



*Agreement Between  
The Environmental Protection Agency  
And  
The American Council Of Independent Laboratories*

*The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL), the trade association of independent scientific and engineering testing laboratories, mutually recognize the value of enhancing public safety through quality testing.*

**EPA and ACIL hereby agree to work together and to use their collective expertise to :**

**Improve** communications between EPA and the environmental laboratory community on changes in business, policy, and technical standards at all levels of operation in a manner that fosters trust and understanding.

**Foster** the adoption of a recognized national environmental laboratory accreditation program characterized by nationally accepted standards for environmental laboratory accreditation, uniform standards for laboratory accreditation, and reciprocity across the states.

**Promote** the performance based measurement system approach to environmental monitoring.

**Eliminate** barriers that stand in the way of increasing confidence in the quality of our nation's environmental testing laboratories and the credibility of the data emanating from these laboratories.

**Improve** the professionalism of the monitoring community by jointly developing and presenting training necessary to increase the expertise of both government and private sector scientists, engineers and technicians.

**To these ends, EPA and ACIL agree to:**

**Establish** a series of periodic meetings between our organizations to discuss technical issues and business practices and options to address any issues that emerge; these meetings would be held in conjunction with the ACIL Annual and Mid-Winter Meetings, at a minimum.

**Cooperate** in education and training efforts in order to increase organizational effectiveness, efficiency and overall quality of the nation's environmental testing.

**Establish** links between the EPA and ACIL Web sites to help members of ACIL keep better informed about Agency activities impacting the monitoring community and members of the greater environmental monitoring community keep abreast of ACIL initiatives to improve data quality. While neither the Agency nor ACIL will be disseminating each other's information through this mechanism, linking the sites will make it significantly easier for interested parties to access the information made available by each organization.

*The goal of this agreement is to provide increased opportunity for EPA and ACIL to work together in order to promote a national dialogue on environmental monitoring issues. By entering into this agreement, EPA is not endorsing any of ACIL's products or services, nor any of the products or services of its member laboratories and organizations.*

*A team made up of representatives of both organizations will meet to develop a plan to implement this agreement. The plan will include the roles and responsibilities of each party, meeting arrangements, specific issues to be addressed, and any other specific steps necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives of this endeavor.*

*All commitments made by EPA in this agreement are subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Nothing in this agreement, in and of itself, obligates EPA to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement, interagency agreement, or to incur other financial obligations. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this agreement will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures, and will be subject to separate subsidiary agreements that will be effected in writing by representatives of both parties.*

*Each party will bear its own costs of carrying out this agreement. ACIL expressly agrees that it will not submit claim for compensation for services rendered to EPA or any other Federal agency for actions taken in furtherance of this agreement.*

*This agreement does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity against ACIL or EPA, their officers or employees, or any other person. This agreement does not direct or apply to any person outside ACIL and EPA.*

*This agreement will remain in effect for two years unless terminated by either party.*

**Agreed this day** \_\_\_\_\_

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Dr. Paul Gilman  
Science Advisor  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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Jerry R. Weathers  
Chair  
American Council of Independent Laboratories