

**Jack Cobb, Pro V&V Laboratory
EAC Public Meeting
February 24, 2015**

Thank you, Commissioner.

Thank you for inviting me here today. I would like to begin by acknowledging three people whom without their involvement, Pro V&V would not exist. I would like to recognize Diane Gray and Wendy Owens for their dedication, hard work and commitment to Pro V&V. They have been on this roller coaster ride with me for over 3 years and have been invaluable to the growth of our lab during these uncertain times. I would also like to acknowledge D. B. Smith for believing that the three of us could achieve this EAC accreditation and for offering encouragement when I was not sure if I wanted to continue down this often challenging and unprecedented path. I would also like to thank our families for their support during this long ride as well as a few nameless people who worked very hard behind the scenes, assisting us in any way they could throughout this difficult, yet rewarding process. They know who they are and we will always be grateful for their support.

The three of us set out 3 years and 5 months ago to test voting systems as an EAC accredited laboratory. We had each been involved in voting system testing for over 10 years and felt that it was time for us to unite our various strengths and use them to form a test lab that we felt would provide the best testing available to the elections technology marketplace. When we undertook the challenge of becoming a VSTL, the landscape looked much different. At the time, there were 2 seated Republican EAC Commissioners and two nominated Democratic EAC

Commissioners, Commissioner Hicks being one of them. Within three months of us setting in motion the creation of Pro V&V, there were no EAC Commissioners. By December of 2011 we were informed by the EAC that no labs could be accredited without EAC Commissioners. We were surprised, but remained cautiously optimistic and continued with our plan, assuming there would be an interim accreditation or some temporary status that would allow us to test voting systems. However, following our audit it became apparent that there was nothing to be done except wait for the conformation of EAC Commissioners. I am happy that this long wait is finally over!

Of course, we tried everything we could and explored various avenues while we waited, including hiring legal counsel and reaching out to our Senators and U.S. Representative as well as other members of Congress. Unfortunately, these efforts did not result in accreditation of our lab, so we continued to wait and forge ahead with other voting system testing work.

Due to our accreditation situation, we decided to change gears and approach states and other entities for possible testing work in areas that our knowledge and experience could be utilized. Thankfully, we were able to provide testing services to various states, localities and other entities that have allowed us to remain active in voting systems testing, including the testing of electronic pollbooks and other peripherals. If there is a silver lining to this situation, it has been the knowledge and experience we have gained from the states, localities and other entities with whom we have had the pleasure of working. We have gained so much more experience and expertise in the three years of working with

state and local jurisdictions that will only enhance our capabilities as an EAC accredited lab, and expand the services we can provide to our clients in the elections community, which will help us to continually grow our business.

It is now 3 years to the day since Pro V&V passed our initial NIST and EAC audits plus three additional audits. Pro V&V can finally begin testing voting systems as a United States Election Assistance Commission Accredited Voting Systems Test Laboratory. It will be an adjustment to think of ourselves as an EAC accredited laboratory instead of an EAC recommended laboratory, but I am sure we will adjust very quickly to our status. Again, I would like to thank the Commissioners for inviting us here today and I want to stress that Pro V&V is proud of our accreditation and we are looking forward to working on our first EAC test campaign. Thank you very much.