

Minutes, PT Frequency Subcommittee

DATE: July 11, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. EDT

Subcommittee members in attendance (7): D Tholen (chair), J Lowry, M Karapondo, J Morgan, R Karimi, R Haynes, G DeChant
Guest, ex officio: K McCracken: Chairman PT Committee
Associate member: S Kassner, J Flowers
Subcommittee members absent (1) C Wibby

Dan Tholen opened the meeting at 1:00p.m. (EDT).

Two documents had been distributed prior to the meeting:

- Draft minutes from June 20 teleconference
 - Study analysis from J Lowry
1. Jeff Flowers requested adding to agenda a discussion on the Subcommittee Charter.
 2. Minutes from June 20 meeting were discussed and Jeff Flowers suggested a change to item 3 to note the comments made during the discussion of the analysis. Dan agreed to revise the minutes and circulate them for approval at the next meeting.
 3. J Lowry led the group through the analysis of NW Jersey WP metals data. There was extensive discussion on the interpretation of the summary statistics and statistical tests. As a result of the discussion the following was agreed:
 - a. The study should be limited to analytes where there was good participation by both groups of labs (1PT/year and 2PT/year);
 - b. Statistical tests should show p values rather than tests at 95% confidence, although the 95% limit is acceptable for summary frequencies of significant tests;
 - c. Dan will define a statistical test for differences in average absolute z scores (two sample Wilcoxon test);
 - d. Jeff will proceed to conduct analyses on more programs (WS and Soils) and on more classes of analytes.
 - e. Raeann will suggest class groupings for “miscellaneous” organics.
 4. Judy Morgan gave an update on her survey of State accrediting authorities. She reported there is broad awareness of the PT frequency issue and is obtaining good response to her questions. She should be completed in time for the TNI meeting in August.
 5. The group agreed that related questions should be included with a survey of environmental laboratories that will be conducted by ACIL. A few questions (4-6) can be added concerning laboratory opinions on frequency of PT and the economic impact of reducing the frequency. Jeff Flowers volunteered to draft some questions for committee review at the next meeting.
 6. Dan has not yet started calling the 8 PT providers for information about special customer PT requirements. It was agreed that this survey should lead to further questions to ask laboratories and possibly AAs.

7. The subcommittee discussed the presentation at the TNI meeting, and that the PT committee has allowed 1.5 hours for the discussion. Dan is to prepare a one-page summary of subcommittee activities for distribution to meeting attendees with their registration packets. This report needs to be sent to Jerry Parr by July 27.
8. Jeff Flowers requested that the subcommittee needs to remain mindful of the charter and the requirement to investigate the economic impact of a change in frequency of PT.
9. Next call July 25, 1:00pm EDT

Call adjourned at 2:55 pm EDT.