June 3, 1997

Interested Parties,

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is conducting a survey of the environmental community on the issue of standards for field activities, such as air emission testing and groundwater sampling. The National Environmental Laboratory Conference (NELAC) is considering establishing standards for field activities. NELAC has already approved standards for laboratory accreditation, which will be used by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP). NELAP will approve states as accrediting authorities. The accrediting authorities, in turn, will accredit laboratories in their states using the NELAC standards.

If NELAC adopts standards for field activities, the states could require the use of those standards for field sampling and measurements, which may in turn require a minimum equipment inventory and specific quality systems. If NELAC adopts standards for the certification of individuals doing field work, some state programs may require the use of certified key staff for compliance testing done in the field.

The purpose of this survey is to determine the interest in 1) standards for field sampling and measurement, and 2) certification of key individuals doing certain field activities. The results will be compiled by DTSC and presented to NELAC to help guide the development of standards.

Please fax your completed questionnaire by July 1 to:
Hazardous Materials Laboratory
fax: (510) 540-2305

or mail to: Hazardous Materials Laboratory
2151 Berkeley Way, Room 515
Berkeley, CA 94704
FIELD ACTIVITIES QUESTIONNAIRE

To help the development of uniform standards for field activities, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is asking your responses to the following questions.

The National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) is considering establishing national standards for field activities.

Are you familiar with NELAC standards? ____________
Are you a member of the NELAC House of Representatives? ____________
Are you a member of the NELAC House of Delegates? ____________
Are you a NELAC contributor? ____________

What is your area of responsibility? ______________________________________

Primary Affiliation
(check only ONE item)

Government
- □ State
- □ EPA
- □ Other Federal
- □ County/Local Government

Private Sector
- □ Private Laboratory
- □ Assessor Body
- □ EPA Regulated Industry
- □ Environmental Interest Group
- □ Academia
- □ Other (please specify)____________________

Field Standards
1. Should uniform national standards be developed for organizations which conduct each of the following field activities? If your answer is yes, what should be the priorities for standard development?

Y/N Priority (1=highest, 2=second highest, etc.)

____ ______ A. Air emission source sampling
____ ______ B. Continuous emission monitoring
____ ______ C. Indoor air sampling
____ ______ D. Ambient air sampling
____ ______ E. Soil gas sampling and analysis
____ ______ F. Soil sampling
____ ______ G. Industrial hygiene sampling
____ ______ H. Sediment sampling
____ ______ I. Water sampling
____ ______ J. On-site soil and water analysis
____ ______ K. Continuous water monitoring
____ ______ L. Solid/hazardous waste sampling
____ ______ M. Field measurement of biological indices (e.g., species)
____ ______ N. Other_________________________
Certification of Individuals

2. Should uniform national standards be developed for the certification or accreditation of key individuals doing the following? If your answer is yes, what should be the priorities?

Y/N  Priority (1=highest, 2=second highest, etc.)

____ _____  A. Air emission source sampling
____ _____  B. Continuous emission monitoring
____ _____  C. Indoor air sampling
____ _____  D. Ambient air sampling
____ _____  E. Soil gas sampling and analysis
____ _____  F. Soil sampling
____ _____  G. Industrial hygiene sampling
____ _____  H. Sediment sampling
____ _____  I. Water sampling
____ _____  J. On-site soil and water analysis
____ _____  K. Continuous water monitoring
____ _____  L. Solid/hazardous waste sampling
____ _____  M. Field measurement of biological indices (e.g., species)
____ _____  N. Other  ______________________________________

Comments:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for your participation. If you have questions about this questionnaire, please e-mail bsimmons@ix.netcom.com or call (510) 540-3003.

Please fax your completed questionnaire by June 15 to:
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or mail to:  Hazardous Materials Laboratory
2151 Berkeley Way, Room 515
Berkeley, CA 94704