PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lauren Smith
Accreditation Officer
American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)
240.575.7482
lsmith@A2LA.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

A2LA Now Accrediting Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations

May 23, 2012, Frederick, MD – The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) is proud to announce the addition of the Field Sampling and Measurement Organization (FSMO) Accreditation Program to its established Environmental Program. A2LA is currently accepting new applications for accreditation of organizations that perform testing or sampling in the field. Furthermore, A2LA is working with existing accredited laboratories that wish to add the FSMO requirements to their current recognitions.

A2LA had been preliminarily approved by The NELAC Institute (TNI) National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP) to provide accreditation to FSMO’s. A2LA’s preliminary recognition by TNI was achieved in 2011. Several of A2LA’s veteran environmental assessors have successfully completed TNI’s NEFAP Assessor Training course and are qualified to perform the FSMO assessments.

FSMO accreditation is based on A2LA’s assessment of an organization’s performance including their quality management system, procedures, staff technical competence in field measurements and sampling activities and reporting. The FSMO requirements are based on the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 structure and include additional requirements that specifically address challenges and circumstances unique to laboratories and other types of organizations that perform fieldwork.

ABOUT A2LA:

The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) is a nonprofit, non-governmental, public service, membership society. A2LA provides comprehensive accreditation services and related training. Services are available to any type of organization, be it private or government. Accreditation is based on internationally accepted criteria for competence (e.g., ISO/IEC 17025:2005). In addition to laboratory accreditation, A2LA also offers accreditation programs for inspection bodies, proficiency testing providers, reference material producers and product certification bodies.