

# Looking Ahead

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# Transitioning ELAP

- ▶ As we become a better program, we have more insight to how the laboratories are performing
  - ▶ I'll speak to that in the next few slides
- ▶ We are recognizing where the deficiencies are and our focus is shifting from internal to external improvements
- ▶ Our job is not only to regulate, but to partner with the laboratory community to help them perform well
  - ▶ We are now in a better position to provide assistance

# Quantifying Laboratory Performance

- ▶ Results from on-site assessments
- ▶ Proficiency testing evaluation results
- ▶ Enforcement actions

# Results from On-Site Assessments

- ▶ We are concerned about the deficiencies found in the training assessments
  - ▶ 70% of the drinking water labs assessed are not performing at a level we are comfortable with
- ▶ We suspect wastewater and hazardous waste laboratories are in the same condition
- ▶ We have some ideas to help them

# Proficiency Testing Evaluation Results

- ▶ A result of creating the PT Unit is that now we have a clearer picture of compliance with current PT requirements
- ▶ 74% of laboratories have at least one deficiency
  - ▶ Obtained an unacceptable evaluation (approximately 5%)
  - ▶ Did not participate in a PT study (approximately 47.5%)
  - ▶ Made errors in reporting PT study results (approximately 47.5%)
- ▶ Some deficiencies should improve as laboratories implement or improve their management system
  - ▶ Particularly deficiencies in misreporting and not performing required tests

# Enforcement Actions

- ▶ Our enforcement unit has been busier than anticipated
  - ▶ We've found that some laboratories do not know requirements
  - ▶ Others intentionally do not follow requirements

## Referrals

▪ Total Number of Referrals	67
▪ On-Site Investigations	23
▪ Off-Site Investigations	19
▪ Pending	14
▪ Closed/No Action Taken	11

## Actions Taken

▪ Notices of Violation	24
▪ Criminal Charges	1
▪ Denial of Application	1
▪ Revocation (Full Accreditation)	2
▪ Suspension (Method/FOT)	2
▪ Withdrawal (Method/FOT)	5

# Ideas for Laboratory Improvement

- ▶ Technical training series for laboratory directors and quality assurance officers
- ▶ Dedicated compliance assistance staff
- ▶ Extension on training assessment contract

# Technical Training Series

- ▶ For laboratory directors and quality assurance officers
  - ▶ They are responsible for all laboratory operations and the data produced
- ▶ Focus on the technical aspects of managing a laboratory
  - ▶ Regulatory and analytical method requirements
  - ▶ Instruction on instrumentation
  - ▶ Management of systems and staff
  - ▶ Good laboratory practices
- ▶ This will be designed to address the serious findings from the training assessments

# Dedicated Laboratory Assistance Staff

- ▶ Technical assistance and consultation is not one of ELAP's core functions
- ▶ We would like to dedicate position(s) to development and implement a compliance assistance program
  - ▶ To address this urgent problem
- ▶ Short-term need
- ▶ The compliance program would focus on improving underperforming laboratories

# Extension on Current Assessment Contract

- ▶ NV5/Dade Moeller is only assessing drinking water labs
  - ▶ ELAP doesn't have the expertise or staff resources and we see this as urgent
- ▶ We would like the experts to assess all laboratories once
- ▶ ELAP will perform follow-up "verification" on-site assessments to ensure underperforming laboratories have corrected deficiencies and are on the right path

Thank you