

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

September 18, 2014

1. Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chair, Maria Friedman, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order on September 18, 2014, at 1 PM ET. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 8 Executive Committee members present. Affiliate: Carl Kircher, Rob Knake, Dixie Marlin

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

Minutes will be distributed and reviewed by email.

2. Chair Update

- The PT Expert Committee reopened the voting draft standard for comments for 30 days.

The NELAC Institute Proficiency Testing (PT) Expert Committee held a voting session for two TNI Voting Draft Standards (EL-V1M1 and EL-V2M2) this year, with the close of voting on June 26, 2014. This voting was incomplete, with several PT Expert Committee members not registering their votes. Accordingly, the TNI Board of Directors has decided to re-open the voting to all TNI members. All ballots must be submitted by 11:59pm EDT on October 15, 2014 in order for comments to be considered by the TNI Proficiency Testing Expert Committee. Any negative votes without comment will not be considered.

NOTE: All votes previously cast on this standard remain valid, and any member who voted on the standards by June 26, 2014 is not required to vote again.

*In order to vote, you must log in to the **Members Only area** of the website and then click on **PT Voting Draft Standards (VDS) Ballot**.*

Votes cast on or before 11:59pm EDT on October 15, 2014 (closing date) will be discussed publicly by webinar

- WET FoPT Table. The table was forwarded to the NELAP AC and Rami met with the them. They have not reached a consensus on approving the table. There were concerns expressed about Footnote #3. Maria is pulling information together to address their concerns and will forward this to the NELAP AC. The AC wants to understand why this information is contained in the footnote instead of PT sample instructions.

The AC will meet again on October 20th to discuss this topic.

- The NPW FoPT table has been approved. It needs an effective date. The effective date will be 6 months after the date it was approved by the NELAP AC. The effective date will be March 16, 2014 – a Monday.

A motion was made by Patrick and seconded by Eric to set the effective date of the updated NPW FoPT Table for March 16, 2014. Vote: For – 8 Against – 0 Abstain – 0. The motion has been approved.

Ilona will send the table to William for updating on the website. Ilona will also send the table to the PT Providers and PTPAs.

- Eric will contact Alfredo to start his membership on the Policy Committee.

3. Charter

The charter was distributed by email after all edits were made to the charter.

Maria is still waiting to hear from Michella regarding a note from her EPA Office that they would like to continue to have her participate on the committee. They don't have an alternate candidate to represent EPA on the committee. Ilona will take this note to the Chair of the Board of Directors and ask for an exception to renew Michella's membership.

Eric asked about the database committee. Is it still in existence? It has fallen off the radar. This subcommittee was developed to review the PTPA databases and discuss an offer that A2LA made to give their database to TNI. They were to discuss pros and cons of a central TNI database and provide input to the Board. This subcommittee will be left on the list and the Committee will review its scope in the upcoming months.

The committee reviewed all the subcommittees. Concerns were expressed about inactive committees such as the Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee and the Database Subcommittee. Maria would like to continue to list the subcommittees even though they are inactive committees. The committees still exist, but they are not currently meeting.

Eric moved that the charter be approved with the addition of the PT Database Subcommittee to the Subcommittee listing. The motion was seconded by Joe Pardue. Vote: For - 8. Against – 0 Abstain – 0. The motion passed. Maria will make the change and send the Charter to Ilona for distribution.

4. Discussion with Michella

Michella noted the discussion last week was regarding regulated analytes. Her office does not have an opinion about spiking unregulated analytes.

For regulated volatile analytes, the EPA Criteria Document does not appear to require that all must be spiked. Looking back at old PE's she found that inorganics were never left out.

The information in the footnotes to the DW FoPT table comes from the EPA Criteria Document.

Michella's office thinks the footnotes apply to VOCs and could possibly apply to metals. The lab can not consistently leave out the same analyte. 80% rule only applies to the VOCs. You have to pass 80% of the regulated analytes in the ampule.

Does every analyte have to be present in the PT ampule? The EPA follows the EPA Criteria Document on this (see page 1-5). Carl noted that he has a copy of the EPA Criteria Document.

Maria will ask the Chem FoPT Subcommittee to review the DW FoPT table and make sure the footnotes are consistent with the EPA Criteria Document. Michella will be distributing the Criteria Document to everyone.

5. Subcommittee Updates

WET Subcommittee

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

Chem FoPT Subcommittee:

The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee is continuing to review SCM analytes. The group is finishing up Metals and has started preparing data to review the General Inorganics.

Carl responded to the first part of the following request received from the PTPEC:

- 1) Investigate what is the rationale for calling TDS as "Total Filterable Residue" in the DW FoPT versus "Total Dissolved Solids at 180°C" in the NPW FoPT Table. The NELAC analyte code for both is 1955 while their EPA codes are different (0024 and 0021, respectively). If no regulatory restrictions exist for the name to be the same, then they should be called the same in the subject tables.
- 2) Re-review or re-evaluate acceptance criteria for both Total Dissolved Solids and Total Suspended Solids in all matrices (all ampule types). It should go without saying

that we should be using recent data (at least from last year 2013). Please let me know if there are hurdles obtaining these data.

Response:

This e-mail is the response requested by you to question #1 to your e-mail below. Total Filterable Residue is the analyte name from the former US EPA WS PT studies, and Total Dissolved Solids at 180 C is the analyte name from the former US EPA WP PT studies. Both of these listings can be found in the "National Standards for Water Proficiency Studies, Criteria Document," issued by US EPA on January 31, 2001 under document number 600/R-00/082. NELAC's PT Board (in the days prior to TNI) recognized that these 2 names represent the same analyte and thus gave them the same NELAC analyte code, rather than the separate codes that US EPA gave. I do not know why EPA gave separate codes to Filterable Residue / Total Dissolved Solids, however named. If you think that the analyte name in the DW and NPW FoPT Tables should be the same, then please provide your recommendation as to what the same should be (in case the name that the Subcommittee delivers to you might be inappropriate). For the record, TDS is not regulated under SDWA (at least by US EPA) since it is a secondary drinking water contaminant. It is regulated under the Clean water Act only to the extent that regulators may specify TDS monitoring into NPDES discharge permits.

Based on Carl's response, Maria will rewrite her formal request to the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. Ilona will forward Maria's new request to the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee when it is available.

FoPT Table Update Subcommittee

Ilona sent out a Doodle to plan a meeting. It has been difficult to find a good meeting time.

SOP Subcommittee

They are still working on the FoPT Limit Update SOP.

The committee hasn't met for another month. Maria will ask for a status update from Stacie.

6. New Business

Maria received an email from Shawn Kassner:

The PTEC has been working on the attached comment for the Vol 4. The comment was to allow the PTPEC to gather information from the PTPA concerning establishing failure criteria that all of the PTP's can be evaluated against. The worry discussion within the PTEC meetings has led to worries over accessibility and exposure of the data by the PTPA's involved in the call. The PTEC thought it would be a good idea to convene a

subcommittee to look at the comment and make sure all of the stakeholders are comfortable with the language proposed or to develop another solution. Please read over this and let's discuss the comment and see if you agree with this approach.

*Thanks,
Shawn*

Maria will continue to work with Shawn on this topic.

7. Action Items

- See Attachment B.
- There will be minutes distributed for approval through email. Complaints are still being addressed.

8. Next Meeting

The next teleconference will be October 16, 2014 at 1pm ET.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm ET. Susan motioned, Pat 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) 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) Present	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	ACLASS	msica@anab-aclass.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	Sent an email. Will follow-up this month.
241	Update WET FoPT table for review in DC.	Rami	8/1/14	Complete
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	Complete
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	
246	Rewrite request to the Chemistry FoPT subcommittee and send to Ilon for distribution.	Maria	10/6/14	

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
247	Request that Chem FoPT Subcommittee review DW footnotes and ensure they are consistent with the Criteria Document.	Maria	10/6/14	
248	Contact Stacie to check on status of the SOP Subcommittee.	Maria	10/6/14	

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	