

**SUMMARY OF THE
TNI LABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING EXPERT COMMITTEE MEETING**

OCTOBER 13, 2017

The Committee met by teleconference on Friday, October 13, 2017, at 11:00 am EST. Chair Nicole Cairns led the meeting.

1 – Roll call

Fred Anderson, Advanced Analytical Solutions (PT Provider)	Present
Nicole Cairns, NYSDOH (Chair; Laboratory)	Present
Rachel Ellis, NJ DEP (AB)	Present
Patrick Garrity, KYDOW (AB)	Absent
Craig Huff, ERA (PT Provider)	Present
Susan Jackson, SC DHEC (AB)	Absent
Stacie Crandall, Hampton Roads San. Distr. (Lab)	Absent
Tim Miller, Phenova (PT Provider)	Present
Donna Ruokenen, Microbac (Lab)	Absent
Ken Jackson, Program Administrator	Absent

Associate Committee Members present: Thekkekalathil Chandrasekhar, FLDEP; Audrey Cornell, ERA; Amanda Grande, Phenova; Shawn Kassner, Neptune; Brian Stringer, ERA

2 – Previous Minutes

It was moved by Fred and seconded by Craig to approve the minutes of July 7, 2017. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

3 – Reminder to Vote

Nicole reminded call participants to vote on the V1M4 Voting Draft Standard by the October 15 deadline.

4 – WET Update

Nicole said the Whole Effluent Toxicity Committee was having problems with some PTs having small data sets. They are working with EPA through the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB), and they are thus waiting to see what EPA will decide. It may become necessary to change the PT tables or modify the standard.

5 – Glossary of Terms

Nicole had circulated the draft glossary of terms. She commented that Volumes 3 and 4 may have been overlooked when the glossary was put together. Several additions/modifications were proposed.

The definitions for Acceptance Limits and Assigned or True Value already in the glossary were pertinent to Stationary Source Audit Samples, and the definitions from Volume 3 needed to be

added. Certified Reference Material and Reference Material in the glossary were from V1M2, but the slightly different definitions in Volume 3 were from ISO Guide 30. It was agreed these were the definitions that should be used, and the Guide 30 reference should be added in parentheses,

Several definitions in the glossary already referenced V1M1 and/or V2M2, but the additional source of V3 and/or V4 was added. This applied to Field of Proficiency Testing; Lot; Primary Accreditation Body; Proficiency Testing; Proficiency Testing Program; Proficiency Testing Reporting Limit (PTRL); Proficiency Testing Sample; PT Study Closing Date – Scheduled; PT Study Closing Date – Supplemental; PT Study Opening Date – Scheduled; PT Study Opening Date – Supplemental; Study (or PT Study) – Scheduled; and Study (or PT Study) – Supplemental.

Proficiency Testing Provider and Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditor (PTPA) definitions were added to the different definitions already in the glossary from the FSMO program.

Additionally, V3 had several acronyms: IC25, LD50, NOEC, non-NOEC and WETT, but it was agreed that acronyms should not be in the glossary.

Ken raised the question of matrix. Potable Water and Drinking Water were used interchangeably in the standard. The only reference to matrix in the glossary was to the quality system matrices. He pointed out the 2003 NELAC standard defined matrices that were generally the EPA definitions. He volunteered to raise the issue with Bob Wyeth of adding matrix to the glossary.

6 – Review of Comments for the Next Standard Revision

Nicole provided a list of comments for consideration.

General

- 1) Radiochemistry requirements. Bob Shannon would be providing input.
- 2) Preparative Methods. These would require Accreditation Body buy-in.
- 3) Review and update to the latest ISO/IEC standard where applicable in all volumes.
- 4) Standardization of WETT PTs and dealing with small data sets (see Item #4 above).
- 5) For V1M1 and/or V2M2, Nicole posed the question: who determines what fields of accreditation have corresponding fields of proficiency testing (FoPT)? Is it the Primary NELAP AB? Carl Kircher, in revising V2, was asking if this needed to be part of the standard or if it should be a NELAP Accreditation Council policy. Shawn asked if this is decided already, because it is the Accreditation Bodies (AB) who request a new Field of Proficiency Testing.

Volume 1, Module 1

- 1) In Section 3.0, a definition for Secondary AB should be added. Though it may not be applicable when the glossary of terms is completed.
- 2) Breakdown products are non-spiked analytes, so laboratories may fail if they report a breakdown product when present above the PTRL. The question of how to report this was brought up during the August 2016 Forum in Washington DC, after the Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) received a complaint on the issue. It may require at least FoPT changes if not changes to the standard.

Volume 3

- 1) In Section 3.0 PTPA is defined, but not PTPEC. It may be necessary to add PTPEC or remove PTPA, but this may not be applicable when the glossary of terms is completed.
- 2) In Section 3.0, the definition of PTRL may need improving, but this may not be applicable if the glossary of terms is completed.
- 3) In Section 4.6, it was questioned if additional detail should be provided on why a referee laboratory would be needed.
- 4) In Section 5.5.3.4.2, it had been suggested to add "...with the justification for modification(s)." to the end of the phrase as was done in Section 5.7.1.2.
- 5) It was questioned, in Sections 5.6.1.7 and 5.6.1.8 a) and b), whether biased and unbiased verification methods should be more clearly defined.
- 6) With regard to Verification, Homogeneity, and Stability (VHS) criteria, a commenter would like to improve consistency among PT providers by following specific criteria/calculations. Nicole suggested this was the most significant comment
- 7) It was suggested there should be an update from Guide 34 to ISO/IEC 17034.
- 8) Scoring of breakdown products may be needed.

New PTs for Program

- 1) Legionella was suggested, and it was questioned if this would require updates to the standard.

Other comments

Shawn suggested creating uncertainty limits for radiochemistry PTs.

7 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm EDT. Nicole suggested discussing membership at the next meeting, and electing a Committee Chair for next year.