

**SUMMARY OF THE  
TNI ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENT METHODS EXPERT COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2011**

The Committee held a conference call on Friday, September 9, 2011, at 2:00 pm EDT.

**1 – Roll call**

Richard Burrows, Test America (Lab)	Present
Brooke Connor, USGS (Other)	Present
Dan Dickinson, NYSDOH (Accreditation Body)	Present
Tim Fitzpatrick, Florida DEP (Lab)	Present
Nancy Grams, Advanced Earth Technologists, Inc. (Other)	Present
Anand Mudambi, USEPA (Other)	Present
John Phillips, Ford Motor Co., (Other)	Present
Lee Wolf, Columbia Analytical Services (Lab)	Present
Ken Jackson, TNI administrative support staff	Present

The following Associate Committee members were also present: Francoise Chauvin; Arthur Denny,

**2 – Minutes from August 16, 2011**

It was moved by John and seconded by Anand to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

**3 – Discussion of Overall Approach – are we on the Right Track?**

Richard asked each member in turn to address this question. John said the standard is needed, since calibration is critical. Brooke likes having specific sections on requirements that separate it out from the discussion. Dan likes the way it reads (like a textbook), but is concerned there is a lot of “non-standard” text that will be difficult to audit. He said the requirement sections are not strong enough. Nancy agreed it would be hard to audit to, and it needs to be clear what will be a requirement. Anand quoted RSE as a topic that needs more specific detail; e.g., must be x%. Richard suggested to see where more requirements are needed as the committee goes through the standard. Lee likes the balance of the layout and it reads quite well, but he agrees with others that more specific requirements are needed. Francoise suggested some of the language might be better in the guidance document, but Richard responded if there is no guidance in the standard it will be too short and hard to work with. Arthur is on board with all that has been done so far.

**4 – Review and Discussion of Individual Sections**

Section 5.2 Nancy pointed out it needs to go beyond chromatography. Tim said you are deciding what type of curve to use now that you have the data. After some discussion there was agreement this would be better in Section 4, and Richard will move it. Francoise suggested the standard should speak to the danger of selecting a fit that will meet the QC, rather than choosing the simplest curve for the data. Richard asked if 5.1 should go in Section 4, but Anand said it is part of the assessment and suggested leaving it where it is for now. It was agreed to add the following to Section 5.2: multiple (replicate) points; segmented curves or a single higher order curve; and single point calibration (just a holder for now).

Section 5.2.1 It was questioned what will be done to get beyond the “mish-mash” that is in the methods, and it was stressed that the committee needs to get the users away from  $r$  and  $r$ -squared. It was suggested not to limit Section 5.2.1.2 to un-weighted regressions. Perhaps an evaluation of RSE should be required for other regressions. Richard responded it would be too difficult for smaller laboratories, and it is hoped people will move that way in the future. Dan said requirements are needed to address all the factors in Section 5.2. Nancy said the committee needs to provide a process to follow and suggested a decision diagram for people to decide which curve to use. It was asked if the committee is deciding which curve to use or providing the best conditions for the curve that has been used over the years. Richard said Section 4 describes the various curve types, and this section should enable a decision of which to use.

## **5 – Next Steps and Action Items**

Richard will re-write Section 5.2 from the comments made.

Section 4 will be written next, and some of it can be pulled from the guidance document. However, Richard cautioned not to put too much guidance into the standard. The following writing assignments were agreed:

Nancy: 4.3, 4.3.1, 4.3.2

Lee: 4.2

John: 4.4, 4.3.7

Brooke: 4.1

Richard: 4.5

Tim: 4.3.4, 4.3.5, 4.3.6

Anand 4.7

## **6– Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm. The next call will be September 29 at 2:00 pm Eastern. The October 7 call and all subsequent calls will be rescheduled to 2:00 pm Eastern.