

MINUTES

ACCREDITATION STEERING COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE

July 5, 2000

Prepared by: Don Ragland, Secretariat
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ATTENDANCE

The teleconference was attended by:

1. Beverly Adams (LM/Y12)
 2. Roger Burton (Honeywell/KC)
 3. Ernie Garner (NIST)
 4. Margaret Legel (NBL)
 5. Don Ragland (SNL/A)
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Working Group Reports

NACLA (Don Ragland reporting for Dick Pettit)

Interaction with NACLA

The following are suggestions for interaction with NACLA:

1. To encourage Accreditation Comm member participation in NACLA, obtain more information about NACLA's election process, candidate responsibilities, etc.
 2. Produce a list of NACLA committees, along with their charters. Spot those committees that need assistance.
 3. Produce lists of current membership within NACLA committees.
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Formation of NAAC

NACLA and its sister bodies in Canada and Mexico are forming an umbrella organization to coordinate accreditation activities within the North American region.

The primary goal of the North American Accreditation Cooperation (NAAC) is to ensure that every test or calibration report from a laboratory accredited by an accreditation body recognized by NAAC is accepted throughout North America.

The secondary goal of NAAC is that every test or calibration from a laboratory accredited by a NAAC-recognized accreditation body be accepted in similar regions throughout the world with which NAAC has an arrangement

NAAC will consist of the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), the National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA) and Ente Mexicano de Accreditación (ema), who will recognize each other as having primary responsibility in their respective countries for the maintenance and/or oversight of accreditation programs for testing and calibration laboratories.

NAAC will provide the regional infrastructure to facilitate the harmonization of the programs and the implementation of bilateral or multilateral agreements recognizing the equivalence of the operation of the national testing and calibration laboratory accreditation programs in the areas of mutual advantage to the members.

NAAC will also provide the regional infrastructure to negotiate testing and/or calibration agreements with similar organizations in other regions of the world, including serving as North American regional body for ILAC.

**NIST/NACLA
memo of
understanding**

NIST and NACLA have drafted, and agreed to the contents of, a Memo of Understanding (MOU) that sets out a reciprocity agreement between the two organizations; i.e., NACLA accredited laboratories will be automatically recognized by NIST.

The MOU is expected to be signed by both parties at this year's NCSL at Toronto in July.

**DOE nuclear
weapons
recognition**

D. Pettit is working to obtain DOE nuclear weapons recognition of NACLA accrediting bodies.

He will keep the SC posted on developments.

**New action
items**

The attendees approved the suggestions by Pettit for interaction with NACLA and request that he pursue them accordingly.

The attendees requested that D. Pettit ask Joe O'Neill to attend a teleconference for a Q&A session.

Monitoring of NACLA Offices by Ernie Garner

**Discontinuing
this action item**

E. Garner reported that the NACLA offices prefer that organizations monitor the NACLA web site, as opposed to personal monitoring.

The attendees agreed to discontinue the monitoring by E. Garner.

**New action
item**

E. Garner will compile a list of accreditation web sites to be posted on the Accreditation web site as hot links.

2001 Annual Meeting

**Proposed dates
for 2001 annual
meeting**

D. Ragland reported that NASA will hold its annual metrology meeting in early April 2001, and that the Lockheed Martin metrology meeting will be held March 12-14, 2001.

To avoid conflict with those groups, and to maximize the possibility of their attendance at our meeting next year, the attendees agreed to the following dates for the 2001 Accreditation Committee annual meeting: **March 5-8, 2001 at Oak Ridge National Laboratories.**

Action item

The SC instructed the Secretariat to contact the Metrol SC and the Stds. Lab Mgrs Chairperson to confirm the validity of the March 5-8, 2001 date.

CONCLUSION OF MINUTES