



**Testimony
Before the U.S. Election Assistance Commission**

Wyle Lab Assessment Update

Public Meeting March 11, 2010

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On October 4, 2007, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) unanimously voted to accredit Wyle Laboratories, Inc., (Wyle) of Huntsville, AL as an EAC Voting System Test Laboratory (VSTL) to carry out the testing, certification, decertification, and recertification of voting systems provided for in §231 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002.

An EAC grant of accreditation is valid for a period of two years. VSTLs renew their accreditation by submitting an application package, consistent with the procedures in §3.4 of the EAC Laboratory Accreditation Program Manual (v.1.0). A VSTL retains its accreditation during the EAC application review period.

As its accreditation was set to expire, Wyle submitted a renewal application package for EAC consideration on October 14, 2009. EAC staff then conducted a review of the documentation provided to ensure it was complete and met the requirements of the EAC Laboratory Accreditation Program Manual (v.1.0).

In addition, on January 25-26 2010, the EAC conducted a policy and procedures review of Wyle to fulfill the requirements of Section 4.5.1 of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) *Voting System Test Laboratory Program Manual (Manual)*. This section of the Manual requires the EAC to conduct an on site review once every two years to verify that the laboratories policies, procedures and practices meet the requirements of the EAC laboratory accreditation program and international standards.

The EAC audit assessment of Wyle found no nonconformities in the lab policies or procedures determined to be critical to the VSTLs technical capability to test voting systems. In addition, the audit assessment found no items that would require the

laboratory to initiate immediate corrective action or to formally resolve a noncritical noncompliance. The EAC recommended the following improvements to Wyle:

- The audit noted that while Wyle records all teleconferences and communications with manufacturers, they could improve the organization of these documents by copying and archiving each of the records in the appropriate test project folder.
- While Wyle currently has adequate processes in place to enable corrective actions to occur meeting the minimum requirements for EAC and NVLAP accreditation, EAC recommends that Wyle further develop and document processes for corrective action, specifically including root cause analysis for potential nonconforming work or departures from internal policies and procedures.
- Wyle did not have a complete process in place for notifying the EAC of lawsuits at the time of the audit. EAC recommended that this policy be included immediately.
- While Wyle currently has adequate policies and procedures to protect conflict of interest violations, the EAC recommends that the language in their policy documents be revised to reflect the specific language contained in Section 2.5 of the EAC Laboratory Accreditation Program Manual.
- Wyle currently has very good training documents and procedures for staff. This training appeared, however, to be slightly different for full time staff in comparison to contract employees. The EAC recommended that Wyle work to bolster their training program, particularly for those employees working as contractors on voting system test campaigns.

Wyle fully addressed these recommendations in a submission to the EAC on March 5, 2010.

As required by Section 3.5.4 of the Laboratory Accreditation Program Manual, I will now forward a letter of recommendation to renew the EAC accreditation of Wyle Laboratories, Inc. to the Chair.

Upon an affirmative Commission vote on this reaccreditation, I will inform the VSTL of the decision, issue an updated Certificate of Accreditation, update the EAC website, and inform stakeholders of the Commission's decision.