

TNI Air PT Expert Committee Conference Call Summary July 7, 2008

Participants: Heidi Hayes (Air Toxics), John Yokoyama (Columbia Analytical), Shawn Kassner (ERA), Ken Eichelman (Air Liquide), Richard Swartz (MO DNR), Candace Sorrell (EPA), Ken Jackson (State of NY)

TNI Staff: Jerry Parr (Executive Director), Jane Wilson (Program Administrator)

Jerry Parr welcomed the participants and each gave self introductions and their interest in the new Committee.

Jerry noted that several background documents had been provided prior to the call. He directed attention to the TNI introductory slides that provide an outline of the TNI organization and standards development process. A background document outlining the potential role of TNI in the privatization of the EPA Stationary Source Audit Program (SSAP) and three presentations provided at the January 2008 Forum on Laboratory Accreditation were also included.

It was confirmed that this is the first meeting of a new TNI committee. TNI has an existing Expert Committee on Proficiency Testing (PT) for laboratories, but this Committee will address standards for stationary sources. The Committee should consider a name that differentiates it from the existing PT Committee.

Ken Jackson provided an overview of the TNI consensus standards development process. TNI's standards process is defined in the document SOP 2-100 Procedures Governing Standards Development. The consensus Standards Development Program has been accredited by ANSI, and has autonomy over the conduct of its business. Standards are developed while respecting the need for balance and openness in the operation of the Expert Committees. Another document, Procedures for Expert Committee Operations, provides additional details on committee procedures and will be provided to the new committee.

Jerry announced that the new committee has two time slots at the Washington DC Environmental Measurement Symposium— a Monday August 11 lunch meeting and an afternoon session the same day.

Ken added that Committee still needs to be officially formed by vote of the Consensus Standards Development Board (CSDB). This call is also being used to have participants confirm their continued interest. Once operational, the Committee will elect a chair and the chair will become a member of the CSDB. A roster of committee members and contact information will also be distributed to everyone

Jerry asked for input from the participants as to the essential elements of the standards or SSAP program going forward.

It was asked what mechanism would require someone to follow the standards that this committee might develop. What authority would TNI have? EPA will retain authority over the SSAP and is currently writing a new regulation to restructure the program to accommodate privatization. Audit samples will still be required where available from accredited providers. The restructuring will allow audit samples to come from private providers.

Jerry added that the TNI PT Board has formed a subcommittee to determine acceptable concentration ranges, etc. as a separate activity.

It was asked if there is a standard “template” available for use by the committee. Jerry explained that the committee will be able to utilize the existing TNI PT standards modules as a template, or at least for formatting, etc. Word versions will be made available for editing.

Candace Sorrel provided a description of the current database that is used to support the SSAP. Testers enter their results into the database and results are calculated based on the acceptance criteria for the analyte. Testers get confirmation of pass/fail from the system – that is how they are graded. Users must be registered on the database to see results. EPA will have to discuss whether they will maintain the database with privatization. States can also currently order samples through the system. EPA submits the orders and a contractor fills the order. Samples may be shipped to a state, lab, tester, etc. States want to keep the sample process blinded, such as for concentration range, etc. State actions resulting from failed samples vary based on the severity of the failure, audit results, correlation to testing standards, etc.

From a lab perspective, John Yokoyama noted the importance of the use of proper methods for analysis. Source folks are trying to use ambient air criteria improperly, use of non-validated methods, etc. Validation of sampling approaches is important as well. It was also noted that it is more expensive to make air PT standards and they have a shorter shelf life than other types of PT samples.

Next conference all is scheduled for July 21, 2008 3:00 pm EDT. Jane will circulate the minutes from the initial meeting and the arrangements/materials for the next call.

To be covered on the next call:

- Committee operations procedure
- Review template for committee charter
- Review potential timeline for development of standards
- Further details on EPA program as needed