

**Minutes of the Public Meeting**  
**United States Election Assistance Commission**  
Ritz Carlton Hotel  
181 Peachtree Street, NE  
Atlanta, GA  
February 21, 2007

**Public Meeting**

**Call to Order**

Chair Davidson called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Davidson led all present in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

**EAC Commissioners**

EAC General Counsel Juliet Hodgkins called roll of the members of the Commission and found present: Chair Donetta Davidson, Commissioner Paul DeGregorio, and Commissioner Gracia Hillman.

**Senior Staff**

Executive Director Thomas Wilkey and General Counsel Juliet Hodgkins.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Before asking for a motion to adopt the agenda, Chair Davidson requested the removal of the word "interim" from the EAC Laboratory Accreditation Program. She then called for a motion to adopt the revised agenda. Commissioner Hillman moved to adopt the agenda. Commissioner DeGregorio seconded the motion. The revised agenda was adopted by unanimous consent of the Commission.

**Welcoming Remarks**

Chair Davidson welcomed everyone and expressed that it was an honor to come before the Standards Board as EAC takes the first step in fully implementing the first federal voting system testing and certification program.

**Presentation**

**Brian Hancock, EAC Director of Testing and Certification**

Mr. Hancock reported that EAC received recommendations from NIST to accredit iBeta Quality Assurance and SysTest Labs under the commission's full voting system test lab accreditation program. Each laboratory will receive a certificate of accreditation as an EAC Voting System Test Laboratory, noting scope of accreditation and successful assessment by NVLAP. EAC staff recommended posting the certificate, the laboratory letter of application, and the signed certification of conditions and practices on the EAC website.

Chair Davidson asked for a motion to accredit iBeta Quality Assurance and SysTest Labs and to adopt the staff's recommendations. Commissioner DeGregorio moved to accredit the labs and to adopt the recommendations as presented. Commissioner Hillman seconded the motion. The floor was then opened for discussion.

## **Discussion**

Commissioner DeGregorio opened the discussion by commending EAC staff on the work they had done in developing the testing and certification program. Mr. Hancock responded to questions from all three commissioners by starting with an overview of iBeta Quality Assurance and SysTest Labs. He surmised that the rigorous EAC assessment process may prompt more states to utilize these accredited labs. Additionally, he anticipated NIST recommending one or two other laboratories this calendar year.

The Commission voted to end the EAC interim testing and certification program on March 5, 2007. Under the program, Wyle Laboratories has a limited scope of accreditation for hardware and will need to complete the NVLAP program to stay with EAC under the full program. EAC's focus is transparency of the process. To that end, NIST's recommendation of iBeta Quality Assurance and SysTest Labs is on the NIST web site and will also be posted on EAC's web site. No concerns have been voiced from scientists or election officials about the labs' accreditations.

NVLAP and NIST will have to review iBeta Quality Assurance and SysTest Labs' certifications under the new standards to be issued later this year. The reputation of these two testing entities is well-known. NVLAP and NIST not only certify laboratories for election equipment but also for a variety of industries including calibration labs, environmental testing, asbestos testing and software-related testing such as encryption. Mr. Hancock informed the commissioners that the NVLAP web site provided a full list of the laboratories they accredit.

Commissioner Davidson opened the floor for a vote on the accreditation of the two labs and the adoption of the EAC staff recommendations. The accreditations of iBeta Quality Assurance and SysTest Labs, along with the staff recommendations, were approved unanimously.

Commissioner Davidson announced that the next EAC Public Meeting would be on April 18 in Kansas City, MO. The meeting topic will focus on poll worker recruitment.

Commissioner DeGregorio gave his farewell statement and each commissioner and the executive director responded with their best wishes.

## **Adjournment**

Chair Davidson adjourned the meeting at 8:29 a.m.