

January 28, 2002

Ms. Linda Fisher, Deputy Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Fisher:

As a results of our Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) meeting held on December 4, 2001, we would like to make the following recommendation based on the comments we received. The recommendation is as follows:

To encourage the Program Policy and Structure Committee of National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) to incorporate Indian tribes as voting members of NELAC. If an Indian Tribe has either regulatory or accreditation duties, that upon receipt of their request, they may be included as a voting member of NELAC. As voting members, they would be allowed to designate one individual to serve in the House of representatives and another individual to vote in the House of Delegates.

It is our belief that this recommendation is consistent with the goals and objectives of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Zonetta E. English, ELAB Chair

cc: Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board
Edward Kantor, *ex officio* Member, Designated Federal Officer for ELAB