

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT**

*Transitioning the Environmental Measurements Laboratory (EML) to the Department of
Homeland Security*

May 3, 2007

STATEMENT OF REP. MICHAEL McCAUL (R-TX)

Thank you, Mr. Miller. I will be filling in for Mr. Sensenbrenner today as Ranking Member. I want to welcome our witnesses here today and thank the Chairman for holding this hearing on the Department of Homeland Security's Environmental Measurements Laboratory. As the Ranking Member on the Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology, I'm particularly interested in the future of the Department's national labs.

To that end, I hope the witnesses before us today can help us understand what EML's capabilities are, and how they can best fit into DHS. Anytime a facility is transferred from one agency to another, there is understandably a realignment of work in order to serve the agency's, and the nation's, best interests. EML is no different. They will have to adapt to their new homeland security mission, which will likely mean a different focus and direction for the lab. In identifying this new path, we should also be mindful of other work EML does that may not be aligned with the DHS mission and make sure that we don't lose a national capability just because of turf considerations.

That being said, I am confident that there is a place for EML in DHS. After all, EML is a unique asset: Located in the heart of Manhattan, they have built up strong relationships with state and local entities, and are undisputedly experts in low-level radiation analysis— clearly a high priority for DHS. I look forward to all of our witnesses' testimony — particularly Under Secretary Cohen's and Mr. Oxford's. I hope this will be a productive hearing, and that we will all leave here with a better understanding of how EML can best be utilized in the future.

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