

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

September 17, 2020

1. Roll call, approval of minutes and overview:

Chair, Shawn Kassner, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order at 1pm Eastern on September 17, 2020 by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 6 members present. Associate Members: Sennett Kim, Eric Smith, Tim Miller, Mike Blades, Patrick Selig, Nicole Cairns, Jennifer Best and Susan Jackson.

Shawn asked for confirmation that everyone received the agenda and meeting information. The June meeting minutes were distributed by email for review. There were no meetings in July and August.

A motion was made by Jennifer Duhon to accept the June 18, 2020 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Carl and there was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

There were no changes made to the agenda.

2. Chair Update

Shawn noted that TNI is planning a face-to-face meeting in January. He noted that there may be a combined meeting with the WETT Expert Committee and he provided a document by email to prepare for that. He asked that everyone read it before the next meeting.

3. Analyte Request Application (ARA) for PCB Aroclor Identification

Shawn will confirm that the current proposed language is:

For a laboratory to pass a proficiency test sample for Aroclors/PCBs, all Aroclor/PCB analytes for which the laboratory is accredited shall be reported and there shall be no “not acceptable” evaluations for any individually reported Aroclor/PCB.

Shawn will still check with Michelle and Rachel on this rewording and report back next month.

4. Carl Kircher – Residue FoPT Acceptance Criteria Review

Carl had brought this topic up at a previous meeting. He has not had an opportunity to further research this. He would like to look into these further. He needs summary data from the TNI database. He will email a request to Shawn and William.

5. PTPA Reports 2020

Normally this would be done during the summer face-to-face meeting. A copy of the reports can be found in Attachment D.

ANAB

Patrick Selig met with Matt Sica and presented ANAB's information.

Manganese and Residual Chlorine in WS

Manganese – There were two studies where percent passage was below 90%.

Residual Chlorine – There were two studies where a percent passage was below 90%.

No issues with the PT Providers were found.

A2LA

Sennett Kim reported for A2LA.

No complaints were received.

The following WS analytes had failure rates at greater than or equal to 10%.

Inorganic Disinfection By Products – Bromide (17%)

Minerals – Fluoride (12%)

Nutrients – Nitrate as N (11%)

VOCs – Methylene Chloride (10%)

Bromide and Fluoride are repeats.

The following WP analytes had failure rates at greater than or equal to 10%.

Volatile Solids (>15%)

n-Hexan Extractable Material (O&G) (10%)

There were no failure rates greater than 10% for Radiochemistry and SCM.

Green rows show > 5% decrease in failure rates, orange rows show >5% increase in failure rates between 2019 and Jan-June 2020. Note that many sample sizes are quite small this early into the changes, so results may be spurious.

Trichloroethene	0.0400	0.095	5.50%
Bromodichloromethane		0.058	5.80%
cis-1,3-Dichloropropene	0.0390	0.096	5.70%
2,4-Dichlorophenol	0.0120	0.064	5.20%
2,4-Dinitrophenol	0.0130	0.063	5.00%
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	0.0240	0.077	5.30%
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	0.0380	0.130	9.20%
Volatile solids	0.0870	0.140	5.30%
Bromide	0.0448	0.150	10.5%
Microbiology, MF	0.0473	0.110	6.27%

Shawn presented a table of differences between 2019 and 2020 based on the changes in reporting in the 2009 to the 2016 Standard. There are no appreciable changes in failure rates.

6. Inquiries for new PT FoPTs

There have been two inquiries – PFAS SDWA PTs and Air PTs. These may come to the committee later.

7. Subcommittee Updates

Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee: Jennifer Best mentioned she would like to talk to Shawn about some other items that could be updated. She needs to talk to the Subcommittee about a possible ARA that she may submit.

PT SOP Subcommittee: The Committee will be meeting next week and continue working on SOP 4-101. Ilona noted that the TNI Policy Committee is looking at the SOPs that were resubmitted.

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee:

Radiochemistry Fields of PT will not be pursued for NPW at this time.

Xylenes - Carl re-forwarded the highlighted changes for Shawn to insert into the current SCM table. Ilona also emailed additional instructions for the posting. Carl still needs to call Martina in PA to discuss the DW component. Shawn will add this to the next agenda.

8. New Business.

Carl noted that he has attended the first virtual meetings to update ISO/IEC 17043. He asked that people provide him with comments that should be considered when working on this Standard update.

Iлона and Shawn will be looking at some new meeting minute formats.

Phenova asked if EPA is no longer giving EPA IDs. Michella noted they only provide them to states. Apparently a person is trying to get ID for DMRQA. Individual regions give them out for DMRQA. Michella does it for Drinking Water.

Jennifer noted that there was an individual that retired who was doing the IDs. Now it is done on an ad hoc basis and this may be why it is harder to get it. No one is aware that the IDs are no longer being used. Michella offered to look into this specific issue if a message with the details can be sent to her.

9. Action Items

The action items can be found in Attachment B.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be by teleconference on October 15, 2020 at 1pm EDT. (*Addition: The October meeting was canceled. The next meeting was November 19, 2020.*)

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

Adjourned at 2:03pm Eastern. (Motion: Jennifer Duhon. Seconded: Carl – Unanimous).

**Attachment A
Participants
TNI**

Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Rep	Affiliation	Contact Information
Shawn Kassner (2023*) (Chair) Present	Lab	Pace	shawn.kassner@pacelabs.com
Dixie Marlin (2021) (Vice-Chair) Absent	Other	Marlin Quality Management, LLC	marlinquality@gmail.com
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Present		TNI	tauntoni@msn.com
Carl Kircher (2021*) Present	AB	Florida Department of Health	Carl.Kircher@flhealth.gov
Andy Valkenburg (2021*) Present	Other	QASE Inc.	cvalkenbur@aol.com
Jennifer Duhon (2022) Present	Other	Millipore Sigma	jennifer.duhon@sial.com
Patrick Garrity (2022) Absent	AB	Kentucky DEP	patrick.garrity@ky.gov
Michella Karapondo (2022) Present	Other	USEPA	karapondo.michella@epa.gov
Fred Anderson (2020*) Absent	Other	Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC	Fred@advancedqc.com
Jennifer Bordwell (2020*) Present	Lab	Upper Occoquan Service Authority	jennifer.bordwell@uosa.org
Scott Haas (2020*) Absent	FSMO	Environmental Testing, Inc.	shaas@etilab.com
Rachel Ellis (2022*) Absent	AB	New Jersey DEP	rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov

Attachment B

Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Comments/ Actual Completion
295	Moved from Backburner: PTPA Evaluation Checklist needs to be updated prior to next round of evaluations. (Originally discussed 8/6/13)	Shawn Ilona		New Date: 5/31/19	In Progress (will use 2016 TNI Standards and current SSAS Standards)
349	Review LAMS/FoPT Table Differences document. Provide comments by email and next meeting. Follow-up on subcommittee reports from WET and the FoPT Table Format Subcommittee.	ALL	4/20/17	4/25/17 2/28/18 – For WET? June 2018 for all tables. New target date: 4/30/19	In Progress WET is still being reviewed. Update 1/23/18: Subcommittee expects to have updated FoPT tables with CAS #'s and LAMS changes by 3/15/18. 2/22/19: Still in progress. 6/21/18: Still working with Rami. 3/21/19: Stacie asked if the group should be working on this while ELAB is working through this. 2/20/20- ONGOING - Waiting for WET.
352	Moved from Backburner (originally discussed 2/20/14) : When new limits are established for the	All	2/20/14	TBD (see #350) 350: Prepare format	In Progress – Update of SOP 4-101

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Comments/ Actual Completion
	<p>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><i>request to SOP Subcommittee regarding updating FoPT tables and applicable backburner items just moved to the Action Items table (#352, 353)</i></p>	<p>6/21/18: Gil noted that this SOP will be worked on again at the next meeting. An expected completion date will be given at July meeting.</p>
361	<p>Analyte Code changes needed in LAMS. (TKN)</p>	<p>Maria Dan Hickman</p>	<p>7/20/17</p>	<p>9/30/17</p>	<p>Still need to look into TKN issue. 2/22/18 – Maria will confirm. 10/18/18: Maria still needs to confirm. She just got something. 2/20/20 – Maria will report next meeting.</p>
363	<p>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.</p>			<p>1/31/17</p>	<p>Will talk to IT about getting this in an SOP. 12/21/17: Maria will follow-up on this. 3/20/18: Maria will check this week.</p>

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Comments/ Actual Completion
					6/21/18 – still being worked on. 2/28/19 – Maria will follow-up. 2/20/19 – Maria will take care of.
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. 6/21/18 – Maria will send to Ilona. 10/18/18: Maria will send Dan's new info. 11/15/18 – Ilona received the info and needs to review it. (April PTPEC meeting.) 2/20/20- Maria working with Dan Hickman on this.
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	MTF version of the analytes have been added to the NPW and DW tables.
389	Present recommended LAMS updates to Dan Hickman.	Maria	5/17/18	5/20/18	FoPT format subcommittee provided recommendations . In Progress. Maria sent him tables this month (2/20/20)
400	Follow up on subcommittee reports from WET and the FoPT Table Format Subcommittee.	Maria	11/15/18	12/18/18	In Progress – combined with 349.

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Comments/ Actual Completion
422	Send Isomer ARA data to Carl so Chem FoPT Subcommittee can begin work on this.	Maria	6/20/19	7/17/19	2/20/20 - Pending Needs to still be sent to Subcommittee.
430	Review FoPT Table Titles and website headers to be consistent.	TBD	10/31/19	TBD	2/20/20 - Pending
431	Discuss with IT Committee the need for LAMS updates to be communicated to the PTPEC.	Maria	10/31/19	11/20/19	2/20/20 – Maria will talk to Dan Hickman.
432	DW FoPT Table – Lines 17-26 need to be reviewed with LAMS Administrator. PTPEC is going to use what was originally in the table instead of what is currently in LAMS.	Maria	10/31/19	11/20/19	2/20/20 – Pending. Maria will talk to Dan.
433	Send final version of SOPs 4-102, 4-105, 4-107 and 4-108 to Ilona for finalization and distribution to the Policy Committee.	Maria	1/23/20	2/19/20	2/20/20 – Maria will still do this.
437	Reach out to Sennet Kim and ANAB to confirm there is still an issue related to SCM FoPT table metals footnotes for fixed limits.	Shawn	3/26/20	4/15/20	

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Comments/ Actual Completion
438	Reach out to NELAP AC to see if any additional progress has been made in dealing the PCB ARA.	Shawn	3/26/20	4/15/20	
439	Send committee applications to PTPEC Voting Members for review.	Shawn	3/26/20	4/15/20	
440	Invite Rami to next meeting to discuss WET Expert Committee data needs.	Shawn	5/28/20	6/16/20	
441	Send formal requests to Chem FoPT Subcommittee: Xylenes ARA (#422) and Uranium Analyte Number	Shawn	5/28/20	6/6/20	Complete 9/17/20 – Carl sent FoPT update to Shawn. To be discussed at 10/15/20 meeting.
442	Send out PCB survey.	Shawn	5/28/20	6/17/20	See Item 445
443	Meet with Michelle Potter and Rachel Ellis to review option 2 language for PCB issue.	Shawn	5/28/20	6/17/20	Update: 6/18/20 - Met and new language was presented to the PTPEC. The PTPEC modified it and sent it back to the NELAP AC for consideration. 9/17/20: Shawn will meet again to discuss new language option.

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Comments/ Actual Completion
444	Request that PTPAs do their annual presentation during the August PTPEC meeting.	Shawn	5/28/20	6/17/20	Complete – 9/17/20
445	Send PCB survey to Ilona so she can arrange to have it sent out.	Shawn/Ilona	6/18/20		9-17-20: Shawn is working on this and will get to Ilona.
446	Review WET information distributed by Shawn for October meeting.	All	9/17/20	10/15/20	
447	Update Xylenes in FoPT table.	Shawn	9/17/20	10/15/20	See 441.

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	In Progress
11	Evaluate how labs are accredited for analytes that co-elute.	5-19-11	
13	Charter needs to be reviewed/updated in November.	Ongoing	
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	

PTPA Annual Report Request

1) PT Provider status – Please provide the current status for each of the PT providers who are accredited in your program.

a) Name

b) Status (e.g., Current – last renewed MM/YYYY, Due for Renewal MM/YYYY, Needs Surveillance MM/YYYY, Withdrawn, New, Revised Scope – extended or reduced, etc.)

1. ERA – Current: Last Renewed 2/28/2019; Due for Renewal 6 months prior to expiration of 9/30/2020.
2. Phenova – Current: Last Renewed 10/26/2018; Due for Renewal 6 months prior to expiration of 9/30/2020.
3. New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center – Current: Last Renewed 3/27/2019; Due for Renewal 6 months prior to expiration of 11/30/2020.
4. Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC – Current: Last Renewed 11/13/2018; Renewal due 6 months prior to 7/31/2020.

2) Complaints – Please outline the complaints that have been placed. The PTPs must be anonymous in this section of the report.

a) Type or category (e.g., TAT, deliverables, responsiveness, etc.)

b) Status of each (e.g., Still Open, Closed, In Progress)

No complaints

3) Summary failure rate review: **Attached “12 months” spreadsheet**

a) All FoPTs within the past 12 months with PT data and with fail rates of average failure rate >10% across multiple PT providers.

b) For FoPTs that were new or changed within the past 6 months (when statistical changes occur); also include those FoPTs with limited PT data (see item 5 under Details of report). Segregate analytes with FoPT changes vs analytes with no FoPT changes

Details of report:

a) Report as average fail rates >10% across multiple providers

b) Please use data sets where the N is ≥ 30 . Please note the analytes that do contain < 30 data points, e.g., “WP Fluoride: 85.9% pass (6/29 studies; N<30)

c) Analytes of concern and study type (e.g., WS, WP, etc.)

d) Pooling of Data – use caution (e.g., do not mix volatiles with semi-volatiles)

e) Challenges or limiting factors in determining fail rates (e.g., discussion of possible biases to fail rates such as PT studies with low numbers of participants, technical issues, or existing known issues)

f) Other noteworthy observations for the committee.


4) Compare failure rates for 2019 to the failure rates for Jan – Jun 2020 to preview if the changes

to the standard for PT evaluations have impacted failure rates. Review the failure rates between the two data sets and note where the average failure rates have changed and note the change. (e.g. WP Nitrate as N increased by 11%)

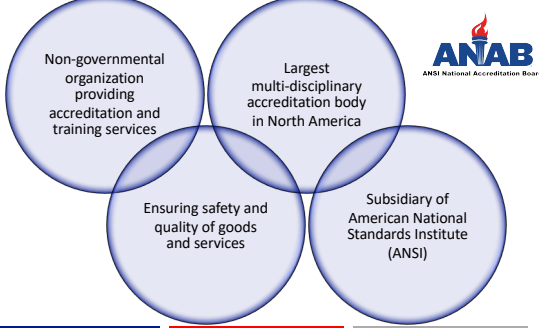
Attached "Comparison" spreadsheets

ANAB TNI PTP Review

August 2020




1



2

PT Provider Assessment Update


<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid white;"> Absolute Standards, Inc </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> Surveillance Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted • January 2020 </div>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid white;"> NSI Lab Solutions, Inc </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> Reassessment Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted • July 2020 </div>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid white;"> Sigma Aldrich RTC </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> Reassessment Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted • June 2020 </div>
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3

Report of PTP Complaints to PTPA

- None



4


Review of Analytes with Failure Rates of >10%

Reviewed
all
analytes

— DW

— NPW


— SCM



5

STANDARD IMPLEMENTATION

- No noticeable change in pass rates with implementation of new TNI PT Standard




6

FoPT Tables

Effective tables found on TNI website

DW FoPT (2019_07_01)
 NPW FoPT (2017_07_24)
 SCM FoPT (2017_07_24)

No additional considerations due to FoPT changes




7

Data Selection Criteria for Presentation

Analytes with more than failure in a 12-month period

- July 2019 through July 2020
- Multiple Studies Impacted
- One or multiple PTPs
- Fail rates >10%
- Number of data points, N at least 30




8

Data Analysis

Reviewed

- Study type/analyte combination
- Analytes of concern
- Historical study data (18 months)



9

Data Considerations

12 months of data analyzed


- July 2019 - June 2020

Frequency of studies

- Quarterly studies for 2 out of 3 ANAB-accredited PTPs

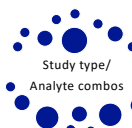
Reporting issue

- No insight when one lab reports multiple methods



10

Data Analysis



Study type/
Analyte combos

8600 data points

➤


Fail rate >10%

198

➤

N>30

27




11

Further Review 2020


• WPChem Manganese


WP



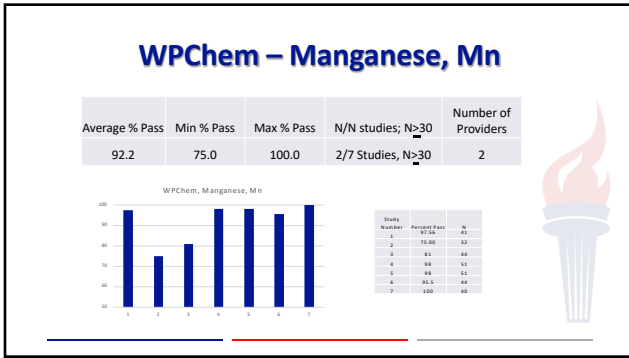
• WSCHEM Residual Free Chlorine

WS

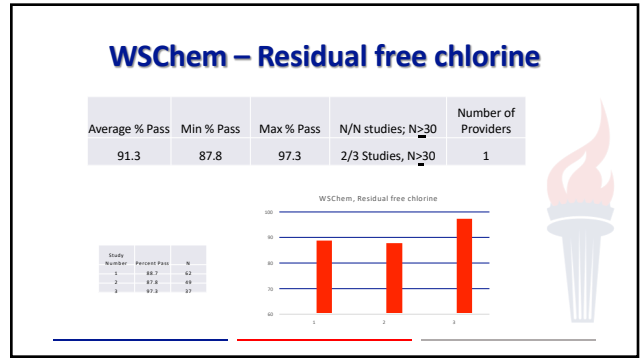




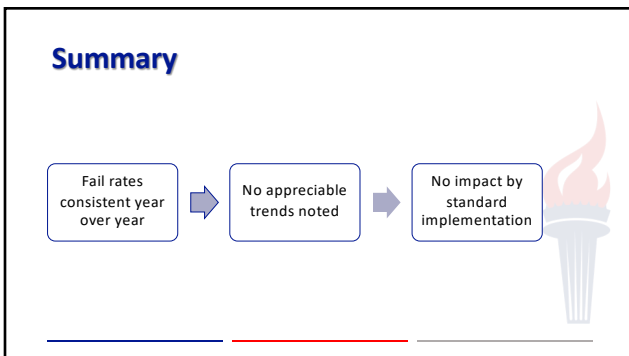
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13



14



15