

Microbiology Expert Committee

Conference Call

Feb 5 ; 2:00 p.m. EST

AGENDA

1. Roll Call : Updated the charter. Also we have another request for membership. Committee can now vote. Included a template for the website. Please review and add or correct your info.
2. Review/update of activity from Denver
3. Giardia/ Crypto information
 - a. Email from Carrie Miller , EPA
 - b. Email from Dwayne

<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/drinkingwater/labcert/index.cfm>

<http://water.epa.gov/drink/resources/new.cfm>

4. Any New Business

Notes:

Present:

- Robin Cook, Chair
- Po Chang
- Patsy Root
- Elizabeth Turner
- Karla Fjeld
- Donna Ruokonen
- Mary Robinson
- Carl Kircher – joined at the end

2:07 EST Meeting (Started)

Action Item 1: Need to update the Microbiology Expert Comm. Member information for website by end of week (February 8, 2013).

Karla Fjeld should be classified as 'other' in committee members list.

Patsy: Updated us on the meeting in Denver:

Group was introduced, members, mission and 4 major items that we would initial tackle.

- 1) Review FOPT tables for Crypto and other micro items. Who do we need to contact for that information?

Action Item– Robin will contact the PT committee for a copy of the tables and will find out when they are going to finalized.

- 2) Method codes - Help Dan Hickman. with TNI method codes. Reduce micro codes based technology and method to make them more user friendly-

Action Item: Robin will ask Dan to send latest spreadsheet w/method codes.

- 3) Work on adding and annex to the micro module for Crypto and Giardia methods –these would include specifics on EPA methods and provide guidance for labs. Carrie offered to help with this effort.

Robin - Need to be careful that these documents are not used in replacement of the method(s), but are instead used in conjunction with the method(s). Once created we would need to determine the best way to communicate these items to the general public.

Patsy -The guidance document(s) should not be something that labs would need to purchase. It should be a short interpretation (just one or two pages).

Patsy- The idea would be to provide labs (specifically labs that are not TNI labs) with information on what to expect in an audit from EPA vs from TNI. The worry being that labs that are EPA certified would not know what to expect from TNI.

Po-why do we need a guidance doc? Is it going to be a summary?

Patsy- Since EPA is no longer certifying labs, labs will need to use a TNI AB for Crypto under LT2. It would explain to labs what to expect from TNI assessment as opposed to just an EPA assessment.

Robin – A lab should expect when being audited by TNI to be required to follow module 5 and 2 and 1.

Patsy – Would expect that labs certified for 1623 would need to also be NELAP accredited, but this provides a larger burden on labs.

Action Item: Suggestion made by Robin is that we need to use EPA HQ cert manual and guide as a reference because we do not want any conflicts. Look over EPA manual and checklist. Compare method and EPA checklist with the TNI modules.

Patsy is more concerned with the difference in the process between the EPA audits vs. TNI audits, what will the final outcome be? (A certificate? What proof labs then have that they are 'certified), how the end user receive it? Are non TNI States going to recognize it?

Also are non-TNI ABs OK with TNI assessors doing these assessments and are they OK with the final product and outcome?

Action Item: Invite Jerry to provide us with an update and answer these questions:

Are labs only going to need to comply with just this method for TNI or are they going to have to be fully TNI certified?

Mary- smaller labs are not going to buy into a full accreditation due to cost and resources.

Patsy- Yes, and unless crypto is pushed for pools there is not much market for labs right now.

It comes down to if the agencies are going to accept TNI approval. Then we can determine how we can help.

2015-2017EPA LT2 lab round<100 labs participated in the last program. Only 13 NELAP and State people have gone thru the AB training program that will allow auditors to audit for crypto and giardia.

4) Recreational Water Quality Criteria and qPCR would also fall under module 5.

Guidance came out, in Oct. These are not rules. States must develop quality limits.

Robin –General question: are we addressing the needs of the community? Expect some interpretation requests soon.

Motion to adjourn at 3:07 pm EST.