

**SUMMARY OF THE
TNI ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENT METHODS STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2010**

The Committee held its second meeting, via teleconference, on Thursday December 2, 2010, at 12:00 noon EST.

1 – Roll call

Attendance:

Richard Burrows	present
Tim Fitzpatrick	present
John Phillips	present
Ken Jackson, TNI staff	present

2 – Consideration of Minutes from the Previous Meeting.

The minutes were approved unanimously. Ken reported on 3 action items: 1. A notice of proposed expert committee and standards activity was posted on the website at the end of October, with a deadline of November 30 for any comments. Since no comments were received, the way is clear to form the expert committee pending approval by the Consensus Standards Development Board Expert Committee. 2. Ken could not find data on the EPA study on the single laboratory DL QL Procedure v2.4 on the EPA website. Some EPA contacts were suggested and Ken will follow up with these individuals. 3. Ken reported on the availability of travel money for members to attend the biannual TNI Forum and other face-to-face meetings. Resources are limited, and the Steering Committee decided to hold a longer meeting (maybe 2 days) during next year's summer meeting of the Forum and then see how many people would need travel assistance before holding other meetings.

3 – Discussion of Primary Objectives of the Expert Committee

Discussion centered on ways of developing improved measurement tools that would most likely be accepted by all government stakeholders and would be easily implemented by laboratories. Any developed standard, when adopted by NELAP, will be a requirement on top of the current requirements (e.g., for MDL). It was generally agreed that the approach should be to use the procedures developed by the FAC on Detection and Quantitation as a basis for further improvements. It was noted that the EPA FEM definitions and glossary of QC and statistical terms may be applied differently in various EPA programs. Therefore, it is important to understand the needs of the different EPA programs to give the Committee the best chance of its work being acceptable to EPA. Then a standard can be written for adoption by NELAP as a requirement for accreditation, in the hope that EPA will decide it can then be adopted into federal regulation. It will also be hoped that some data users can be persuaded to adopt a more

consistent approach to interpretation of parameters such as LOD and LOQ; i.e., by not accepting quantitation in the concentration range between the LOD and LOQ.

The Steering Committee agreed on the following general objective:

“Our approach will be to improve the technical quality of methodologies that are currently in use, in a way that minimizes the impact on laboratories while maximizing improvements in the quantitative estimates (LOD, LOQ, and calibration.”

This proposed objective will be presented for consideration by the Expert Committee once it has been officially formed.

4 – Proposed Voting Rules

While these will need to be developed further when the Expert Committee has been formed, it was suggested that a simple majority will suffice for most decisions, with at least a two-thirds majority for decisions to move work out of committee.

5 – Consideration of Expert Committee Applicants

Six applications have been received in addition to the three steering committee members. The nine applicants are in the following interest categories:

Accreditation Bodies: 0

Accredited laboratories: 6

Other: 3

It was agreed to invite two applicants in the “Other” category to join (in addition to John Phillips), and to attend the next conference call. Since the committee must be balanced, the decision on the “Accredited Laboratory” applicants was deferred until at least one potential “Accreditation Body” applicant can be found. Ken will pursue this.

6 –Next Meeting

This was scheduled for January 7, 2011, 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm.

8-Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm EST

LIST OF ACTION ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED

Item No.	Date Proposed	Action	Assigned to:	To be Completed by:
1	10/26/10	Post notice of proposed expert committee and standards activity on the website	Ken	COMPLETE
2	10/26/10	Investigate availability of data on EPA study on the single laboratory DL QL Procedure v2.4.	Ken	On-going
3	10/26/10	Investigate resources available to the committee	Ken	COMPLETE
4	12/2/10	Appointment of two Expert Committee Members	Ken	1/6/11
5	12/2/10	Seek expert Committee nominations from AB representatives	Ken	1/6/11