industry. It was not known what is causing analysts to resign in St. Louis. But, Scot said that, at least in the radiochemistry laboratory, personnel are moving on.

Rich Weiss asked if the laboratory was using the name TASL or if they were moving toward the name of the corporate entity that purchased TestAmerica, Eurofins. Scot Fitzgerald stated that they were using both names interchangeably at this time. Rich stated that his question was based on recent contract negotiations between MSA and TASL where Eurofins wanted the contract to reference the new corporate identity rather than be referred to as TASL in contracting documents. It was stated that a letter found on the DOECAP-AP website discusses the purchase of the Test America laboratories by Eurofins and indicates that they will still be known as TestAmerica. Heather Medley stated that the reports they are receiving from the laboratory say Eurofins TestAmerica.

B. The schedule for upcoming DOECAP-AP assessments at laboratories utilized by the Hanford contractors was discussed.

Rich Weiss stated that there are no new assessments for January or February shown on the DOECAP-AP website as of this meeting of the HASQARD Focus Group. Heather Medley stated that she was aware of a one-day annual surveillance that will be conducted at a Southwest Research Institute (SWRI) in February. Scot Fitzgerald added that the reason the website doesn't show the SWRI surveillance yet is that the ABs are giving laboratories a 30-day notice for upcoming assessments and posting the assessments on the schedule after notice is given.

Rich Weiss asked if any of the Focus Group members were planning to go to the next DOECAP-AP assessment at the GEL laboratory when it is scheduled. Glen Clark stated that Robert Elkins is scheduled to go to represent WRPS/Hanford. Rich stated that he will contact Robert because he has a few items he would like Robert to look at while at GEL.

- C. The HASQARD Focus Group has a standard agenda item to discuss any of the DOE Data Quality Workgroup DQW activities that have occurred since the last Focus Group meeting. The DOE DQW is the group responsible to coordinate DOE's input for all revisions to the *DoD/DOE Consolidated Quality System Manual for Environmental Laboratories* (QSM).

Since the last Focus Group meeting, Steve Clark (DOE-HQ Analytical Services Program Manager) has sent notice of an upcoming DQW webinar that will occur on February 4 at 10:00 AM Pacific Standard Time. The HASQARD Focus Group Secretary confirmed that the meeting invitation associated with the DQW webinar had been received by all Focus Group members.

### III. The status of production of Revision 5 of HASQARD was discussed.

At the December 3 meeting of the Focus Group, it was determined that the HASQARD Volumes should be sent to a technical editor for "draft final" production. After the December 3 meeting, the Focus Group Secretary ensured that the versions of the files containing the Volumes were in their most final state and forwarded them to the RL technical editor, Chris Sellers. Prior to the January 22 Focus Group meeting, the Secretary distributed the edited versions of HASQARD Volumes 1 and 2 to the Focus Group to use in preparation for the meeting. The technical editor had inserted several comments/questions in the edited document that the Focus Group needed to address. The Secretary displayed the files for Focus Group review and editor's comments were discussed individually.

One comment that required a longer than average discussion was on one of the statements describing the applicability of HASQARD in Volume 1. The statement discussed says,

"All work that generates measurement data, (including research and development (R&D)) including facility operations, initial R&D investigations (after exploratory

research has been completed), permitting, waste characterization and treatment, and clean site closure and long-term monitoring, will have a measurable level of quality for data usage and technical defensibility.”

The Focus Group interprets this sentence as meaning that data supporting R&D related to an environmental measurement must be conducted using the QA/QC criteria specified in HASQARD. What was not clear was the difference between “exploratory research” and an “initial R&D investigation.” After discussion, it was agreed that the terms “exploratory research” and “initial R&D investigation” should be added to the glossary in HASQARD or the sentence should be revised. The matter was tabled to a later date.

The Focus Group addressed all of the questions/comments provided by the technical editor in the Volume 1 file. The file was marked up with either the resolution to the comment or a request for the technical editor to revise the document as agreed by the Focus Group. The Focus Group Secretary took the action to return the file to the technical editor for additional editing prior to completing the document.

The Focus Group reviewed the file for HASQARD Volume 2 in a similar manner to that used with the Volume 1 file. A request was made to retain the file that shows the basis for all “shall” statements (i.e., requirements) found in HASQARD. It was suggested that this file be placed on the HASQARD Focus Group website for future reference.

The Focus Group was able to address the editor’s comments through Section 4.4.5 of Volume 2. At the time the review reached that section, the allotted time for the meeting was about to expire.

#### IV. The Focus Group Chair asked if there was any new business for the Focus Group.

Rich Weiss stated that personnel from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) have started to become familiar with the radioanalytical protocols described in the Multi-Agency Radiochemistry Laboratory Analysis Protocols (MARLAP) document. The DOH personnel are particularly interested in using MARLAP’s definition for a “minimum quantifiable concentration” (MQC) for radionuclide measurements. The method MARLAP uses to determine an MQC involves adding all error associated with the measurement (i.e., error associated with analytical and non-analytical error parameters like glassware tolerances). Rich stated that using the MARLAP procedure to determine an MQC for a radionuclide typically results in a “minimum detectable activity” (MDA) that is 5-10 times larger than when the MDA is determined using typical environmental measurement methods. This could result in a laboratory reporting an analyte of interest as undetectable at activities well above the decision levels typically used by Hanford remediation projects. Rich recommended that the radiochemists in the Focus Group become familiar with MARLAP and to be prepared to discuss it’s weaknesses for application at Hanford if the topic comes up within their company.

Hearing no additional new business, the Focus Group Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:07 PM.

The next meeting of the HASQARD Focus Group was originally scheduled to occur on February 19 but, due to conflicts, the Chair requested that the date be revised. After addressing conflicts in schedules, the next meeting of the HASQARD Focus Group will occur on February 26 at 2:00 PM in 2430 Stevens Center Place, Room 199.