

NADP QAAG Minutes
Wednesday, May 20th, 2026
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM Central
Join via Zoom

Meeting ID: 997 0577 4637
Passcode: 671699

Attendance: Greg Beachley, Katie Blaydes, Christa Dahman Zaborske, Noel Deyette, Dana Grabowski, Eric Hebert, Mark Kuether, Nichole Miller, Zac Najacht, Jason O'Brian, Ella Osby, Melissa Puchalski, Martin Shafer, Timothy Sharac, Cheryl Sue, Richard Tanabe, Jess Trevino

1. Site Support Issues/Questions – EEMS/PO

- a. Update on EEMS Site Audits
 - i. Had to drop off some sites in August but mostly on track
- b. AMNet Audits
 - i. One OH site in the spring on the list.
- c. Gauge procedure change
 - i. Got data from Mark about what real world values are in the field – should be looking at much lower weights for testing the rain gauges.
 - ii. From .25 to .03 inches – better match real world precipitation values.
 - iii. Focus on precision at low levels of rainfall by repeat measurements.
 - iv. Potential to test on a partially full gauge rather than empty first.

2. Site Operations – Ella

- a. Overall Update
 - i. Switch to the ALPHA samplers in January 2026
 - ii. Change in lid seal weighing procedure
 - iii. Site operations are going well – now in the Spring so less motor box replacements
 - iv. Working with EEMS to resolve site issues while in the field

3. External Audit – Nichole

- a. Follow up
 - i. Just updating outstanding audit findings that we were not able to complete during the original report timeframe – document available upon request.
- b. 2027 audit participation
 - i. Early call for audit team participants – will revisit to finalize group at the next spring QAAG meeting (2027).

4. PCQA Update – Noel

- a. Jess Trevino now helping out with the PCQA analysis
- b. In 2025 – 9 labs for NTN and 8 labs for MDN
 - i. One potential new lab for each in 2026
- c. May 2026 – preparation of MDN interlab samples moved to the USGS M3 Research Lab in WI.
- d. MDN Conclusions
 - i. Overall data had higher variability in 2025

- ii. NAL had moderate variability ~90.2% of overall among labs
 - iii. Hg network max contamination decreased to ~0.177 ng/sample
 - e. Continue the bottle stability study between glass and PETG and holding times now that prep is at USGS M3.
 - f. NTN Conclusions
 - i. Low variability for most analytes except SO₄, NH₄, NO₃, and H⁺ loss
 - ii. More stability in NALNAT samples than SIM
 - iii. Slight negative bias for Cl⁻
 - iv. Increase in specific conductance loss
 - g. NTN max contamination levels – significant increase for Ca and Na
 - h. USGS will be publishing a 2023-2025 scientific investigations report
 - i. A data release containing the 2023-2025 data is planned for fall
 - j. Working on a PFAS QA program in 2026
- 5. **Sampler Colocation Update – Noel**
 - a. Two-week sampling period study
 - b. NY20/20NY finishing its second year as a 1-week/2-week comparison site
 - i. 26 samples for this period (9/24/2024 to 12/16/2025) – 6 samples with no precip or without a 1-week sample for comparison
 - ii. Most data compare quite well, K⁺ has the largest variability
- 6. **Lab Investigation Projects (current and upcoming)**
 - a. Hg Passive Samplers (Christa/Martin)
 - i. Have increased site participation
 - ii. Data will be presented in MELD
 - iii. Could discuss the number and source of replicates if continuing
 - 1. Could decrease to three replicates
 - 2. Could decrease the fixed number samplers from Tekran (more flexibility)
 - 3. Discuss moving from sulfur impregnated to chloride impregnated
 - b. AMoN ALPHA Samplers (Katie)
 - i. ALPHA study completed in August and kept 3 sites through the remainder of 2025 – results are consistent
 - ii. First deployment on January 13th
 - iii. One recurring field issue is weld nut falling off
 - 1. Updated field SOP and sent communication to site operators
 - iv. Other small recurring issue is the samplers returning with the wrong cap
 - 1. This was also communicated to site operators
 - 2. Considered minimal as far as data concerns but want to stick with protocol
 - v. Lab investigations – ongoing
 - 1. Increase shelf life for the coating acid for the analytical filter
 - 2. Washing and reuse of the PTFE filters
 - vi. MDLs
 - 1. Old network MDL 0.084 mg/L and new network MDL 0.030 mg/L
 - 2. Old lab MDL 0.014 mg/L and new lab MDL 0.030 mg/L
- 7. **Lab Updates – Nichole**

- a. New SEAL instrument
 - i. In the process of validating this instrument for NTN use – goal is September 2026.
- 8. **PFAS – Martin**
 - a. General update
 - i. PFN network approved at fall meeting.
 - ii. Paperwork was finalized and officially accepted as an official NTN subnetwork starting 4/7/2026.
 - iii. Improved LODs by increasing injection volume
 - iv. Updated field QC and increased lab QC and support equipment tracking
 - v. Working to merge NADP LIMS and Clinisys – related more to the precip data
 - vi. Developed the logic for flagging samples for PFN in comparison with NTN
 - vii. Developed provisional reports to site sponsors
 - viii. Mark is working on the web design for data reporting
 - b. 7 MN sites adding in July and CT15
 - c. USGS working on a large PFAS project – quarterly composites for a year (9/1/2026 start).
 - d. No responses from sites who want their network data withheld
 - i. Different discussion for the pilot data
 - e. Submitting first ERA PT sample at the end of May
- 9. **Data Review – Zac/Dana/Mark**
 - a. Process Updates
 - i. NTN field form revisions (removed precip, added lid weight change, and OCR updates); MDN removed manual precip.
 - ii. Final steps with testing the OCR for first data entry to reduce need for inputting field forms twice – goal for June.
- 10. **QA Documents – Nichole**
 - a. 2025 QAR
 - i. Will finalize this document with the new QA specialist – goal to have it out to QAAG for final review in August/September.
 - b. SOP review cycle
 - i. All SOPs will be on a three-year review cycle instead of 1-2 years; better aligned with accreditation timelines. Major changes will be made outside of the three year cycle if needed.
- 11. **Open Discussion**
 - a. Discussion on SOPs that EEMS uses for their field audits and their ownership and how edits are made and approved. Considerations for if the external contractor changes and how we keep record of those SOPs.