

TNI PT Board Meeting Summary December 4, 2008

1. Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chairman Carl Kircher called the TNI PT Board to order on December 4, 2008, at 1PM EST. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A. Associate member Dan Tholan was also present. Jeff Lowry joined the call to discuss a potential issue.

Minutes from the November 20, 2008 meeting were approved for posting on the TNI website. Ilona will have minutes posted.

2. Jeff Lowry – Effective Date of DW FoPT Table

Jeff expressed concern about the effective date of the new DW FoPT Table. He feels that it needs an effective date of March 1, 2009 instead of January 1, 2009. Though the Board approved the table in July 2008, it was not actually posted until Fall 2008. This is not enough time to implement all micro changes.

Carl reviewed the procedure the Board used in determining the effective date. There was much discussion regarding what an appropriate effective date is for new tables. The standard states that it needs to be within 6 months (Section 2.3), but some felt the effective date should be 6 months after posting and others felt it should be based on when PT providers can implement the changes.

The Board asked Jeff to send this issue to the Board in writing. Carl will contact other PT providers to determine how many other providers may be having an issue with the January 1st effective date. Based on this information, the Board will determine whether a change to the effective date needs to be made.

3. Standard Interpretation Requests (SIRs)

The Board continued work on SIRs # 26, 28, 31, 32 and 33.

- Question #26

The subcommittee (Eric, Kirstin and Curtis) reviewed the language they prepared for this response. Most of the Board discussion centered on the language in the third paragraph:

In the absence of a written policy from the previous NELAC PT Board regarding proper interpretation of the FOPT table analyte analysis requirements, the TNI PT Board can not comment on what may or may not have been the intent of the NELAC

PT Board in this regard. Without previous PT Board policy, interpretation to date of analyte analysis requirements for the FOPT tables has been left to an AB's (Accrediting Body's) discretion.

The TNI PT Board believes that there has been a general lack of clarity within the community on how the FOPT tables should be interpreted. The TNI PT Board consensus is that group headers in those FOPT tables must hold significance, and group headers must be utilized to classify when an organic analyte is required to be processed and analyzed using extractable and/or purgeable technologies. The TNI PT Board is currently working to add this clarification to the FOPT tables.

Until such time as the revised FOPT tables become available, the requirement for a PT by the AB must take into consideration current FOPT table group headers and whether TNI approved PT providers offer that analyte in their routinely offered products for volatile analysis. It must not be required by an AB that a PT product specifically designed and packaged by a PT vendor for extraction (semivolatile) methods be analyzed by purgeable (volatile) analysis. If volatile analysis of an analyte listed under a FOPT Base/Neutral grouping is required by an AB, the analyte must be readily available (from at least the majority of TNI approved PT providers) in PT vendor products that have been designed and marketed to be used for volatile method analysis.

Carl mentioned that Florida interprets the standard to read that if an analyte is listed anywhere in the FoPT tables (and a PT exists), a PT must be run for all methods the lab is certified for to run that analyte.

It was noted that not all states implement this section consistently.

Kirstin provided the following information: Section 2.4.1 of the 2003 NELAC standard states that to be accredited initially and to maintain accreditation, a laboratory shall participate in two single blind, single concentration PT studies, where available, per year for each field of proficiency testing (FoPT). Section 2.1.3 of the 2003 NELAC standard states "Current NELAC fields of proficiency testing are located on the NELAC website". Based on Section 2.4.1, if an analyte is listed under SVOA in the posted table and not under VOA, a lab should not be required to run a SVOA PT using a VOA method. An AB can require a PT to be run in order to report data in their state, but it can not deny NELAC accreditation if the lab has fulfilled the requirements in the NELAC standard.

The Board agreed to provide the response in italics above to the NELAP Board to respond to Question #26. Carl asked that it be noted that he had a conflict of interest in this question and did not feel he should vote on whether to accept the subcommittee's response.

- Question #28

Curtis provided the following response language for the Board to consider:

The TNI PT Board, early in 2008, directed the Microbiology Fields of Proficiency Testing Subcommittee to address the needs of the LT2 Rule when they offered suggested revisions for the FoPT tables. As a result, a quantitative coliform sample has been added to the drinking water FoPT table effective January 1, 2009. This will address the concerns related to inconsistency over which PT sample is appropriate for this situation. Additionally, the PT Board is working on a broader solution to address confusion over the proper use of the FoPT tables which should limit such issues in the future. Finally, the PT Board recognizes that when new regulations are promulgated which require changes to the FoPT tables, the effective date of the regulation should be taken into account when determining the effective date for the FoPTs. The Board will work on creating a mechanism to ensure this is done.

A concern was expressed that accreditation should not have been withheld. There was no required PT available. It appears that something may have been required beyond what is required in the 2003 NELAC Standard. A state can have additional requirements for reporting data in the state, but accreditation requirements come from the NELAC Standard.

Board members are asked to consider this response and send comments and/or alternative wording to Curtis for final consideration. Comments should be sent to Curtis by 12/5/08. The Board would like to vote via e-mail on final language for this response. If consensus can not be reached, it will be discussed on the 12/18/08 call.

- Questions 31

There is concern that there may be miscommunication involved in this issue. Other PT providers have not been requested to do this. Carl will prepare a DRAFT response and send it to Board members for comment via e-mail. This will be added to the 12-18-08 agenda for agreement.

- Questions 32

The Board liked Curtis's wording he included in his comments when this question was first presented to the Board. Curtis will forward a final DRAFT response to the Board for comment. This will be added to the 12-18-08 agenda for agreement or voted on via e-mail.

- Questions 33

The Board also liked the wording Curtis included in his comments on this question. Curtis will forward a final DRAFT response to the Board for

comment. This will be added to the 12-18-08 agenda for agreement or voted on via e-mail.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PT Board is Thursday, December 18, 2008, at 1PM EST. The agenda for this meeting should include preparation for the PT Caucus and a discussion of Experimental PTs.

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

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The meeting was adjourned at 3 PM EST.

Attachment A

**Participants
TNI
Proficiency Testing Board**

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
Carl Kircher, Chair Present	Florida DOH	904-791-1574 carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Present	TNI	828-712-9242 tauntoni@msn.com
Gary Dechant Present	Analytical Quality Associates, Inc.	970-434-4875 gldechant@aol.com
Steve Gibson Present	Texas Comm. on Env. Quality	512-239-1518 jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us
RaeAnn Haynes Present	Oregon DEQ Laboratory	503-693-5757 haynes.raeann@deq.state.or.us
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Matt Sica Absent	State of Maine	207-287-1929 matthew.sica@maine.gov
Eric Smith Present	TestAmerica	615-726-0177 x1238 eric.smith@testamericainc.com
Curtis Wood Present	Environmental Resource Associates	303-431-8454 cwood@eraqc.com

Attachment B

Action Items – TNI PT Board

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
8.	Gather additional names for newly formed Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee.	Carl	On-going until membership is about 14.	
10.	Let the new Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee know that information is available from NY regarding extraction/prep methods and PT results.	Carl	When Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee is formed.	
17.	Work on language for new TNI policy based on NELAC Policy #16 and EPA Criteria Document.	Chuck	11/17/08 Next Meeting	
25.	Contact PT Providers to ask if they are on schedule for the DW FoPT Table implementation date of 1-1-09.	Carl	12-10-08	
26.	Provide DRAFT language for Standard Interpretation Requests 28, 32 and 33. Send to Board members for comment via e-mail and then DRAFT final response for Board approval.	Curtis	Before 12-18-08	
27.	Provide DRAFT language for Standard Interpretation Requests 31. Send to Board members for comment via e-mail and then DRAFT final response for Board approval.	Carl	Before 12-18-08	

Attachment C

Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Board

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
1	Check with the PT providers to confirm there are no objections to using their data to compare Performance Range vs. Existing Acceptance Criteria.	9/18/08	This discussion will be added to the Miami meeting agenda.
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