

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

January 14, 2013

1) Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chair, Stacie Metzler, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTP EC) meeting to order on January 14, 2013, at 1:30 PM MT. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 7 Executive Committee members present.

See slides in Attachment B for meeting agenda and information.

2) Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditation (PTPA) Reports

A2LA

(See Attachment C for copy of slides.) Rob Knake of A2LA reported, including some statistics on pass/fail rates from the PTPA databases that were presented by Kelly Black of the database contractor, Neptune and Company, Inc. The presentation followed the slides precisely. He addressed the status of PT Providers (PTPs) and accreditation renewals, complaints and the complaint process and the database.

There were many questions and considerable discussion about the slides portraying failure or rejection rates by analyte group for the PTPs. Five percent is considered “ideal.” The WP Chem group had few outliers in rejection rates, while the WS Chem group had more. Discussion about differences between Colilert/Colitag testing and the Standard Methods test, regarding PT performance, was heated but inconclusive. Carol Haines, EPA Region 10, offered to coordinate with the Microbiology Subcommittee and share data from a study about which she is aware.

The standard does not require action to be taken if high rejection rates occur, but suggestions were made that this issue might need to be addressed in future versions of the standard.

The SSAS program requested that PTPs add radiological PTs to their offerings.

ACLASS

(See Attachment D for copy of slides.) Matt Sica reported briefly for ACLASS. Presently, insufficient failure rate data are available to be meaningful, with only 1 year of operation and 2.5 PTPs.

Discussion

Both PTPAs are expected to provide failure rate data to the PT Executive Committee.

One commenter requested that PTPAs recruit providers for bulk asbestos PTs, but the Chair noted that PTPAs do not market in this way. An AB could request Field of Proficiency Testing (FoPT) tables for this analyte if a need can be documented. Presently, only drinking water asbestos PT samples are available, from one PTP from each PTPA.

Stacie thanked both groups for their presentations.

3) FoPT Subcommittee Updates

Chemistry

Carl Kircher, Chair, reported that the Non-potable Water FoPT table was recently completed after a 2 year effort, and has been sent to the NELAP Accreditation Council (AC) for approval and acceptance.

Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing (WETT)

No one from this subcommittee was available to report, but Stacie noted that WETT PTs will need to be revamped.

Protozoa

Leah Villegas and Carrie Miller reported that the PTP Executive Committee approved their FoPT table but there remains a footnote question about a scoring issue regarding whether or not to include outliers.

Microbiology

Susan Butts reported that the first call identified two issues – preparation ranges for qualitative PTs and which strains to use for PTs. The scope also allows for the inclusion of other issues as determined. Discussion ensued about whether restricting strain usage might be market-restrictive, and whether “strain performance” would be a better determinant, since different strains perform differently in the same method. Other commenters noted that ISO/IED 11143 is changing its reference to strains from normative to informative, and that both qualitative and quantitative PTs will be needed. The ultimate resolution will need to focus on the purpose of PTs, which is to establish analyst competence, not method performance or method validity. One further commenter inquired whether “real” means versus log normal distributions would be appropriate for microbiological methods.

A motion was offered by Carl Kircher and seconded by Patrick Brumfield to approve the Micro Subcommittee’s Scope as presented (Attachment E). All present voted aye, and the remainder of the PT EC will be asked to vote by email.

4) SOP Review

Curtis chairs this subcommittee. The EC is currently reviewing the Dispute Resolution SOP submitted by the subcommittee. Further review will be scheduled at the next meeting.

5) PTP EC Charter

Stacie indicated that she is reviewing the existing charter, and believes that it needs specific revisions for clarification, as well as to be placed into the TNI format. The TNI format includes setting needs, objectives, milestone, etc. Joe Pardue moved and Curtis seconded to send the revised charter around for an email vote.

Clarifications:

Jeff Flowers commented that the PTP EC is an oversight body and he was not sure this was well reflected in the language in the charter from the December meeting. The first bullet is too general and vague.

Joe asked about sub-bullets. He and Curtis thought they should be stand alone bullets.

Curtis was concerned about the wording about implementing a process. It should be periodically evaluate and update.

The last bullet should be the update to the Executive Committee.

6) General Comments from Participants

A laboratory representative offered comment that in these “tough economic times,” field audits with fewer PTs would be preferable. Stacie promised to reflect this comment in the meeting minutes.

Another commenter asked that the PT program coordinate with “assessment people” and explained that an assessor is creating a finding that the lab is using PT samples from non-approved PTPs even when the matrix used is not available from an approved provider.

7) New Business

- None

8) Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PTP Executive Committee will be by teleconference on February 14, 2013 at 1pm EST.

Action Items are included in Attachment F and Attachment G includes a listing of reminders.

The meeting was adjourned at 4pm MT. Motion – Joe Second – Susan Unanimously approved.


Attachment A

Participants TNI

Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
Stacie Metzler (2009) CHAIR Present	HRSD	757-460-4217 smetzler@hrsd.com
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Absent - At NEFAP Meeting <i>Lynn Bradley (TNI Program Administrator) assisted and the meeting was recorded for Stacie and Ilona to review and add to Lynn's notes as needed.</i>	TNI	828-712-9242 tauntoni@msn.com
Eric Smith (2010) Absent	Independent	615-438-8260 eric.smith72@comcast.net
Justin Brown (2011) Absent (NEFAP Mtg)	Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc.	847-875-2271 jbrown@emt.com
Steve Gibson (2011) Absent	Texas Comm. on Env. Quality	512-239-1518 steve.gibson@tceq.texas.gov
Susan Butts (2012) Present	South Carolina DHEC	(803)896-0978 buttsse@dhec.sc.gov
Patrick Brumfield (2012) Present	Sigma-Aldrich RTC	(307) 721-5488 Pat.Brumfield@sial.com
Michella Karapondo (2011) Absent	USEPA	513-569-7141 karapondo.michella@epa.gov
Carl Kircher (2010) Present	Florida DOH	904-791-1574 carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us
Nicole Cairns (2012) Absent	NY State DOH	(518) 473-0323 nlc02@health.state.ny.us

Joe Pardue (2011) Present	Pro2Serve, Inc.	423-337-3121 joe_pardue@charter.net
Dr. Andy Valkenburg (2011) Present	Energy Laboratories, Inc.	avalkenburg@energylab.com 406-869-6254
Curtis Wood (2010) Present	Environmental Resource Associates	303-431-8454 cwood@eraqc.com





TNI Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Monday, January 14, 2013


Presented by: The PT Executive Committee

Session Chair: Stacie Metzler




Session Agenda

- PTPA Updates
- Nomination of Chair and Vice-Chair
- Fields of Proficiency Testing Updates
- Document reviews
- Other Items





PTP Executive Committee

- Committee Members
 - Stacie Metzler, Chair- HRSD
 - Eric Smith, Past Chair – TestAmerica, Inc
 - Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator- TNI
 - Justin Brown- Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc.
 - Susan Butts- South Carolina DHEC
 - Patrick Brumfield- Sigma- Aldrich RTC
 - Nicole Cairns- NY State DOH
 - Steve Gibson – Texas Comm. on Environmental Quality
 - Michella Karapondo – US EPA OGWDW
 - Carl Kircher - Florida DOH
 - Joe Pardue – Pro2Serve, Inc.
 - Andy Valkenburg – Energy Laboratories, Inc
 - Curtis Wood – Environmental Resource Associates




Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditor (PTPA) Updates

- Re-evaluation of A2LA
 - A2LA Offices- October 2012
 - PT Provider- December 2012
 - Assessment Team- Stacie Metzler (lead) and Susan Butts
- Re-evaluation of A-Class
 - A-Class Offices- Early February 2013
 - PT Provider- Mid February
 - Assessment Team- Stacie Metzler (lead) and Ilona Taunton
 - Approved SSAS Checklist for use in assessing Sample Providers



PTPA Reports


- A2LA
- A-Class



PTP Exec. Committee Officers



- Chair
- Vice Chair







Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee

- Recognition of the PT Executive Committee's current Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee:
 - Carl Kircher (chair)
 - Stephen Arpie
 - Dan Dickinson
 - Stacey Fry
 - Jeff Lowry
 - Jim Morotti
 - Eric Smith



PT Program FoPT Subcommittee Activities

- Updated NPW FoPT Table
- Target effective date late summer
- Continue evaluating and updating FoPT Tables on an ongoing basis



WET FoPT Subcommittee

- Recognition of the WET FoPT Subcommittee members :
 - Naddy Rami (Chair)
 - Ginger Briggs
 - Pete De Lisle
 - Robert Kelly
 - Jamie Mitchell
 - Jeff Lowry
 - Bob O'Brien
 - Faust Parker
 - Chris Pasch
 - Brian Krausz
 - Steven Rewa
 - Teresa Norberg-King



WET FoPT Subcommittee

- Addressing issues with FoPTs and acceptance limit determination and other ways to improve the suitability of WET PTs
 - Data Evaluation


PT Program FoPT Subcommittee Activities


- Protozoa FoPT Subcommittee
 - Leadership- Leah Villegas and Carrie Miller
 - PTP Executive Committee Approved the FoPT Table
 - One footnote issue to clarify
 - Determining use of FoPTs
 - NELAP or other

Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee



- **Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee**
 - Qualitative microbiology PT:
 - Determining preparation ranges for qualitative microbiology FoPTs
 - Determining strains are appropriate for use
 - Other issues in the future
 - Committee Membership:
 - Susan Butts, Chair
 - Jennifer Best
 - Bennie Cockerel
 - Shawn Kassner
 - Jeff Lowry
 - Patsy Root
 - Andy Valkenberg
 - Review and approval of Scope







SOP Update Subcommittee

- Continuing to address the Complaint SOP
 - Ensuring Consistency with other TNI and NELAP SOPs
 - Ensuring changes are in compliance with the standard
 - Evaluating impact of changes on other PTP EC SOPs





SOP Update Subcommittee

- Members:
 - Curtis Wood
 - Patrick Brumfield
 - Justin Brown
 - Nicole Cairns
- In the process of updating SOP 4-104 "Dispute Resolution Procedures"





Document Review

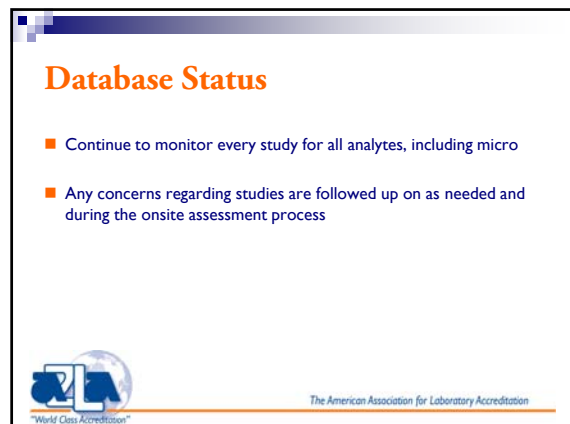
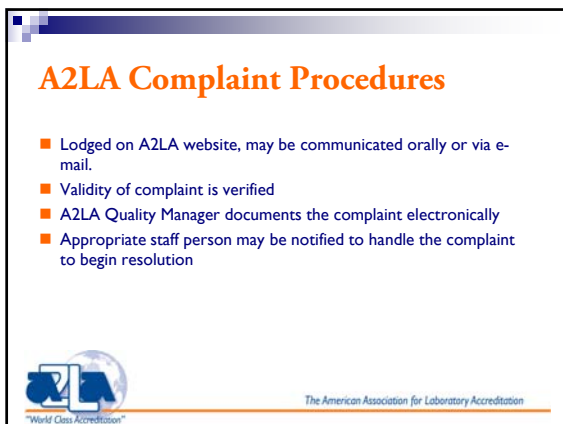
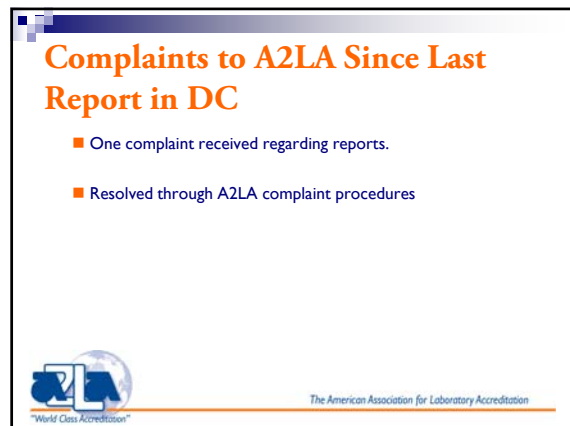
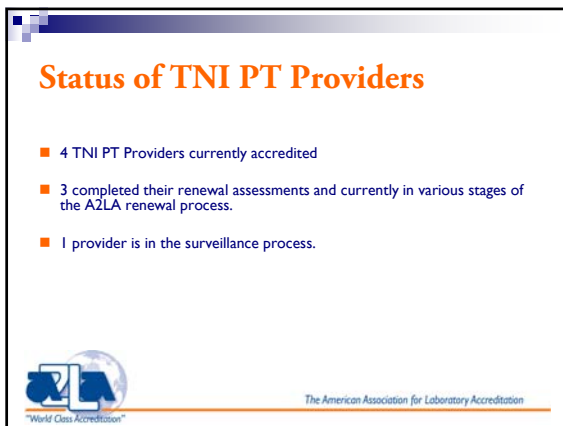
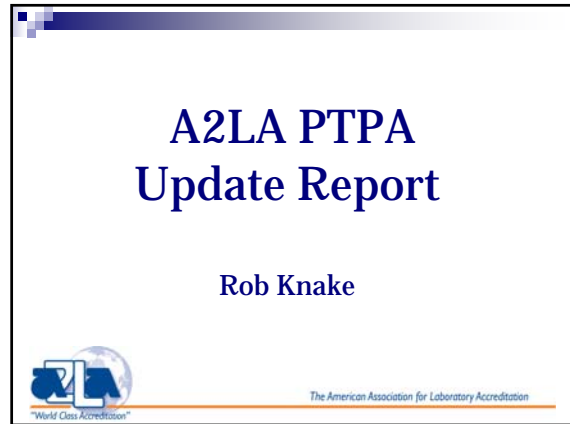
- **Final Review and vote of Committee Charter**
 - Updated terminology from NELAC to TNI
 - Improve Consistency with SOPs
- **Position Paper in response to a request from the Advocacy Committee**
 - Discuss and complete
- **Dispute Resolution SOP- Time permitting**



Questions

- **Open Floor for Questions and Comments:**
 - On topics discussed today
 - On new topics issues





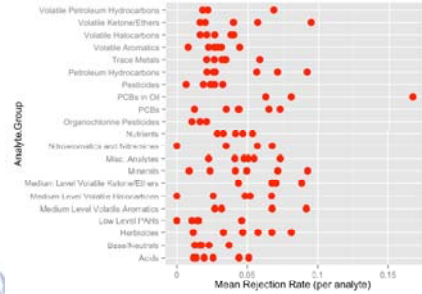
Pass Fail Rates

- A tool is programmed into the database to look at pass/fail rates that are unusual
- Plots of Proportion of Failures are plotted here by analyte group, with each dot representing the average results for a provider



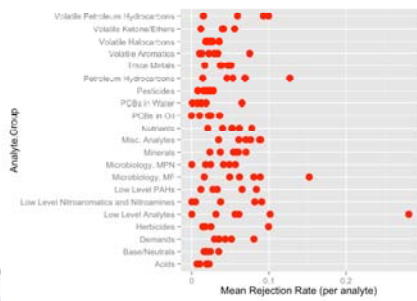
The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

Solids – by Provider



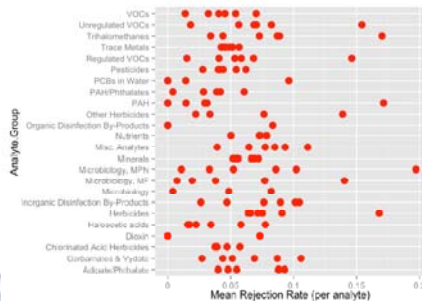
The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

WPCHEM – by Provider



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

WSCHEM – by Provider



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

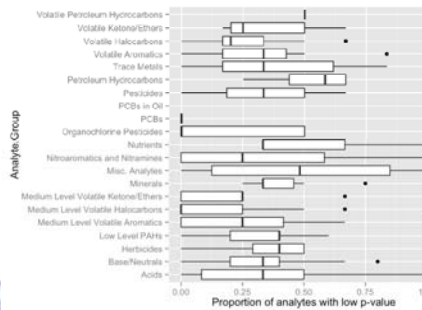
Evaluation of Recovery Rates

- Compare observed sample recovery with TNI FOPT expectations
- Low p -values suggest differences in means or standard deviations
- Plots show proportion of low p -values (<0.05)
 - Low p -values should only be used as a screening tool to indicate potential differences

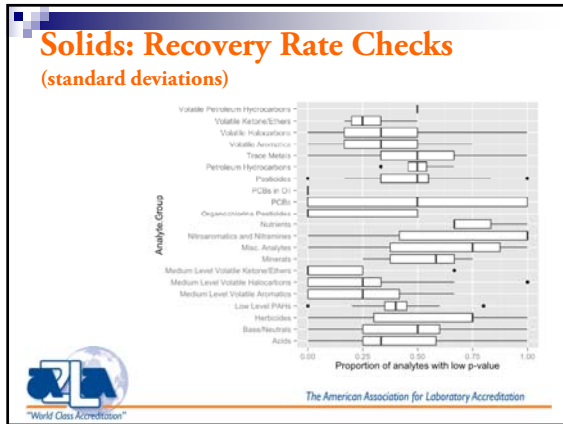


The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

Solids: Recovery Rate Checks (means)



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation




We thank

- Our customers, the A2LA accredited proficiency testing providers
- The TNI evaluation team on their thorough evaluation and professional conduct
- Our assessors and technical advisory committee that support us in the continuous improvement of our accreditation program



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation




**PT Executive Committee
ACCLASS Summary**
01/14/2013
Matt Sica

ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board


Providers

- Absolute Standards
 - RA (February)
- NSI Solutions
 - SA (Spring/ Early Summer)
- Sigma Aldrich RTC
 - SA (Spring/ Early Summer)




Complaints

- None
- Unofficial Inquiry from DoD EDQW
 - November, 2012



PT Averages

Analyte	AVG % PASS
WPChem	
Hg	97
Oil & Grease	96
WSCHEM	
lead	99
copper	96
chloroform	98
bromoform	95
bromodichloromethane	96
dibromochloromethane	88



Attachment E

TNI PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PTPEC) MICROBIOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE

Subcommittee Membership: Susan Butts, Chair; Jennifer Best, Bennie Cockerel, Jeff Lowery, Patsy Root, Mike Blades, Andy Valkenburg, Carol Haines

The PTPEC reviewed the minutes from the first meeting of microbiology subcommittee and determined the scope. The goal of this subcommittee will be to evaluate the two issues included below to determine if improvements should be made to the NELAP PT Program in regards to qualitative microbiology PTs. There were other topics identified that may be addressed as a continuation of this subcommittee, or through other means.

Determining preparation ranges for qualitative microbiology FoPTs:

Currently, there are a wide range of concentrations used in qualitative microbiology PT. These concentrations must be meaningful to reflect a laboratory's performance, and meet the requirements of regulatory programs. The subcommittee should gather input from ABs, EPA along with PT provider data to determine the appropriate concentration ranges for use in qualitative microbiology PTs.

Evaluate performance of strains currently in use

Strains of bacteria used to manufacture PT samples are not specified on the FoPT tables, but must perform appropriately in each approved method where feasible. The subcommittee should evaluate data from PT Providers to determine if strains currently in use are showing equivalent performance, and develop a recommendation for program improvement, which may include specifying strain performance criteria on the FoPT tables.

Attachment F

Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
165	Follow-up on need for NEFAP EC approval of the FSMO FoPT Table.	Eric	Next Meeting	Ilona
168	Update FoPT Management SOP, distribute to EC and then distribute to NEFAP EC and NELAP AC for comment.	Eric	Next Meeting Senfd one more timr - DStacie	Received from NELAP AC. Need to follow-up with NEFAP.
185	Send updated DW table with Footnote 15 to NELAP AC for approval.	Stacie	4/1/12	
188	Review SOP 4-101 in preparation for review during the next conference call.	All	Oct/Nov	
196	Prepare final response to Complaint and forward to committee for approval.	Stacie	10-18-12	
197	Prepare updated letter regarding PTP Evaluation.	Ilona Stacie	12-7-12	
198	Find additional evaluator for ACLASS PTPA Evaluation.	Stacie Ilona	1/14/13	Complete
199	Prepare Microbiology scope for approval.	Stacie Susan	1/14/13	Complete
200	Update Committee Charter Form and prepare for final vote.	Stacie Ilona	2/14/13	

Attachment G

Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
6	DW Table Micro Total Coliform Rule Request	10/15/09	9 out of 10 vs. 10 out of 10
7	Add the Field PT Subcommittee to the limit update SOP during its next update.	3/4/10	
8	Implement all policies and procedures necessary for operation and continual improvement of a national PT program – including FoPTs for various matrices, stakeholders and accreditation programs. (Need to update SOPs – including an appeals process) – Complete by 7/1/11.	10/21/10	From 2010 Strategic Plan Review (11-15-12: Added to committee charter.)
9	Implement a process to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the PT provider oversight program and the Fields of Proficiency Testing. Complete by 6/1/11.	10/21/10	From 2010 Strategic Plan Review (11-15-12: Added to committee charter.)
11	Evaluate how labs are accredited for analytes that co-elute.	5-19-11	
12			