

**MINUTES OF
THE NELAC INSTITUTE'S
PROFICIENCY TESTING COMMITTEE
CONFERENCE CALL
APRIL 14, 2009**

Agenda Item 1: Standing Committee Operations

The Proficiency Testing (PT) Committee of The NELAC Institute (TNI) met by conference call on April 14, 2009. Committee Chairperson Kirstin McCracken led the call.

Call to Order:

The following committee members were present for this call:

Kirstin McCracken (KM)
Dan Tholen (DT)
Steve Arpie (SA)
Shawn Kassner (SK)
Roger Kenton (RK)
Lisa Touet (LT)
Amy Doupe (AD)
James Weber (JW)

7 out of 10 committee members were present and this number does comprise a majority sufficient to conduct committee business. A complete list of committee members is provided in Attachment B.

The following associate members were present for this call:

Dan Dickinson
Jill Henes

Call Guests:

June Flowers
Jeff Flowers

Agenda Item 1: Standing Committee Operations

The minutes from the teleconference from 03/17/09 were presented for approval. The motion was seconded, there was no further discussion and the minutes were approved.

Kirstin provided an update on open action items.

Agenda Item 2: PT Frequency

- Review Hold for Next Revision Comments

6 Comments regarding PT Frequency and/or FoPT were received during standards voting. After review, the comments were placed on Hold for Next Revision. The committee must now decide if these comments are persuasive or non-persuasive. Of the 6 comments received, 3 of the comments were received by June or Jeff Flowers of Flowers Chemical Laboratories. Both June and Jeff are strong advocates for change so to initiate our discussion on the topic –June and Jeff were invited to

our call to present their comments to the committee followed by open discussion. The objective of the exchange is to be certain the committee understands the comments and rationale for change presented by these TNI members.

June began that for those labs approved with both potable and non-potable water the methodology is the same or similar and these labs are running PT 4X per year. She noted the cost to purchase the PT was not significant but the cost for management, analysis and reporting of the PT was burdensome. She also thought that reduction in PT frequency would bring more ABs into the TNI program. June suggests 1 PT per FoPT with a requirement for immediate corrective action PT for any failure. (At present, corrective action PT is at the discretion of the laboratory).

Jill noted that some state programs allow a pass rate of 80% and that corrective action may not always require a corrective action PT.

Shawn noted that the EPA website for the EPA WP/WS program showed participation at 2X per year. Steve noted that most of the NE States require 1 PT per year.

Dan Dickinson raised the question of frequency for client PTs- what is their expectation and how are the results used? June noted that most client expectations are generally 2 PT per year – this was confirmed by other lab representatives on the call.

Roger raised the question- are PTs superior to the Quality System and what value does the quality system hold in this process?

Jeff Flowers noted that the aqueous PT matrix is at issue – basically potable water and non-potable water PTs are the same matrix with different concentration ranges. The benefit gained by analysis of both matrices of PTs is negligible compared to cost.

It was suggested that potable water and non-potable water be combined into a single matrix. Labs accredited for both programs could run drinking water methods for 1 PT and non-potable water methods for the 2nd PT. Eric Smith noted this could cause complications because some state programs require that all PTs be analyzed at a certain schedule.

Chuck asked if anyone had written commitment from any non-NELAC state that they would apply to be an AB if PT frequency were reduced or if any AB would drop out of the program if PT frequency were reduced (nobody did).

Gary thought the committee needs to pursue the concept that one PT does not fit all. The DOE requires 2 per year, for EPA CLP PT are required quarterly or even more frequently.

The discussion came full circle to the need to focus on benefit vs. cost and a focus on quality.

- What is the purpose of PT within the context of the TNI Program?
- Is the quality of data improved with 2 PT per year and is the improvement significant enough to offset the cost of the PT program?

Dan T provided an update on subcommittee activities, they plan to have a report to the committee in June.

Agenda Item 3: Standards Interpretation

The committee members agreed that corrective action PTs do not reset the PT schedule. Kirstin will draft the response and forward to the LASC.

Agenda Item 4: TIA Update

TIA were forwarded to CSDB. CSDB approved TIA and will forward to Jerry for posting. Kirstin to forward email on LASC #14 to committee for vote.

Agenda Item 5: Other Business

Wet, Rad, Air Subcommittees: Chairs will finalize membership and provide update to group at next meeting.

PT Charter: Need to finalize 2008 and approve 2009. Focus for next call.

Supplemental Calls: The call participants agreed that added calls were needed for the next few months. To that end, the committee will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of April and May.

The call was adjourned by Kirstin.

Next Meeting: The next teleconference is teleconference is scheduled for April 28, 2009.

Attachment A

**ACTION ITEMS
TNI PROFICIENCY TESTING COMMITTEE**

Item	Action Item	Assigned To	Due Date	Date Complete
1	Update 2008 Charter and Forward	Kirstin	01/31/09	In Progress
2	Submit TIA to CSDB	Kirstin	03/20/09	03/30/09
3	Solicit Volunteers for Guidance Documents	Kirstin	04/01/09	On Hold

Attachment B

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