

Minutes - Quality Assurance Advisory Group  
NADP Annual Technical Committee Meeting; Washington, D.C.  
October 20, 2003: 12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Bob Brunette, FGS  
Natalie Latysh, USGS  
Chris Lehmann, ISWS, NADP Program Office  
Greg Wetherbee, USGS  
Michael Kolian, USEPA  
Scott Faller, USEPA  
John Sherwell, MDNR

1. The minutes of the QAAG meeting in New Orleans, March 2003, were approved.
2. The group decided that the HAL's responses to the recent audit should go back to the auditors to ensure that the HAL responses adequately address their concerns. Auditors should then report to Chris Lehmann to bring closure to the audit process. Greg Wetherbee will make the final recommendation to NOS and DMAS to approve the HAL response report.
3. Natalie Latysh, Bob Brunette, and Greg Wetherbee briefed the group on the new external USGS QA program for the MDN:
  - 3 programs: System blank, Field blank, and Interlaboratory Comparison
  - USGS to do data analysis for collocated program(s) as well
  - Intensive system blank pilot program (12 sites) in November 2003.
4. Chris Lehmann reported that laboratory review guidelines complete with SOPs and standard forms will be drafted and issued at the spring 2004 meeting. The guidelines will also cover timelines and expectations for laboratory reviews.
5. Greg Wetherbee discussed the conceptual design and preliminary data analysis contained in a draft Data Quality Objectives document for the USGS External QA Program. Not many QAAG members appeared to have read or even given the document a cursory review. Therefore, not much discussion was generated. However, it was generally agreed that the USGS does not have the responsibility of making quantitative determination of attainment of quality assurance objectives for the NADP/NTN. Therefore, the contents of the USGS document will be provide a framework for future analysis of the external QA program data. The NADP Program Office, the CAL, and individual data users may adopt their own specific criteria for assessment of whether the quality of the data is acceptable. The USGS role will continue to be that of a QA data provider.
6. Network QA Plan Outline - Chris handed out a proposed outline for the NADP network QA Plan, attached to the QAAG agenda. However, there was not sufficient time to discuss the outline. Chris will draft the QAP for the QAAG to review at the Spring meeting.

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Greg Wetherbee, USGS  
Acting secretary