TNI LABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING EXPERT COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 20, 2014

The Committee met by teleconference on Friday, June 20, 2014, at 11:00 am EST. Chair Shawn Kassner led the meeting.

1 – Roll call

Fred Anderson, Advanced Analytical Solutions (Other)	Present
Stephen Arpie, Absolute Standards (Other)	Present
Kareen Baker, Independent (Other)	Absent
Yumi Creason, PA DEP (AB)	Present
Rachel Ellis, NJ DEP (AB)	Absent
Scott Hoatson, Oregon DEQ (AB)	Present
Shawn Kassner, Phenova (Chair; Other)	Present
Roger Kenton, Eastman Chemical Co. (Lab)	Absent
Stacie Metzler, Hampton Roads San. Distr. (Lab)	Present
Mitzi Miller, Dade Moeller Assocs. (Other)	Absent
Judy Morgan, Env. Science Corp. (Lab)	Absent
Virgene Mulligan, Amrad (Lab)	Absent
Joe Pardue, P2S (Other)	Absent
Jim Todaro, Alpha Analytical (Lab)	Absent
Lisa Touet, MA DEP (AB)	Present
Ken Jackson, Program Administrator	Absent

Associate Committee Members present: Nicole Cairns, NYSDOH; Thekkekalathil Chandrasekhar, FLDEP; Audrey Cornell, ERA; Brian Stringer, ERA, Leah Villegas, CDNI.

2 – Previous Minutes

The minutes of June 6 were considered. A correction was proposed to change the time of the end of the call from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. With this change in place it was moved by Fred and seconded by Scott to approve the minutes.   In the absence of a quorum Shawn said he would send the minutes out for e-mail.

3 – Volume 3 Comments

Consideration of comments received on the V3 WDS was continued.

Hoffman and Villegas. Leah Villegas was present on Shawn's invitation, and went through the comments.   In Section 4.1.1, they were just confirming only 1 PTP was approved by EPA for Cryptosporidium through ACLASS, and that provider would continue to be approved by TNI. There were no problems with Section 5.5.1. Referring to Section 5.6.1, Leah said Cryptosporidium and Giardia could only be whole numbers and they have real zeros. Also no outliers are thrown out of the PT set. Shawn said that was similar to the microbiology membrane filtration method where

everything is reported to a whole number. Leah agreed 5.6.1 could be left as written, because the flexibility statement was there. She asked for Protozoans to be added to Sections 5.6.1.8 and 5.7.3. Nicole pointed out the Protozoan FoPT table says PTRLs are not applicable, because the assigned value will always be above the PTRL. Nicole suggested saying all Protozoans are scored by Section 5.9.3.1, so 5.9.3.2 would be not applicable. Shawn said he would make that change. He thought the section could be left as microbiology and then the Protozoans could be rolled into that. Leah agreed there would be no need for a separate Protozoan module. Scott suggested just adding the statement that there shall be whole numbers for Protozoans. Leah said she was happy with the assigned value verification in Section 5.6.1. Shawn asked if the homogeneity and stability testing part would need to be modified for Cryptosporidium, because the statistics section specifies robust analysis for the mean and standard deviation, and there are no outliers to reject. It was suggested having a separate bullet for Protozoans saying all data points need to be considered. It was also pointed out that Section 5.9.3 would need amending, because microbiology can report a "less than" while Cryptosporidium is reported as a whole number that can be zero. It was noted the Federal Register requires 3 PT samples and the mean to be evaluated. Shawn said he would work with Leah on the language before the next call.

Dan Tholen. These comments had been partially considered during the previous call. It was agreed the incorrect reference to Section 6.4 would be changed to 5.7. It was also agreed to go to the ISO 17043 definition of assigned value. Steve added that ISO 17043 really needs ISO 13528 to list several definitions based on IUPAC chemistry (e.g., gravimetric has the least uncertainty, while methods using study mean and robust statistics have the most uncertainty). Shawn had checked that it would be acceptable to define assigned value here because it is not referenced in other volumes and modules. On Scott's suggestion the committee agreed to just refer to ISO 17043 for assigned value. Shawn had corrected spelling errors pointed out by Dan. Shawn said he would ask Dan to clarify his statement *"Numerical literacy is not an enforced requirement for PTPAs and therefore cannot be assumed for PTPs - the Note should be retained."* As agreed during the previous call, Shawn had removed "study mean" from Section 5.6.2.2. Also in Section 5.6.2.2, Dan had said: *"You cannot assume that PTPs know how to calculate the "between sample standard deviation" it is not the same as the standard deviation of homogeneity sample means – it is less than that. If it is difficult to give the example in this document, then please cite ISO 13528 or IUPAC Harmonized Protocol (2006).* Shawn had added that to the section, but Nicole was not sure if the calculation was accurate. On Nicole's suggestion, Shawn said he would check back with Dan.

Shawn read Dan's final comment, suggesting retention of Appendix A or a suitable alternative. Steve raised concerns over the appropriateness of some of Dan's comments, asking Shawn to confirm in an e-mail who Dan was representing. Steve also asked Shawn to vet the comments in accordance with TNI's policy for running a committee. Shawn felt that was not an issue for this committee, and said he would add that to the response. However, Shawn agreed the comments would be ignored because they were parenthetical to the committee. Steve said he did not hold Shawn responsible, but it needed to be understood what is and what is not allowed. Steve added that technical arguments are no problem, because people are right and wrong every day. Shawn said he would call Dan for clarification and then add these comments to the comment form so they are part of the response back to Dan, as well as so the committee could understand what was going on with them.

Cathy Westerman. Shawn had made the changes to the standard that were agreed during the previous call.

Dan Dickinson. The committee agreed with the response Shawn had added to the comment form. Nicole clarified that Dan probably wanted the predicted mean to be also on the form to alleviate confusion by the laboratories.

Susan Butts.   The committee agreed with Shawn's response.

Shawn said he would put these forms with their response out for vote by the committee. He would also call Dan Tholen for clarifications and forward them to the committee for consideration before the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm EDT.