

**Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)
Meeting Summary**

July 8, 2014

1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Robin Cook, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35pm EST by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 7 members present. The following associate members were also present: Jennifer Best (EPA) and Karl Kircher .

There were not enough people initially on the call to work on minutes. They will be reviewed and voted on at a future meeting.

Associate members need to let Robin and Ilona know they own a copy of ISO 17025 so they can be included in distributions of the draft working standard updates.

2. Standard Update

Robin asked Ilona to give an update on the status of the Standard. There was an issue where the Standard was cleaned up, but the track changes were turned off. Janice will be going back to create the track changes document. The clean copy was posted with the WDS Webinar announcement and then people will be able to request a copy of the document with the track changes if they want it.

The meeting in DC will include a Webinar so people that can't make the meeting still have an opportunity to see/hear the WDS presented publicly. We will take comments for 30 days after the DC meeting and then the committee will need to begin reviewing the comments and updating the standard. Comments will be made to Robin and Ilona and Ilona will input them into the database.

Robin is pleased the standard is posted. She expects there to be good comments and changes moving forward. She does not expect this to be the final product.

Robin asked that everyone carefully review the standard with new eyes and bring comments to the DC meeting. Committee members can send in public comments too.

3. Email from Dwayne – July 7. 2014

Dwayne sent an email to the committee for discussion. He also sent a copy of the method:

... there is a new method that was approved by EPA for drinking water analysis. It is different than any other approved method. I have attached the Federal Registers in which it was approved if we want to look at it for the micro standard. It is called Tecta™ EC/TC and is an automated micro method. I have contacted the company making it for the method and other information.

Comments from Colin:

I can tell you anything you'd like to know about TECTA. It is based upon glucuronidase and galactosidase and the fluorescent substrates (each with different emission spectra) are hydrophobic. They diffuse into a polymeric hub in the bottom of the vessel where the concentration is measured frequently. The test is presence/absence at this stage and is designed for use at treatment plants more than the lab. It is approved for 18 hours but does better than the reference method after 16 hours.

Some of the data from the ATP for this method will be included in my presentation in Washington because the results caused EPA some angst! They couldn't quite grasp that method with a "false negative rate" of 20% but which detected target organisms in 50% more samples than the reference method was still a good method!

Robin asked if Jennifer could review the method and comment whether the Standard the committee is working on will work with this method. Jennifer thinks what is in the new standard works with this new method. She is not aware of any needed updates. The unit noted in the method cannot be take apart – so any maintenance would need to be done by the manufacturer. Calibrations can only be done by the manufacturer.

It was suggested that Colin or a representative of the manufacturer could sit in on another call and give their opinion on additional needs for the standard based on this method.

4. Action Items

A summary of action items can be found in Attachment B. The action items were reviewed and updated.

5. New Business

- Robin asked that there be enough seats for committee members in DC. She would like the meeting to be a little more formal with a stationary microphone instead of a pass around microphone.

6. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be in Washington, DC on August 5, 2014.

A summary of action items and backburner/reminder items can be found in Attachment B and C.

Robin adjourned the meeting (Motion – Patsy Second – Dwayne Unanimous approval).
The meeting ended at 2:11 pm EST.

Attachment A
Participants
Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)

Members	Affiliation	Balance	Contact Information	
Robin Cook (Chair) Present	City of Daytona Beach EML	Lab	(386)671-8885	cookr@codb.us
Patsy Root (Vice-chair) Present	IDEXX Laboratories, Inc	Other	(207)556-8947	patsy-root@idexx.com
Karla Ziegelmann- Fjeld Present	Microbiologics, Inc	Other		kfjeld@microbiologics.com
Donna Ruokonen Present	Microbac Laboratories, Inc	Lab	(219)769-8378 Ext 110	druokonen@microbac.com
Colin Fricker Absent	Analytical Services, Inc	Lab		colinfricker@aol.com
Deb Waller Absent	NJ DEP	AB	(609)984-7732	debra.waller@dep.state.nj.us
Dwayne Burkholder Present	Pennsylvania DEP	AB	(717)346-8213	dburkholde@pa.gov
Mary Robinson Present	Indiana State DOH	AB	(317)921-5523	mrobinson@isdh.in.gov
Elizabeth Turner Absent	North Texas Municipal Water District	Lab	(972)442-5405 Ext 535	eturner@ntmwd.com
Po Chang Present	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	AB	(512)239-4876	Po.chang@tceq.texas.gov
Gary Yakub Absent	Environmental Standards, Inc.	Other	(610)935-5577	gyakub@envstd.com
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) Present	The NELAC Institute	n/a	(828)712-9242	Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org

Attachment B

Action Items – MEC

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
1	Review Method Codes and send comments to Robin for Dan Hickman.	Deb	TBD	
4	Review Handbook and Method Codes before next meeting.	ALL	5/7/13	Handbook Complete.
12	Research possible effects of using bromine and whether it needs to somehow be included in the standard. Does not look like it.	Deb	November 2013 Meeting	
19	Provide EPA interpretation on temperature readings to Ilona. She will have it posted on the website.	Robin	1/31/14	
25	Prepare email vote on WDS and send to Committee Members.	Robin Ilona	7/1/14	Complete

