

## **Minutes of April 11, 2008 QAAG (Conference Call) Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 1300 EDT/1200 CDT/1100 MDT/1000 PDT.

### **Attendees:**

Gerard van der Jagt – Frontier Geosciences  
Maria Jones - EEMS  
Natalie Latysh – USGS  
Mark Rhodes – NADP PO  
Greg Wetherbee – USGS

### **Items:**

**Minutes of 10 April 2007 and 06 August 2007 QAAG meetings.** Greg motioned to accept the minutes from both meetings. Gerard seconded the motion.

**Status of the HAL QA Report for 2006 and the HAL QAP:** Gerard indicated that both documents are being revised and will be available for review on 18 April. The goal is to report that both documents have been finalized at the Spring Executive Committee meeting in Pensacola on 01 May.

**Status of the CAL QA Report and the CAL QAP:** Mark indicated that the QA Report is being edited and should be available in the near future. The QAP was approved and posted on the NADP website earlier this week (04/08/2008).

**Status of the Network QAP:** Mark indicated that Chris (Lehmann) provided him with a draft outline for the new document. Mark hopes to complete a draft version of the document before the Fall meeting.

**Status of Proposal for Data Censoring and Reporting of Values below MRLs and MDLs:** Greg indicated that this proposal was presented to DMAS at the Fall 2007 Meeting in Boulder. A response is still pending. Gerard indicated that this item is on the agenda for the Spring Meeting in Pensacola. Natalie suggested that the DMAS members be reminded of this issue prior to the Spring Meeting so it is discussed thoroughly.

**Guidelines for Laboratory Reviews document:** Mark expressed a desire to revisit, revise, and finalize this document prior to the CAL Review scheduled for July. Greg indicated that he revised this document incorporating suggestions made during the Spring 2007 meeting. Greg will send an electronic copy of the revised document to QAAG members for review prior to the Meeting in Pensacola. The goal is to finalize this document shortly after the Spring Meeting.

**CAL Review:** Greg indicated that the Review of the CAL is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> full week in July. Reviewers will arrive in Champaign on Monday. The review will be conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday. Two reviewers will meet with representatives of the CAL Thursday morning to discuss results of the review. The review team will be led by Greg (USGS), and will include: Mike Kolian (US EPA), Denise Schmidt (Institute of

Ecosystem Studies), Mike McHale (USGS), and Chris Rogers (MACTEC). The size of the review team may be reduced by one, depending on the availability of travel support.

**Reviews of the Program Office and the HAL:** Mark suggested scheduling the next Quality Systems review (review of the Program Office) during 2009, and schedule the next review of the HAL during 2010. This allows the Program Office to budget for one review each year. Greg indicated that the last Quality Systems review occurred in 2004. Greg and Natalie expressed concern of waiting until 2010 for the next review of the HAL, given the importance of HAL's analyses and importance to the NADP. A discussion of the impending move of Frontier GeoSciences offices/labs followed. It was decided to revisit this item during the Fall QAAG committee meeting. At that time Gerard should have a better idea of when Frontier GeoSciences will move. Greg concluded that it would be senseless to schedule a review of the HAL immediately following their move.

**AIRMoN Stickgage Evaluation:** Mark provided a brief description of the history of this topic. He then suggested that EEMS may be able to assist with this task as they could measure the interior diameter of the stickgage during the site surveys. This would allow stickgages to remain at a particular site, providing continuity to the precipitation history and subsequent correction factors. Maria indicated that it is likely that the same survey team member would perform each of the measurements as the AIRMoN sites are located primarily in the northeast, and that 2 AIRMoN sites (PA15 and WV99) are scheduled to be surveyed in the next two months. Mark indicated that the Program Office has a digital caliper that can be used for the work. Greg asked that the stickgages at the inactive AIRMoN sites be included in this work, if the stickgages are still accessible/available. Mark indicated that there are 5 inactive AIRMoN sites. He and Maria will coordinate this work. Following the conference call it was noted that 3 of the inactive AIRMoN sites are now (active) NTN sites.

**Status of Site Surveys:** Maria provided a review of the site surveys that has been completed. Their goal is to complete 60 site surveys prior to the Spring Meeting.

**Siting Criteria, New Sites, and Relocation of Existing Sites:** Mark expressed concern that new sites were being admitted to the network (MDN, in particular) that did not meet siting criteria. Discussion followed as to which sites, the nature of the siting violations, site classifications (urban, rural, suburban, isolated), and whether sites sponsors would be content for their site to appear on the map, but not be used for isopleths calculation. Greg noted that unlike deposition of the NTN analytes, mercury deposition frequently occurs near the source. Mark asked whether the siting criteria for MDN sites should be revisited to include data collected at urban sites in isopleths calculations. Natalie suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to assess recent work in mercury transport and deposition. Results of this work could be presented during the Fall 2008 QAAG committee meeting. At that time, the committee can decide whether to revisit siting criteria for MDN sites.

**DF/DK Results for the Site Operators:** Mark noted that several operators at the CAL Training course expressed interest in the Field Audits Program results collected by USGS. Operators want to know the results for their site. Natalie was pleased that site operators are interested in the program and want to know their results. Greg expressed concern about mailing survey results to the site operators. Mark suggested that results could be included with reports that are mailed to the sites by the CAL and the HAL. Gerard indicated that the HAL mails a report to the sites each month. Mark confirmed that the CAL also mails a report to the sites each month. Greg indicated that electronic reports could be provided to the CAL and HAL to include with the NTN and MDN mailings, respectively.

The meeting adjourned at 1430 EDT/1330 CDT/1230 MDT/1130 PDT.