

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

May 15, 2014

1. Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chair, Maria Friedman, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order on May 15, 2014, at 1 PM ET by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 9 Executive Committee members present. Associate members on the phone: Jeff Lowry (Phenova), Dixie Marlin (ESC Environmental Lab), Randy Querry (A2LA), and Shawn Kassner (Phenova).

Maria reviewed the handouts everyone should have received for the meeting.

The meeting minutes from April 17, 2014 were reviewed. A motion was made by Pat and seconded by Andy to approve the minutes with the correction of Ron's email address. There was no additional discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Chair Update:

Maria proposed to add a statement to the TNI page where subcommittee minutes are posted to indicate, for our subcommittees no longer meeting, that no further minutes can be expected since they have fulfilled their assignment. By doing so, we would not be perceived as being delinquent with posting of minutes. Ilona will ask William to add a note to each of the subcommittee minute pages where the subcommittee has completed their assignment: This committee is not currently meeting. Previous Scope was completed.

Maria reported that she and Ilona reviewed Action Items 165, 196, 205, 213, and 233 in Attachment B during the past weeks. These were discussed and items 165, 196, and 205 were deemed and marked as closed at the time of this meeting.

ISO 17043 includes a need for a complaint process. Maria received a concern about whether a complaint process is in place. Shawn commented that the standard does not incorporate the exact type of complaint process described in ISO 17043 in the TNI standard. Shawn asked that the comment or concern regarding Vol 3 and complaint processes be forwarded to him. Shawn noted that PT Providers are required to have a complaint process. There is also a complaint process noted in Volume 4. The PTPEC has a complaint process that involves accreditation and FoPT tables.

3. Action Item Updates:

WET FoPT Subcommittee Recommendations (#232)

Rami Naddy (Chair – WET FoPT Subcommittee) provided an amended proposal after the last meeting (Attachment D).

Jeff commented that he is concerned that the table is too much detail and TNI should not be this detailed. They should not tell people how to run the method.

Andy noted that they have numerous methods and thinks it is important to provide the test conditions for the PTs.

Jeff is concerned about replicates, age, chamber size, etc ... is too much detail.

Patrick motioned that the committee's recommendation to have PT Providers send additional test instructions with the PT samples be rejected. This motion was seconded by Andy. There was no further discussion and a roll call vote was done. All committee members on the call vote "For." The motion passed.

Maria will contact the subcommittee and communicate the PTPEC's thoughts. She will ask them to look for alternate ideas to communicate – such as footnotes on the FoPT table.

Cyanide (#s 185, 217 and 226)

The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee still needs to update the DW table with the corrected analyte code and update Footnote 15.

Metribuzin

Metribuzin was discussed during the previous Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee meeting. The Subcommittee was unable to reach a consensus on whether to retain or change the acceptance limits for Metribuzin. Carl has provided the PTPEC with sufficient information regarding the subcommittee's deliberations on this topic. Maria will review all information submitted and prepare a response to the inquirer for the PTPEC to review before it is sent out.

4. Subcommittee Updates:

Chem FoPT Subcommittee

Andy commented that the subcommittee is continuing to review additional analytes for the soils table.

Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee

This subcommittee's work has been completed.

FoPT Table Update Subcommittee

Maria asked if there was anyone on the committee willing to step into the role of chair of the FoPT Table Update Subcommittee. There were no volunteers. Ilona will post an opening for the chair position on the TNI Website – News section.

SOP Subcommittee

Nicole noted that the committee met last week and it is continuing to revise the PT acceptance criteria SOP.

5. New Business:

NPW Petition: Recommendations from the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee

Carl responded by email to Pat's comment. Pat asked why they used a different criteria between DW and NPW. Carl's response was sufficient.

Maria asked if people need more time to review the information provided by Carl to support the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee recommendation.

Andy noted that the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee meeting minutes had some additional information.

The committee discussed which header to put the analytes under:

- Carl gave them analyte codes with a LL after it? Where does the LL come from? Jeff said this is one of Carl's notations and it should be removed.
- Nicole thinks it should be under Volatile Halocarbons to be consistent. This scenario is consistent with what is seen in the Drinking Water table.
- Susan thinks it should just be under the Low Level analyte heading.
- Andy noted that table provided by Carl has a superscript 12 that should be 11. It is also wrong on the currently posted table on the website. This footnote needs to be corrected.
- Superscript 11 is specific to the technologies that can reach them. This was done intentionally to avoid issues with an AB expecting the analysis.

- A number of people commented that if the analytes are put under a Low Level heading on the NPW table, this should be done on the DW table too.

Maria will contact Carl with the recommended updates – add three analytes, add cyanide footnote and analyte code corrections. Put new analytes under Volatile Halocarbons and include footnote 11 designation. On DW add Footnote 11 for the low level analytes.

Asbestos Question from Jerry

Maria read the text from an AB that Jerry forwarded:

NSI will no longer be providing PTs for asbestos. I believe the only other approved provider is NY and they have not decided if they can supply and want to supply the rest of the country with asbestos PTs. Do you know if there are any other provider approvals in the works?

Shawn noted that it would be cost prohibitive for a PT Provider given the equipment that would be needed to bring something like this online. Pat agreed.

Nicole noted that they are not a true commercial provider and can only provide PTs to labs that are in their program. This has been under discussion to see if an exception can be made for this PT. She is not sure what the situation is.

Ilona will ask other PT Providers on the feasibility of adding Asbestos to their accreditation. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be June 19, 2014 at 1pm EDT.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16pm EDT. Susan motioned, Nicole seconded. Unanimously approved.

Attachment A

Participants TNI

Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
Stacie Metzler (2009) Absent	HRSD	757-460-4217 smetzler@hrsd.com
Maria Friedman (2014) - Present	TestAmerica	949-260-3201 maria.friedman@testamericainc.com
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Present	TNI	828-712-9242 tauntoni@msn.com
Eric Smith (2010) Absent	ALS Environmental	904-394-4415 eric.smith@alsglobal.com
Justin Brown (2011) Present	Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc.	847-875-2271 jbrown@emt.com
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) Present	USEPA	513-569-7141 karapondo.michella@epa.gov
Jennifer Loudon (2013) Absent	Raritan Township Municipal Utilities Authority	(908) 782-7453 x19 JLoudon@rtmua.com
Nicole Cairns (2012) Present	NY State DOH	(518) 473-0323 nlc02@health.state.ny.us
Joe Pardue (2011) Absent	Pro2Serve, Inc.	423-337-3121 joe_pardue@charter.net
Dr. Andy Valkenburg_(2011) Present	Energy Laboratories, Inc.	406-869-6254 avalkenburg@energylab.com
Ron Houck Present	PA DEP	rhouck@pa.gov
Matt Sica Present	ACLASS	msica@anab-aclass.org

Attachment B

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	Complete This was posted as an Other table.
185	Send updated DW table with Footnote 15 to NELAP AC for approval.	Stacie	4/1/12	Stacie submitted this. Need to confirm approval.
196	Prepare final response to Complaint and forward to committee for approval.	Stacie	10-18-12	Complete Pat stated this is closed.
205	Follow-up on membership candidates.	Stacie	6/19/13	Complete
213	Update FoPT Subcommittee lists and give to Ilona for corrections on the website.	Stacie	Next Meeting	In Progress
214	Update Tin, Total Xylene and Total Cyanide on FoPT tables and submit for approval.	Carl Stacie	Next Meeting	In Progress
217	Cyanide and Footnote 15 needs to be updated on the DW table. There is a question about analyte code. This needs to be researched and a proposed update made to the PTP EC to complete this action item.	Michella	Next Meeting	
226	Send FoPT table with need for Cyanide update to Carl Kircher. Due back to PTPEC before next meeting.	Stacie	4/4/14	
231	Meet to discuss how information is requested from PTPAs and how it relates to PT Providers.	Ilona Maria	4/15/14	

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
232	Update WET Recommendation and sent to Ilona for distribution and email comments.	Rami	5/6/14	
233	Review complaint process.	Maria Ilona	5/14/14	In Progress
234	Contact FoPT Table Subcommittee to begin process of selecting a new chair.	Ilona	5/14/14	
235	Contact WET Subcommittee to revise recommendation.	Maria	6/1/14	
236	Post opening for Chair of FoPT Table Subcommittee.	Ilona	6/1/14	
237	Contact Chair (Carl Kircher) of Chem FoPT Subcommittee with recommended updates to FoPT tables.	Maria	6/1/14	

Attachment C

Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
7	Add the Field PT Subcommittee to the limit update SOP during its next update.	3/4/10	
11	Evaluate how labs are accredited for analytes that co-elute.	5-19-11	
12	PTPA Evaluation Checklist needs to be updated prior to next round of evaluations.	8-6-13	
13	Charter needs to be updated in November.	Ongoing	
14	<p>When new limits are established for the FoPTs, what is considered to be a statistically significant change to the old rates? At what point is it appropriate to question new limits? This lends to the TSS discussion a few months ago.</p> <p>Patrick commented that it would make sense to look at changes to pass/fail rates 6 months after new limits are effective. This possible addition to procedures should be evaluated when updating the limit acceptance SOP.</p> <p>3/20/14: Eric noted that there are some logistics with doing a 6 month review. This may need to be a separate committee so it does not hamper the progress of the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee.</p>	2/20/14	

Attachment D: WET FoPT Subcommittee

Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Testing
Fields of Proficiency Testing
Subcommittee for Acceptance Criteria

RE: Recommended revisions to PT instructions

Summary: The WET FoPT Committee Subcommittee for Acceptance Criteria reviewed the PT instructions issued by PT providers to laboratories. This was initially done to provide background information on test preparation. During the review, however, the committee noted some inconsistencies with the EPA method manuals.

Recommendations to PT Providers for Revision of Test Instructions

- Current test instructions specify the use of Forty Fathoms seawater for all saltwater tests. The Forty Fathoms brand of sea salts is no longer marketed. We recommend that the instructions substitute the term “synthetic seawater” in place of “40 Fathoms Seawater” and “40FSW”.
- The dilution instructions for the sheepshead minnow chronic toxicity test (EPA Method 1004.0) do not yield sufficient volume to complete the test in accordance with the method. The initial volume prior to serial dilution must be a minimum of 6 L to provide the required 3 L per test dilution. This is consistent with the method recommendation of a 6 L volume of effluent. We recommend that the toxicant volume and dilution instructions be revised to ensure sufficient volume for test performance.
- In order to ensure consistency in test conditions with the hope of reducing variability in WET testing results, PT providers should include specific test conditions for the toxicity tests in the PT instructions. The accompanying table provides this information in tabular format broken out by each test.

Background: PT providers issue a set of basic instructions regarding dilution preparation and testing with each PT sample. These instructions are largely consistent, providing information on the test method, the dilution water, tested species, test duration, serial dilution steps, etc. During the review process, it was noted that though the instructions were relatively consistent amongst the PT providers, there were two items that were inconsistent with the EPA methods manuals and other detailed information that was either missing or needed more detail. The goal of adding this additional information is to help ensure that all WET testing laboratories are performing the methods in a similar manner to help reduce variability and provide more meaningful data comparisons. Keep in mind that WET tests can be performed several different ways, so simply following the methods as stated in a permit does not provide consistency across the board. Therefore, we have suggested additional detail to standardize the methods. The two items that were inconsistent in the PTP instructions were:

- Forty Fathoms seawater: Several providers made explicit references to the use of Forty Fathoms sea salts. Artificial sea salts are no longer marketed under the brand name “Forty Fathoms”. Current EPA guidance for acute and chronic toxicity tests specifies the use of commercial sea salts and provides examples such as Forty Fathoms and HW Marinemix or equivalent. The use of the term “artificial seawater” or “synthetic seawater” should replace the term “Forty (40) Fathoms seawater”.
- Dilution Volume: The test instructions for the sheepshead minnow chronic toxicity test do not yield sufficient volume to complete the test in accordance with EPA methods. The reference toxicant dilution instructions yield 3 - 4 L of test effluent prior to serial dilution. Serial dilution reduces the volume of each test concentration to 1.5 – 2 L. The test requires four replicates per treatment with a minimum volume of 500 – 750 mL per test chamber, depending on loading and dissolved oxygen concentrations. Thus the volume required for each test

concentration is 2 – 3 L. The method recommends an initial effluent sample volume of 6L. The dilution instructions need to be revised to provide sufficient volume for each test concentration.

Table of Toxicity Test Conditions for WET PTs (WET DMR-QAs)

Analyte Code	Test Code	EPA Test Mtd	Test Organism	Test Type / Duration	Chamber Size (min)	Solution Volume (minimum)	# per Chamber	# Reps (min)	Age	Temp.
754, 755	13, 14	2000.0	<i>Pimephales promelas</i>	48-hr static	250 ml	200 ml	10	2	1-14 days, 24 hr range in age	25°C
808, 810, 812, 814	15, 16	1000.0	<i>Pimephales promelas</i>	7-d static renewal (renew daily)	500 ml	250 ml	10	4	<24-h ^a	25°C
764, 765	19, 20	2002.0	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i>	48-hr static (no renewal)	30 ml	15 ml	5	4	< 24 hr	25°C
767, 768, 770, 771	21, 22	1002.0	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i>	3-brood study (until ≥60% surviving control females have 3 broods, max 8 d)	30 ml	15 ml	1	10	<24-h, 8-hr range in age	25°C
788	32	2021.0	<i>Daphnia magna</i>	48-hr static	30 ml	25 ml	5	4	< 24 hrs	25°C
794	38	2021.0	<i>Daphnia pulex</i>	48-hr static	30 ml	25 ml	5	4	< 24 hrs	25°C
798	42	2007.0	<i>Mysidopsis bahia</i>	48-hr static	250 ml	200 ml	10	2	1-5 days, 24 hr range in age	25°C
816, 818	43	1007.0	<i>Mysidopsis bahia</i>	7-d static renewal (renew daily)	8 oz / 400 ml	150 ml	5	8	7 days	26°C
803	44	2006.0	<i>Menidia berylina</i>	48-h static	250 ml	200 ml	10	2	9-14 days, 24 hr range in age	25°C
825, 826	45	1006.0	<i>Menidia berylina</i>	7-d static renewal (renew daily)	600 – 1,000 ml	500-750 ml	10	4	7-11 days, 24 hr range in age	25°C
804	46	2004.0	<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>	48-h static	250 ml	200 ml	10	2	1-14 days, 24 hr range in age	25°C
820, 822	47	1004.0	<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>	7-d static renewal (renew daily)	600 – 1,000 ml	500-750 ml	10	4	< 24-hrs	25°C

^aif shipped then < 48-h within a 24 hr range in age

NB: the dilution series for all tests should be 0, 6.25, 12.5, 25, 50, and 100%; the dilution water for the freshwater studies should be moderately hard water with a hardness range of 80-100 mg/L and an alkalinity range of 57-64 mg/L, while the dilution water for the saltwater studies should have a salinity of 25 ppt.