

**TNI Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee
Meeting Summary
August 25, 2009**

1. Roll call and Meeting Minutes:

Co-Chair Carl Kircher called the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee to order on August 25, 2009, at 11am EST. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A.

Minutes from the July 28, 2009 meeting were previously distributed to a limited number of members. Jeff sent the minutes to the other meeting participants for review. Review and approval of these minutes will be delayed until the September 8, 2009 meeting.

2. PT Acceptance Minute SOP

The PT Board has asked the subcommittee to review the SOP and update it based on the new TNI standard instead of the 2003 NELAC Standard. Carl distributed the most current copy of the SOP with Dan Tholan's edits.

Jeff had the following comments:

- Need to change the revision number to 3.
- Page 4, Sect 2.8: Changed last bullet. Isn't this in conflict with the TNI standard? Does the TNI standard state mean +/- 2 standard deviations for WS? Eric clarified that the PT Board wants mean +/- 3 standard deviations for WS for the experimental analytes being moved over to the accreditation tables. Jeff asked that this be put in writing to the subcommittee.

Steve asked why 3 standard deviations? Carl stated that it was a way to keep the limits wider and minimize the chance of a lab failing the new analyte until more data can be collected to determine limits for the analyte.

Carl asked for clarification from Eric to summarize what the PT Board direction is to the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. A final summary of the PT Board minutes is not yet available, but he believes that the move to mean +/- 3 standard deviations for the experimental analytes is part of this direction.

The group discussed various options in addition to the mean +/- 3 standard deviations option. Steve's concern is that the mean +/- 3 standard deviations is not transparent to the laboratories. Labs need to be able to see where limits come from.

Carl commented that the Chem FoPT tables need to be finalized by July 2010. This means that the PT Board needs to recommend these tables by January 2010. This timing needs to be taken into consideration in determining how we proceed.

Steve asked if labs are still required to see a minimum of 10%. Carl commented that this is open for discussion. Steve continued: If 10% is the lower requirement, then can't the group pick an upper limit (190%? 200%?) and call this the limit for experimental PTs being added to the accreditation tables? Carl suggested 200%.

Chuck commented that setting the limits using this approach is a disservice to the lab community and the states. If we are going to do this, we should talk about each limit analyte by analyte. Steve does not think picking a reasonable upper limit is a disservice. It would be based on technical knowledge and we should talk about each analyte. They are in agreement.

- Page 6. Section 3 A.2 – Removal of the data sets. Why don't we just use anything 10 or above? Remove red text. Nothing magical with 20 in the past. Carl made the change in the SOP Draft.
- Page 10. Section I note – It references the NELAC Standard. Needs to be removed.
- Section H. Seems to be in conflict with the TNI standard. Eric commented that Michella (on PT Board) stated that EPA does not have a problem using the mean +/- 3 standard deviations for unpromulgated analytes.

For drinking water, we'll use mean +/- 3 standard deviations unless it is promulgated at mean +/- 2 standard deviations. If we do this with everything on the tables, then we will need to go back over what we have already done. Do we leave the unregulated analytes that are already on the accreditation tables at +/- 2 standard deviations? Or is this discussion only relevant to the unregulated drinking water experimental analytes added from this point forward? The group decided to leave the text as mean +/- 2 or 3 standard deviations.

- PT Board should communicate with the NELAP Board – Need to ask them if they will agree to mean +/- 2 or 3 standard deviation limits. Jeff thought there is rumor that the NELAP Board wants to see fixed limits so that all the providers are doing things the same way. This is an action item for Eric. Carl heard at a luncheon meeting on Wednesday in San Antonio that the NELAP Board will no longer accept any experimental analyte tables. Dan Hickman also mentioned this during the PT meeting on Monday.

Also suggested asking the NELAP Board if they will accept the decision in the bullet above ... mean +/- 3 standard deviations for unregulated drinking water analytes.

Carl asked if the PT Board could have a joint discussion with the NELAP Board? Eric could arrange this with Carol Batterton. Eric will take this under consideration.

Carl will make the updates to the SOP and distribute it to the subcommittee for review prior to the next meeting on September 8, 2009.

Eric asked about the use of the words “guidance” or “guidance documents” – will this be worked on by subcommittee or PT Board? Alfredo had mentioned that the Policy Committee may have an issue with the term “guidance”. The subcommittee will work on this before it goes to the subcommittee membership for review.

3. Limit Updates

Eric commented that the PT Board has asked if the subcommittee could look at problem analytes when putting the tables together and provide them with a list of these problem analytes. Carl mentioned that this may not be as big a problem with the updates to the SOP and use of the new TNI standard instead of the 2003 NELAC standard. We will be removing all sets with less than 10 instead of less than 20.

An Excel spreadsheet was developed by Jeff with the experimental analytes to see which have insufficient data to develop limits. Eric commented that if there are analytes that need to be dropped, the PT Board would like to know about these. Jeff pointed out a few analytes that are problem analytes and maybe they should be removed from the analyte lists. Eric would like to start working with the NELAP Board to see if some analytes could be dropped from the Experimental Analyte Table.

Jeff suggested that these problem analytes be communicated as they come up instead of focusing only on problem analytes.

Carl will send out the Excel file to the group and he would like to open e-mail communication to put a list together of recommended analytes to drop. Ilona will summarize this correspondence into a single table. Any analyte that is recommended for removal ... please state why you think it should be removed.

4. Meeting Time

Due to some scheduling changes and new conflicts, the meeting time will be changed to 12pm EST instead of 11am EST.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee will be September 8, 2009, at 12PM EST. The SOP update will be sent out to the group prior to the call.

Action Items are included in Attachment B and Attachment C includes a listing of reminders.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM EST.

Attachment A

Participants TNI Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
Carl Kircher, Co-Chair Present	Florida DOH	904-791-1574 carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us
Brian Boling, Co-Chair Absent	Oregon DEQ	Boling.Brian@deq.state.or.us
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Jeff Lowry Present	ERA	303-431-8454 jlowry@eraqc.com
Chuck Wibby Present	Wibby Environmental	303-940 -0033 cwibby@wibby.com
Eric Smith Present	TestAmerica	615-726-0177 x1238 eric.smith@testamericainc.com
Dan Tholen Absent	A2LA	231-929-1721 Tholen.dan@gmail.com
Stephen Arpie Present	Absolute Standards, Inc.	203-281-2917 stephenarpie@mac.com
Dan Dickinson Absent	New York, DOH	518-485-5570 dmd15@health.state.ny.us
Stacey Fry Absent	E.S. BABCOCK & Sons, Inc.	951-653-3351 x238 sfry@babcocklabs.com
Jim Absent		mousejr@nu.com
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Present	TNI	828-712-9242 tauntoni@msn.com

Attachment B

Action Items – Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
13.	Prepare letter to ABs to find out their needs on analytes that may be under consideration for deletion. (3/24/09 – <i>It was determined that these tables are used by more than just ABs. This needs to be reconsidered.</i>)	TBD	TBD	
19.	Request the final revision of the SOP #4-001 Guidelines for Calculation of Acceptance Limits from the TNI PT Board.	Eric/Carl	5/5/09	Delayed due to exp PT tables.
22.	Prepare for upcoming meetings by reviewing evaluation files that Jeff will send every 2 weeks.	All	Ongoing	
25.	Carl will distribute an updated copy of the Limit Update SOP for final review. It will be discussed at the 9/8 meeting.	Carl	9/1/09	
26.	Carl will distribute the list of potential problem analytes for the group to review and comment on. What should be removed from the table and a reason for why it should be removed. Ilona will compile any comments received.	Carl Ilona	9/1/09 9/8/09	
27	Prepare communication to NELAP Board regarding potential changes to Limit Update SOP.	Eric	9/8/09	
28	Eric clarified that the PT Board wants +/- 3 standard deviations for WS for the experimental analytes being moved over to the accreditation tables. Jeff asked that this be put in writing to the subcommittee.	Eric	9/22/09	

Attachment C

Backburner / Reminders – Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
1	Review summary data to see if it supports a change in the acceptance criteria for DW analytes (For example, VOA, 30% instead of 20%). If data is supportive, Jeff Lowry will approach ELAB.	10-30-08	3/10/09 - Jeff has approached ELAB. They would be happy to put it in a work group – and pass it along with a letter to EPA. We need to provide them with the data.
3	Consider changing the lower limit for Vanadium on WP to 50 ug/L.	6-30-09	
4			
5			