

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

March 19, 2015

1. Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chair, Maria Friedman, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order on March 19, 2015, at 1PM Eastern. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 8 Executive Committee members present. Associate Members present: Craig Huff, Mike Blades, Patsy Root (until 1:55), Jennifer Best (until 1:55), Michella Karapondo, Carl Kircher, Andy Lincoff, Shawn Kassner (until 1:55), David Kilhefner.

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

The addition to the February 3, 2015 minutes was reviewed. A motion was made by Dixie to approve the February 3, 2015 minutes. The motion was seconded by Susan and unanimously approved.

The February 19, 2015 minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Susan to approve the February 19, 2015 minutes. Pat seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

2. Chair Update

Analyte Name Correction

It is going to be 2,2'-oxybis (1-chloropropane). Maria got an email yesterday evening, but will keep everyone posted by email. Nothing has been changed in LAMS yet.

DW Methods

Maria did contact Aaren about her concern regarding the addition of the methods to the DW FoPT tables. Aaren responded this morning, but Maria has not had an opportunity to digest the information. A further update will be sent by email and she will let Craig know if there is any impact on his subcommittee.

Analyte Request Application (ARA)

Maria will be sending all three ARA's to the NELAP AC at one time.

SOP Committee

Gil Dichter said he would be willing to Chair this subcommittee. Ilona has been asked to pull this subcommittee together to re-group. She will send out a Doodle and include Gil

in the invitation. There was some concern expressed about Gil's knowledge of PTPEC activities.

SIRs

Jeff and Shawn were asked to DRAFT an example template for an exception report. They will submit it before the next meeting.

There were no further questions.

3. Patsy Root's Question about MPN ARA

Jennifer updated her ARA to remove the references that would not be appropriate for public dissemination.

Maria read Patsy's email dated 2/24/15:

Thank you for the additional information/ reminder that some DW rule areas require enumeration of fecals or coliforms.

Multiple Tube Fermentation and Quanti-Tray are both based on mathematical MPN calculation. Both use +/- occurrence to determine the probability of bacterial growth. An MPN calculation involves taking the original sample, subdividing it and assessing presence/absence in multiple subdivisions. Standard Methods 9221C states that the 'multiple-well' technology (aka Quanti-Tray) is an MPN method.

Would the group please explain the rationale for separating out the FOPTs for IDEXX/Quanti-Tray MPN methods?

What is the core issue driving this request?

What do you hope to learn or confirm by separating out these MPN-derived methods from each other?

These are the questions I would like to discuss with the group. I am happy to be involved in a call to discuss these questions with you all.

Patsy Root expressed her concern of why the methods are being separated out. The ARA explains the reasons for separating it. People using Method 9221 have trouble passing the PTs. Jennifer is concerned about a bi-modal distribution.

Patsy does not want it called Multiple Wells. Carl noted that Standard Methods 9223 uses this term. Patsy said if it is called Multiple Well it would pertain to only Method 9223.

There was further discussion on different methods and possible names. Jennifer noted that this is a more involved conversation and it may be more appropriate to discuss this in the subcommittee that is being formed.

Jeff noted that there are people who frequently pass the PTs using Method 9221. He asked if the people who have had trouble have brought this to the attention of their PT Provider. Jennifer said they have retired, but she believes they did. This has been ongoing for 1 ½ years.

Jeff asked if this method can meet the PTRL of 2 mpn/100 mL. The response from meeting participants was that it could. Jeff was concerned about dilutions.

Maria noted that the next step is her notification of the NELAP ABs. She will confirm that the ABs will consider the request.

Michella noted that they are planning to set a precedent for a method specific PT on the DW FoPT table for Aroclors. Perhaps this needs to be done with this issue as well. Jeff noted that they don't have enough data to develop PTs for individual methods. Jennifer asked if people can be asked to do these PTs more frequently so the data can be developed.

Susan commented that when this is taken to the NELAP AC, it would need to be noted that you can't separate this out because there is not enough data. Jeff and Pat have not seen an issue with a bi-modal distribution and think this could have been an isolated incident.

Jeff noted it is not a problem in the wastewater. Carl commented it is fine to retract his request to add it to NPW too.

Michella thinks the data should be looked at before this request is considered.

Andy (EPA) commented that the issue is not just with the bi-modal distribution. If you mix a 15 tube test with a 97 well test, the 15 tube test has more variability. You will get a higher failure rate.

Michella commented that the method has been approved by EPA, so they need a PT. Michella thinks the PT data should be looked at before the NELAP AC is contacted. Patsy agreed. It needs to be determined whether this really is an issue. Jeff's concerned that a lot of volunteer time will be wasted if the NELAP AC decides this is not something they want to consider.

The decision was to follow the SOP and approach the NELAP AC first.

Patsy asked for some clarification on the application Jennifer submitted. She confirmed that Jennifer is asking for a separation of PTs for Method 9221 and 9223. Patsy commented that there are some labs that do the multiple tube. This will be further discussed at the subcommittee meeting – rather than trying to rewrite the ARA.

Michella requested to be added to the new subcommittee. Ilona has sent a Doodle for a meeting time.

4. Subcommittee Updates

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee:

They are one analyte away from moving to BNAs. That will finish up the PT reviews the committee originally started with.

WET Testing:

Maria shared the DMR QA letter with Rami. The PT Providers on the call noted that the PT is only run for DMRQA. Rami is reviewing the information and will get back to Maria.

SOP Subcommittee:

Gil Dichter is interested in chairing this committee. Ilona will set-up a Doodle to plan a meeting.

FoPT Format Subcommittee:

They are focusing on the Drinking Water FoPT table. It has been split up for all members to work on a portion. Craig thinks they are getting close to get something to the PTPEC.

5. ARAs for Review

Copies of the ARAs can be found in Attachment D.

PCBs in Oil

Nicole asked if this going to cause the labs more work – they need to do 7 instead of 4? Carl commented that currently they have to do this in soil, so now they will use a more accurate matrix. It will mean a lab will have a PT with 7 Aroclors instead of the current 4. Impact will be discussed when it is submitted to the NELAP AC.

Maria reviewed the requirements in the PTPEC SOP 4-107 and compared them to the application submitted. The application contained all the required elements.

Cost analysis: It will be minimal. Most labs run the other PCBs already.

This will be sent on to the NELAP AC.

8011 SCM

A lower concentration is being requested.

Carl asked if there is actual soil data at that concentration? He has higher concentration soil PTs and the extrapolation from water.

Carl also asked about the method. It is not consistent with the labs he sees in Florida. Other methods need to be added to the application.

The concentration ranges Jeff presented are based on the information from the labs he contacted.

Carl was asked to add the specifics from the method he is more familiar with to the application. This needs to be done before it goes to the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. It can go as is to the NELAP AC to keep the application moving forward.

Maria reviewed the requirements in the PTPEC SOP 4-107 and compared them to the application submitted. The application contained all the required elements.

Cost analysis: It will be minimal. Most labs run the other PCBs already.

This will be sent on to the NELAP AC.

Maria will send all three ARAs to the NELAP AC.

6. New Business

- None.

7. Action Items

- See Attachment B.

8. Next Meeting

The next PTPEC teleconference will be held on 4-16-2015 at 1:00pm EDT.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 pm EST. Nicole motioned, Susan seconded. Unanimously approved.

Attachment A

Participants TNI

Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
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) Absent	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 until 1:55.	Sigma-Aldrich RTC	(307) 721-5488 Pat.Brumfield@sial.com
Nicole Cairns (2012) Present	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) Absent	Energy Laboratories, Inc.	406-869-6254 avalkenburg@energylab.com
Ron Houck Present	PA DEP	rhouck@pa.gov
Matt Sica Absent	ANAB, ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board	msica@anab.org
Dixie Marlin (2015) Present	Environmental Science Corporation	DMarlin@esclabsciences.com

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
233	Review complaint process.	Maria Ilona	5/14/14	In Progress
246	Rewrite request to the Chemistry FoPT subcommittee and send to Ilona for distribution.	Maria	10/6/14	
249	Meet with PTPAs to discuss issues surrounding receiving data for FoPT Limit Updates and complaints. Determine if issue exists and whether subcommittee is needed to address this issue.	Maria	11/13/14	In progress.
251	Follow-up with Rami to provide support to solve footnote issue on WET FoPT Table.	Maria	10/30/14	Still in Progress
253	Check with EPA attorney on requirement that Vinyl Chloride cannot be “0”.	Michella	12/15/14	
254	Review PT SOP comments by the Policy Committee and add to agenda as appropriate.	Maria Ilona	12/15/14	Waiting for comments.
257	Email to SOP Subcommittee regarding clarification on how limit updates due to issues should be addressed.	Maria	12/12/14	Maria prepared it, but is waiting for a chair for this subcommittee.
260	Amend FoPT Table Format Subcommittee Scope and distribute for review.	Maria	12/12/14	

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
263	Look into new website design and see if there is an FAQ section that the committee can use to summarize some of their processes – complaint, addition/deletion of analyses to FoPT tables, etc. Talk to IT Committee.	Maria	12/12/14	
264	Update Complaint SOP to reflect Standard requirement that PTPA be contacted.	TBD	TBD	
265	Send out request for a volunteer to Chair the SOP Update Subcommittee.	Maria	2/1/15	Complete
268	Prepare DRAFT example template to request exceptions to running PTs.	Jeff Lowry Shawn Kassner	3/19/15	Next meeting- 4/16/15
269	Prepare DRAFT response to SIRs after meeting with NELAP AC.	Maria	TBD	
270	Share DMR QA letter with WET FoPT Subcommittee and see if footnote is still needed.	Maria	3/19/15	Shared – waiting for response.
271	Provide list of replicates and volumes from WET Subcommittee to PT Providers.	Maria	3/19/15	
272	Send email to Jennifer Best to remove inappropriate identifications from her analyte request.	Maria	3/19/15	Complete
273	DRAFT request to receive data from PT Providers to review data for analyte addition.	Carl	TBD	Complete
274	Notify NELAP AC about analyte requests.	Maria	3/19/15	Next meeting – 4/16/15
275	Submit letter explaining need to	Carl	3/19/15	

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	
15	Correct FoPT tables for 2,2'-oxybis(1-chloropropane) once LAMS is updated. It could take 3-6 months.	2-3-15	

Attachment D
Analyte Request Applications (ARAs)

See PDFs that will be attached at finalization of minutes.