

## **TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary**

**May 17, 2018**

### **1. Roll call, approval of minutes and overview:**

Chair, Maria Friedman, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order by teleconference on May 17, 2018, at 1pm Eastern. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 10 members present. Associate members present: Craig Huff, Susan Jackson, Nicole Cairns, Reggie Morgan, Jennifer Best, Keith Ward and Tim Miller.

The meeting minutes from the April meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Gil to approve the April 19, 2018 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Duhon and unanimously approved.

Maria confirmed that everyone received the agenda and handouts she sent on May 16 and May 18, 2018.

### **2. Update**

Maria has requested the analyte codes from Dan Hickman. The IT Committee is meeting today and she will ask about this. Maria updated the FoPT tables as discussed last meeting.

Ilona and Maria met with the PT Providers and PTPAs. She discussed the PCB footnote and options being discussed. Keith Ward and Tim Miller provided alternative wording for the footnote (see below).

### **3. Footnote 2 (PCB Qualitative ID) in NPW and SCM FoPT Tables**

Maria reminded everyone about Aaren, Cathy and Michelle's participation during the last meeting.

Cathy sent the following message:

*Thanks for your time & the committee's time on the phone today.*

*From NPW/SCM tables:*

*Here is the language from the PA Tables that was referenced:*

*4) Laboratories must analyze and report results for all Arochlors in an individual PT study. Incorrect identification or quantitation of one Arochlor will result in failure for the group.*

*From DW tables: 6) One sample in every study, containing one Aroclor, selected at random from among the Arochlors listed (1016, 1221, 1232, 1242, 1248, 1254 or 1260) for the analysis of PCBs as decachlorobiphenyl. Laboratories must analyze and report results for all Arochlors in an individual PT study. Incorrect identification or quantitation of one Arochlor will result in failure for the group.*

*This language is a reminder of another issue, which is not addressed by the committee's current footnote draft: reporting only one of the PCBs, for example in a make-up study. It would be better if such reporting requirements were consistent requirement conveyed by the PT Provider as a basic premise of the test. The language in both of the PA examples disallows a lab from this "partial" reporting, which is currently not disallowed as a basic reporting convention for the test. The final revision of this footnote should address this, also, so I've added to the draft language, below, to address this too.*

*The PA language is stronger / clearer than the language I was proposing, but here it is as a 2nd-string option. Honestly I think if this becomes the FOOTNOTE, and if I recall the committee was working to make sure the footnotes are instructions or clarifications to the PTP (and not the labs), then I believe this footnote becomes the clarification needed for the PTP to "score" the individual Arochlors as "fails" if any part of the study fails. But if not, speaking for VA I can say that this language still gives our AB a better ability to enforce than what we have now. The red language here is the current draft. Yellow & strikeout indicates my edits:*

*2) One sample (minimum) in every study, containing one Aroclor, is selected at random from among the Arochlors listed above. PCBs in water are collectively one Field of Proficiency Testing. Since only one Aroclor is spiked, laboratories demonstrate acceptable analysis of each accredited Aroclor acceptable results should be based on the by correct qualitative identification of the randomly-selected Aroclor PCB that was spiked, and quantitating that result concentration within the acceptance criteria delineated in the table above, and reporting a result (either a measured value or a non-detect) for each of the Arochlors listed above.*

*I trust this information is helpful. I hope the committee can continue to look for ways to strengthen this issue since we have documented cases where this weakness can/does impact data generated for compliance. I sincerely thank you and the committee for your tireless hard work. (Michele and Aaren ~ please amend/edit anything here if you think necessary!)*

Maria met with the PT Providers and PTPAs to discuss this footnote issue. Keith and Tim have alternative language they are requesting to be used:

*Proposed Language for PCB quantitative and qualitative evaluation (from Keith Ward, Phenova):*

*I think the best option is to have a comment similar to the cresol for NPW. The comment for this is:*

*14) Laboratories seeking or maintaining NELAP accreditation for Non-Potable Water 4- Methylphenol or the coeluting isomer pair of 3-Methylphenol and 4- Methylphenol must meet the NELAC PT requirements for this Field of Proficiency Testing (4-Methylphenol).*

*This would be edited for the PCBs to say something similar to:*

*Laboratories seeking or maintaining NELAP accreditation for Non-Potable Water PCBs in Water must meet the NELAC PT requirements for all accredited aroclors for this Field of Proficiency Testing.*

*Similar verbiage would apply for SCM soil and oil matrices. This would allow the analyte(s) listed in the FoPT to stay as is or change. It would also keep PT evaluations on the testing side and accreditation evaluations on the certification side while allowing ABs to take the requested action if a lab fails an aroclor.*

Kieth noted that the language from Cathy was too vague. Keith thinks the ABs need to make decertification decisions based on PT results and that this is not the PT Provider's responsibility. Example: Total THMs are currently graded, but the ABs decide whether it passed or didn't pass.

Michella said it was not the intent of the DW program to accredit to specific Aroclors. Maria noted it was SCM and NPW that were being discussed.

Craig asked: If a supplemental PT is ordered, do they accommodate the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the test? Keith said they randomly pick a PCB. The PT may not have the same Aroclor in it that was originally "failed". Craig read through Cathy's language and noted that Keith said some states accredit to single PCBs. A lab wouldn't report a PCB they are not accredited for and the language proposed by the NELAP AC would then require that the non-reported PCBs must be graded as Not Acceptable.

Nicole agrees with Keith and Craig and cautions using the language Cathy proposed. As PT Providers, they don't know what a lab is accredited for. If someone doesn't report an Aroclor, it is marked as not reported. The NELAP AC should not be putting a PT Provider requirement in place.

Keith commented that there was a period where an AB was putting accreditation evaluations on a PT Report despite a correct result evaluation. The AB was told they couldn't alter the PT report, but they could alter the status in their own records. For example, a lab correctly reported a result for Benzene, but because the lab ran the wrong

method the state did not accept the PT result. The lines between the PT evaluation and accreditation status are being blurred in the NELAP AC proposed language.

Carl noted that he thinks the footnote is imposing requirements on the lab outside of the consensus standard development process and this is not appropriate. Keith took his language from the 4- Methylphenol footnote language. Does this footnote need to be changed too? Carl likes his original footnote language, but is OK with Cathy and Keith's proposals too.

The original ARA request was to add a Qualitative PCB test for the SCM and NPW tables – similar to DW.

At the Chemistry FoPT subcommittee level the decision was made to make the recommendation now being debated. They did not recommend an extra field of proficiency testing as suggested by others. He asked what the link would be between the qualitative and the 7 individual quantitative PTs.

Craig asked if everyone agreed there is a quantitative and qualitative aspect to the PCBs PT. He thinks Cathy's language requires that all Aroclors must be analyzed, but this doesn't seem consistent between ABs. Carl noted that on the current NPW and SCM tables, a lab can just report one PCB. Craig noted that it is then up to the AB to decide if that meets their accreditation requirements.

Maria reminded everyone that the Committee needs to work with the NELAP AC to finalize a footnote and finalize the ARA.

Maria commented that in Keith's proposal, the language would need to be rephrased so it doesn't look like a laboratory requirement. Carl has no problem with Keith's suggested language. Carl said the SCM table would need an oil and a soil footnote.

Nicole noted that this really requires a re-write in the Standard. What is being discussed is the best we can do right now. She is fine with the language Keith proposed.

Maria reminded everyone that the Committee could reject the ARA and wait until the next Standard update. Nicole doesn't think that is a great option. If a footnote on the table works for NJ, it should be added. It just isn't the correct way to fix it, but it would take 5-7 years to fix it correctly.

This topic will be left as is for now. Maria asked if Carl can rewrite the footnote based on his original subcommittee language and Keith's language. He will send this to Maria and then she will distribute it for discussion by email.

### 3. MPN ARA

Maria requested the analyte codes and is waiting for them.

Jennifer has not had a chance to review the updates Maria has made to the table. It is row 20 and 21.

Maria may further this agenda topic by email discussion once she gets the codes.

### 4. Complaint

Maria drafted a response to the complainant that she sent to the committee (5/8/18). Matt commented:

*I suggest we add language about a realistic timeframe of the technical solution and the end of (2).*

*“As this is a complicated matter involving many stakeholder groups and possibly standard revision, this issue may not be resolved until the next standards review and adoption.”*

Maria asked if people agree with Matt's suggestion. Matt was trying to help the complainant understand that it could take some time to finish the second item. He thinks people hear what they want to hear and the addition helps clarify the timing.

Carl noted that if this was submitted as an ARA, it might be worked on sooner.

Carl made a motion to accept the language sent by Maria on 5/8/18 with the additional language sent by Matt.

There was no second. Andy thinks the additional language is too vague. Which Standard update?

Gill asked if this language is in conflict with item #2 wording in the letter.

There was no second. The motion was removed from the table. There will be more discussion by email.

*(Addition: After the call, Dixie proposed alternative language to Matt's. She proposed: “As this is a complicated matter involving many stakeholder groups, this issue may not be completely resolved until future standards are reviewed and adopted.”*

*On May 17, 2017, Andy made a motion by email to accept the language originally sent by Maria on 5/8/18 and to include the ending language amendment proposed by Dixie: As this is a complicated matter involving many stakeholder groups, this issue may not be*

*completely resolved until future standards are reviewed and adopted. The motion was seconded by Matt on 5/18/18.*

*Vote:*

*Jennifer Mullins – For (5/18/18)  
Dixie – For (5/18/18)  
Gil – For (5/18/18)  
Carl – For (5/18/18)  
Matt – For (5/18/18)  
Maria – For (5/18/18 – by phone)  
Andy – For (5/18/18)  
Jennifer Duhon (5/18/18)  
Eric – For (5/18/18)  
Patrick – For (5/21/18)*

*The motion passed and Maria will send the letter to the complainant. )*

## 5. FoPT Tables with LAMS Update

Craig presented the FoPT tables with changes made to line up with LAMS. Open NPW.

Craig reviewed the NPW table with the Committee. The items that need to be revisited with LAMS are highlighted in yellow or with an additional descriptor in the change log.

1820 vs 1823 discussion. Craig thinks it would easier to change this in LAMS. The ABs are using 1820.

The Committee then looked at the other tables:

- DW: Same thing row 53
- SCM: Nothing
- Radiochemistry: Natural Uranium. There are differences in analytical methods. Look at analyte codes 1184 and 3055. The Committee would like to use 1184 – Uranium (mass) – Line 20. Michella thinks Line 19 should be 3055 and that Activity is substitute for Natural.

Maria will take the recommended changes to LAMS to Dan Hickman.

## 6. Subcommittee Updates

There was no time.

7. New Business.

- None.

8. Action Items

The action items can be found in Attachment B. The action items were reviewed during the meeting and updates have been placed into the table.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 6/21 at 1pm Eastern by teleconference.

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

Maria adjourned the meeting at 2:35 Eastern Eastern. (Motion: Andy Second: Matt Unanimously approved.)

**Attachment A**  
**Participants**  
**TNI**  
**Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee**

| <b>Members</b>  | <b>Rep</b> | <b>Affiliation</b>                          | <b>Contact Information</b>   |
|---|------------|---|--|
| Maria Friedman (2020)<br><b>(Chair)</b><br><b>Present</b>     | AB         | California Water Board                      | <a href="mailto:Maria.Friedman@waterboards.ca.gov">Maria.Friedman@waterboards.ca.gov</a> |
| Dixie Marlin (2018*)<br><b>(Vice-Chair)</b><br><b>Present</b> | Other      | Marlin Quality Management, LLC              | <a href="mailto:marlinquality@gmail.com">marlinquality@gmail.com</a>                     |
| Ilona Taunton,<br>Program Administrator<br><b>Present</b>     |            | TNI   | <a href="mailto:tauntoni@msn.com">tauntoni@msn.com</a>                                   |
| Eric Smith (2019)<br><b>Absent</b>                            | Lab        | ALS Environmental                           | <a href="mailto:eric.smith@alsglobal.com">eric.smith@alsglobal.com</a>                   |
| Carl Kircher (2021*)<br><b>Present</b>                        | AB         | Florida Department of Health                | <a href="mailto:Carl.Kircher@flhealth.gov">Carl.Kircher@flhealth.gov</a>                 |
| Andy Valkenburg<br>(2021*)<br><b>Present</b>                  | LAB        | Energy Laboratories                         | <a href="mailto:avalkenburg@energylab.com">avalkenburg@energylab.com</a>                 |
| Jennifer Duhon (2019*)<br><b>Present</b>                      | Other      | Millipore Sigma                             | <a href="mailto:jennifer.duhon@sial.com">jennifer.duhon@sial.com</a>                     |
| Matt Sica (2020)<br><b>Present</b>                            | AB         | ANAB, ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board | <a href="mailto:msica@anab.org">msica@anab.org</a>                                       |
| Gil Dichter (2018*)<br><b>Present</b>                         | Other      | IDEXX Water                                 | <a href="mailto:gil-dichter@idexx.com">gil-dichter@idexx.com</a>                         |
| Patrick Garrity (2019*)<br><b>Present</b>                     | AB         | Kentucky DEP                                | <a href="mailto:patrick.garrity@ky.gov">patrick.garrity@ky.gov</a>                       |
| Michella Karapondo<br>(2019*)<br><b>Present</b>               | Other      | USEPA                                       | <a href="mailto:karapondo.michella@epa.gov">karapondo.michella@epa.gov</a>               |
| Fred Anderson (2020*)<br><b>Absent</b>                        | Other      | Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC          | <a href="mailto:Fred@advancedqc.com">Fred@advancedqc.com</a>                             |
| Jennifer Mullins (2020*)<br><b>Present</b>                    | Lab        | Upper Occoquan Service Authority            | <a href="mailto:jennifer.mulllins@uosa.org">jennifer.mulllins@uosa.org</a>               |
| Scott Haas (2020*)<br><b>Absent</b>                           | FSMO       | Environmental Testing, Inc.                 | <a href="mailto:shaas@etilab.com">shaas@etilab.com</a>                                   |

## Attachment B

### Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

|     | Action Item  | Who         | Date Added | Expected Completion   | Actual Completion  |
|-----|--|-------------|------------|---|--|
| 295 | Moved from Backburner:<br>PTPA Evaluation Checklist<br>needs to be updated prior to<br>next round of evaluations.<br>(Originally discussed 8/6/13)   | Shawn Ilona |            | New Date:<br>3/31/18  | In Progress<br>(will use 2009<br>TNI Standards<br>and current<br>SSAS<br>Standards)  |
| 349 | Review LAMS/FoPT Table<br>Differences document.<br>Provide comments by email<br>and next meeting.  | ALL         | 4/20/17    | 4/25/17<br><br>2/28/18 – For<br>WET?<br>June 2018 for<br>all tables.  | In Progress<br>WET is still<br>being<br>reviewed.<br>Update<br>1/23/18:<br>Subcommittee<br>expects to<br>have updated<br>FoPT tables<br>with CAS #'s<br>and LAMS<br>changes by<br>3/15/18.<br>2/22/19: Still<br>in progress. |
| 352 | Moved from Backburner<br>(originally discussed<br>2/20/14) :<br><br>When new limits are<br>established for the FoPTs,<br>what is considered to be a<br>statistically significant<br>change to the old rates? At<br>what point is it appropriate to<br>question new limits? This<br>lends to the TSS discussion a<br>few months ago.<br><br>Patrick commented that it<br>would make sense to look at<br>changes to pass/fail rates 6<br>months after new limits are<br>effective. This possible | All         | 2/20/14    | TBD<br>(see #350)<br><br><i>350: Prepare formal request to SOP Subcommittee regarding updating FoPT tables and applicable backburner items just moved to the Action Items table (#352, 353)</i> | In Progress –<br>Update of SOP<br>4-101  |

|     | Action Item  | Who                  | Date Added | Expected Completion | Actual Completion  |
|-----|--|----------------------|------------|---------------------|--|
|     | addition to procedures should be evaluated when updating the limit acceptance SOP.   |                      |            |                     |  |
| 353 | Discuss possible procedural changes to how limits are updated. Maria talk to SOP Subcommittee.<br>(Need to look at PT database implications.)                            | All                  |            | TBD                 | In Progress – Update of SOP 4-101  |
| 358 | Send request to SOP subcommittee to consider what happens when ARA's are rescinded. There is no formal process.  | Maria                | 6-29-17    | 7/19/17             | Maria will resend to Gil and this item will be closed.<br>3/15/18: Still in progress.  |
| 361 | Analyte Code changes needed in LAMS. (TKN)   | Maria<br>Dan Hickman | 7/20/17    | 9/30/17             | Still need to look into TKN issue.<br>2/22/18 – Maria will confirm.  |
| 363 | Discuss procedural change in how changes are made to LAMS. Consider notifying PTPEC before relevant changes are made and provide a summary of changes at some frequency. |                      |            | 1/31/17             | Will talk to IT about getting this in an SOP.<br>12/21/17: Maria will follow-up on this.<br>3/20/18: Maria will check this week. |
| 368 | Forward Jerry's question to Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. (Analyte code change for the non-polar extractable materials.)  | Maria                | 8/24/17    | 9/1/17              | Maria will resend to Carl.   |
| 373 | Carl will notify the PTPEC when Bob and Keith complete their comparison table to the Radiochemistry FoPT work the Chemistry  | Carl                 | 12-21-17   | 3-31-18             |  |

|     | Action Item   | Who        | Date Added | Expected Completion | Actual Completion |
|-----|---|------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|     | FoPT Subcommittee has already prepared.   |            |            |                     |                   |
| 381 | Complete vote on deletion of SOP 4-104 by email.  | Ilona      | 3/15/18    | 4/18/18             | Completed 4/8/18  |
| 382 | Forward Sean Jenkins email to the NELAP AC (Aaren Alger and Lynn Bradley).  | Maria      | 3/15/18    | 4/18/18             |                   |
| 383 | Forward NELAP AC proposed language for PCB footnote.  | Maria      | 4/19/18    | 5/15/18             | Complete          |
| 384 | Meet with Dan Hickman to get Analyte Codes and then prepare final DRAFT of Micro DW and WW tables. Send to Jennifer for review. | Maria      | 4/19/18    | 5/15/18             | Still in Progress |
| 385 | Send Micro DW and WW tables to PTPEC for review and vote at next meeting.   | Maria      | 4/19/18    | 5/15/18             | Still in Progress |
| 386 | Prepare DRAFT letter to Complaint #27 and send to PTPEC for review. Send final to Complainant.                                  | Maria      | 4/19/18    | 5/15/18             | Still in Progress |
| 387 | Meet with PT Providers and PTPAs to discuss degradation product issue.  | Maria      | 4/19/18    | 5/15/18             | Complete          |
| 388 | Work on PCB footnote and send DRAFT to committee by email.  | Carl Maria | 5/17/18    | 5/20/18             |                   |
| 389 | Present recommended LAMS updates to Dan Hickman.  | Maria      | 5/17/18    | 5/20/18             |                   |
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**Attachment C**

**Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Executive Committee**

|    | <b>Item</b>  | <b>Meeting Reference</b> | <b>Comments</b> |
|----|--|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 7  | Add the Field PT Subcommittee to the limit update SOP during its next update.  | 3/4/10                   | In Progress     |
| 11 | Evaluate how labs are accredited for analytes that co-elute.   | 5-19-11                  |                 |
| 13 | Charter needs to be updated in November.   | Ongoing<br>2017          |                 |
| 18 | Shawn noted that PTPEC should have some specific measurements. This should be passed along to the PTP SOP Subcommittee. Nicole noted that we need to determine which items to measure. | 6-29-17                  |                 |
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