

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

FEBRUARY 16, 2018

The Committee met by teleconference on Friday, February 16, 2018, at 11:00 am EST. Chair Nicole Cairns led the meeting.

1 – Roll call

Fred Anderson, Advanced Analytical Solutions (PT Provider)	Present
Jim Brownfield, ESC (Laboratory)	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
Tim Miller, Phenova (PT Provider)	Present
Reggie Morgan, Hampton Roads San. Distr. (Lab)	Present
Donna Ruokonen, Microbac (Lab)	Absent
Ken Jackson, Program Administrator	Absent

Associate Committee Members present: Thekkekalathil Chandrasekhar, FLDEP; Audrey Cornell, ERA; Jason Poore, A2LA

2 – Previous Minutes

It was moved by Craig and seconded by Tim to approve the minutes of January 5, 2018. All were in favor and the minutes were approved. It was moved by Fred and seconded by Tim to approve the minutes of January 23, 2018, after corrected a typographical error (last bullet of Section 3). All were in favor.

3 – Future Tasks

Nicole had circulated a list of tasks that the committee would need to address in the future, and these were discussed.

VIM1 2016 Summary of Changes. This was requested by Jerry Parr, who asked for it to be completed as soon as possible. It needed to be a direct comparison on the 2009 and 2016 standards, and it had been stressed that the reason for each change should be provided. Shawn had already written a document providing most of the changes, and this was attached for the committee to reference. Nicole and Craig volunteered to work together on the first draft, and they would then run it past other committee members who had been deeply involved in the 2016 standard.

PTRL Guidance Document. This was requested by May 2018. Nicole reminded members that the 2009 standard allowed reporting to the LOQ, and the 2016 standard reverted to Proficiency Test Reporting Limit (PTRL) that had been a requirement of the 2003 standard. The first step would be to apply to the Policy Committee for approval to write guidance. Jim volunteered to complete the form required by Policy, and to present it in draft form to the committee on its next conference call.

SIR Review. This would be due in August 2018. The task was to review all Standards Interpretation Requests (SIR) that had been dealt with for the 2003 and 2009 standards. Jerry Parr had provided a SIR PT summary document. For each SIR, the committee needed to determine to which standard it was relevant (2003, 2009, 2016). It also had to be checked if the SIR determination was incorporated into the 2016 standard. Nicole identified 2 of the SIRs listed as unresolved, but she would check with LASEC if they had approved the responses. (She sent them to LASEC on 3/5/17). Nicole said she would send the spreadsheet out to the committee, with individuals assigned to review each SIR.

VIM1 Training Webinar. This was due in the Fall of 2018. In due course, Nicole would look at the training webinar that was presented at the Houston meeting, to see if it would be sufficient.

PT Frequency. This topic was discussed at the assessment forum of the January 2018 Albuquerque. It was an old topic revisited, and the committee was provided with the final subcommittee report from 2009. That report was inconclusive. Nicole explained the issue has arisen because the State of California requires only 1 PT sample per year, and this would preclude it again becoming a NELAP Accreditation Body. During the Albuquerque meeting, no strong opinions were expressed, and a straw poll was about even on the issue of 1 versus 2 PT samples per year. However, many other organizations (e.g., the Department of Defense; DoD) require 2 PTs per year. Changing PT frequency would require revision of the standard, and that will not happen soon. In the meantime, an extensive discussion on this topic is scheduled for the New Orleans meeting in Summer 2018.

Backburner Items. Listed here were: a comparison of the DoD vs TNI PT Requirements (DoD requires all analytes spiked into all PTs); and incorporation of the revised ISO 17011 and 17025 standards into the TNI standard.

4 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am EST.