

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

August 21, 2014

1. Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chair, Maria Friedman, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order on August 21, 2014, at 1 PM ET by conference call. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 8 Executive Committee members present. Affiliate: Carl Kircher, Rob Knake, Dixie Marlin, Jennifer Best, David Gilner – ERA and Jeff Lowry.

Maria reviewed the handouts everyone should have received for today's meeting.

Minutes will be distributed and reviewed by email.

2. Chair Update

The Policy Committee needs someone from the PTPEC to join their committee. Pat Brumfield was our previous volunteer, but he can no longer fill this roll. Maria asked for a new volunteer. Eric Smith will volunteer to participate on this committee.

3. Action Items

Metals and Volatiles

Maria asked Michella about the 80% Rule. Michella noted that it does not apply to the metals – only volatiles.

Stacie asked if all metals have to be spiked – they do. Michella will look into whether the Volatiles all have to be spiked.

With Volatiles, if listed under Section 141.61 a) – you have to pass 80%.

Asbestos

Ilona let everyone know that Cheryl Morton from AIHA let her know that they do provide asbestos PTs, but they are not an accreditor. She gave a contact and a message has been sent to find out more details on what they have available and whether they have any interest in becoming a TNI PT Provider.

Michella noted that they don't need to be a PT provider. Dixie commented that is important to know exactly what type of matrix they offer.

4. Charter

Maria distributed the Charter the committee worked on in Washington, DC.

Strategic Goals and Objectives:

3 b. Delete. This item will go on the back burner to remind the committee that they want to work more closely with the PTPAs. Collect data from them and find out about Pass/Fail rates.

Success Measures

No changes.

Key Milestones for 2014

We should be setting milestones for 2015.

The checklist will still stay on the list because it needs to be done by the end of 2015 to prepare for the 2016 Evaluations.

Bullet 2: Leave out specifics.

Bullet 4: Change to analytical method or specific technology.

Bullet 7: Delete "by 2015".

Consideration

No changes.

Available Resources

No changes.

Additional Resources Required

No changes.

Anticipated Meeting Schedule

No changes.

Committee Membership

Need to add Maria.

Joe would like to continue his membership.

Michella is EPA's choice to be on the committee and she will send an email with this information so Maria can request that Michella be allowed to continue on the committee.

Andy will renew.

Need to check with Justin on his desire to continue on the committee.

A suggestion was made to make sure the use of periods is consistent at the end of bullets.

Maria will clean-up the charter prior to the next meeting and the committee will plan to review for a final vote.

5. Subcommittee Updates

WET Subcommittee

Maria is sending the WET FoPT table to the NELAP AC next week.

Chem FoPT Subcommittee:

Carl Kircher provided an update. The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee is continuing to review SCM analytes. The group is currently working on Metals. The next group will be General Inorganics.

FoPT Table Update Subcommittee

Iлона sent out a Doodle to plan a meeting next week.

SOP Subcommittee

They are still working on the FoPT Limit Update SOP.

The committee hasn't met for a month, but will get started again in late August.

6. PTRLs

We should be looking for PTRLs for Arochlors. (Note from DC meeting: Jeff Lowry – PTRLs are at 10% of the lowest values. He commented that this may be an issue with Arochlors. He would like to suggest that the PTPEC have the Chem FoPT Subcommittee look at PTRLs – especially the Arochlors. The 10% does not work for the arochlors most of the time.)

Carl noted that for waters they evaluated the Arochlors collectively instead of individually. Carl asked if that would be acceptable to do for solids. Eric said the committee should look at the SOP and confirm there is no limitation on doing this. There was agreement with this approach.

7. Complaints

The following complaint was received:

1. E-mail received on 6-17-2014:

I would like to bring to your attention a situation that has repeated several times. We have failed some analytes in Soil PT samples due to the preparation method we use (3051A). The PT providers do not differentiate extraction/preparation methods used when doing all the statistical calculation.

The last experience we had was when we reported Soils in metals by 6020A and 6010C prepared by 3051A. We passed all the analytes except Aluminum. All the QC samples prepared with this PT sample were within limits.

I called the PT provider and talked with the inorganic manager. He asked me about what preparation method we had used and when I told him 3051A he said that we could have passed if our results had been compared against the results obtained with 3051A. He told me he was going to talk with the PT reporting group. After several days I contacted them and I was asked to contact the regulator and asked them if they would accept a revised report. I did so and after several days the state told me that they could not.

We used to purchase the Metals in soil PT from another PT provider and when we started having problems we changed to another one.

Added by the complainant on 7-25-2014 in response to Maria's request for details:

We just would like the PT providers to consider the extraction methods when dealing with the results.

Discussion:

Jeff noted that the preparation method is going to affect the value. The following question should be asked of the provider: How did you set the assigned value? He commented the PTPEC should look at the PT footnote on the FoPT table – this can be a problem for microwave prep users for aluminum.

Eric asked what the failure was for the complainant and can they provide us with a specific study and who is the provider. He feels these questions need to be asked before this can be looked at.

Andy suggested that responding to alert the complainant that the PT Provider may not have looked at the footnote on the table may address his concern. Maria will draft a letter and distribute to the committee.

2. TDS Complaint

Carl commented that this was looked at when the previous TSS complaint (September 2013) was reviewed. There was no statistically significant difference in failure rate for TDS.

Andy suggested that it be forwarded to the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee for a response and data. Andy would like to look at more current data for this analyte.

8. New Business

None.

9. Action Items

See Attachment B.

10. Next Meeting

The next teleconference will be September 18, 2014.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm ET. Michella motioned, Andy seconded. Unanimously approved.

Attachment A

Participants TNI

Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
Stacie Metzler (2009) Present	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) Present	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) Absent	Sigma-Aldrich RTC	(307) 721-5488 Pat.Brumfield@sial.com
Michella Karapondo (2011) Present	USEPA	513-569-7141 karapondo.michella@epa.gov
Nicole Cairns (2012) Absent	NY State DOH	(518) 473-0323 nicole.cairns@health.ny.gov
Joe Pardue (2011) Present	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 Absent	PA DEP	rhouck@pa.gov
Matt Sica Absent	ACCLASS	msica@anab-aiclass.org

Attachment B

Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
185	Send updated DW table with Footnote 15 to NELAP AC for approval.	Stacie	4/1/12	Stacie submitted this. Need to confirm approval.
214	Update Tin, Total Xylene and Total Cyanide on FoPT tables and submit for approval.	Carl Stacie	Next Meeting	In Progress
231	Meet to discuss how information is requested from PTPAs and how it relates to PT Providers.	Ilona Maria	4/15/14	
233	Review complaint process.	Maria Ilona	5/14/14	In Progress
238	Contact AIHA regarding Asbestos.	Ilona	7/16/14	
241	Update WET FoPT table for review in DC.	Rami	8/1/14	
242	Find out if all volatiles need to be spiked.	Michella	9/18/14	
243	Update Charter and distribute for review and finalization at next meeting.	Maria	9/11/14	
244	Draft response to complainant for 3051A complaint and distribute to committee for review.	Maria	9/11/14	
245	Forward TDS complaint to Chem FoPT with request to review data and respond.	Maria	8/31/14	

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	
	Consider evaluating impact of new FoPT limits.	8/21/14	