

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

**June 19, 2014**

### 1. Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chair, Maria Friedman, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order on June 19, 2014, at 1 PM ET by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 8 Executive Committee members present. Associate members on the phone: Jeff Lowry (Phenova), Carl Kircher (FL), and Rami Naddy (TRE Environmental Strategies).

Maria reviewed the handouts everyone should have received for the meeting.

The meeting minutes from May 15, 2014 were reviewed. A motion was made by Susan and seconded by Patrick to approve the minutes. There was no additional discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

### 2. Chair Update

- Metribuzin. Maria prepared a final letter (Attachment D) to close the Metribuzin inquiry and distributed it to committee members by email for a vote. The letter was unanimously approved by email and she sent it to the inquirer on June 13<sup>th</sup>. (Vote: Motion: Stacie Second: Matt It was unanimously approved by all members between June 10-11, 2014.)

- Maria received a complaint through Jerry Parr. She has followed up with the complainant with further questions to make sure that this is a PTPEC issue. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

### 3. Review of Action Items

#### **Action Item # 232 re. WETT FoPT Table**

Rami distributed changes to the WETT FoPT table to committee members (sent 6/19/14 at 1pm ET). He reviewed the changes made.

Concerns were expressed on how the changes were made to the table. It is not clear what was changed. The color coding was removed. Maria will send Rami an example of how the changes need to be noted on the table before posting any updates.

Maria commented that Rami made the updates to the table recommended by Jeff by email. In addition, Jeff thought Footnote 3 and 5 should be combined – level of detail in Footnote 5 is inappropriate. Rami thought it is important to include this information to be able to compare apples to apples. Jeff did not think it is appropriate for TNI to stipulate this – TNI shouldn't tell people how to run their methods. Rami was concerned about increased variability if Footnote 5 is not included.

Maria asked for AB input on the changes:

Ron would expect that a lab would run the method as they run it normally. Carl commented that he was fine with the changes the subcommittee made to the table.

Patrick was concerned that if a method changes, the table would need to be updated. He is OK with listing as presented by Rami in the table and being aware of the update limitation.

Rami will update the table in the format for posting. It will be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting.

#### **Action Items #185 and 217 re. DW FoPT Table**

Maria looked into Action Item #185. It is not clear what needed to be changed for Xylenes (Footnote 15).

On July 17, 2013, the NELAP AC did not approve Footnote 15 submitted by Stacie. They wanted to see Volatile Aromatics changed to Volatile Organics. Maria added that Footnote 12 in the NPW FoPT Table may also need to be updated to accommodate this change but Jeff noted that the NPW FoPT Table has a category Volatile Aromatics so no change is needed for Footnote 12.

Volatile Organics in Drinking water are regulated and are not broken down to Aromatics, etc. This needs to be corrected if Volatile Aromatics is mentioned. The NPW is broken down to Volatile Aromatics, etc. It is appropriate for this to be broken down in this manner.

Carl received the request from Maria for the DW FoPT Table update and reviewed the response/recommendations from the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee.

Nicole feels strongly that a footnote that is the same as Footnote 11 in the NPW FoPT Table be added to category Low-Level Volatile Organic Compounds in the DW FoPT Table. She wants to ensure that labs are not running unnecessary PTs. Carl feels that the labs do need to run the PTs and the reason for the difference between putting it on the DW vs NPW is because DW is regulated. Carl does think that the labs can run the three analytes by 524.2. He sees labs that accomplish this.

It was suggested that the NELAP AC be contacted for guidance on how this should be handled in DW. Nicole and Carl disagree on what the intent of the table is. Nicole feels

the intent is that the low level analytes are to be analyzed by a specific method so a footnote like that of Footnote 11 is needed. Carl thinks the analyte should be run by all methods the lab uses to run that analyte – regardless of low level – and that the footnote should not be included. Patrick and Susan would like to see the footnote added.

Nicole motioned that Footnote 11 from the NPW table be used on the DW table associated with the Low-Level Volatile Organic Compounds as Footnote 16. The motion was seconded by Susan.

Roll Call Vote:

Pat – For

Ron – Against

Michella – Against

Joe P – Against

Maria – For

Susan – For

Nicole – For

The vote will be completed by email. *See Attachment E for email vote results for Motion 2 (For – 5, Against – 0, Abstain – 0).* Total votes: For – 9, Against – 3. The motion passed.

#### **DW FoPT Table Recommendations**

Michella motioned that Footnote 15 on the DW FoPT Table be changed from “Volatile Aromatics” to “Volatile Organic Compounds” and change the analyte name Total Cyanide to Cyanide and update the corresponding Footnote 13b. The motion was seconded by Susan.

Roll Call Vote:

Pat – For

Ron – For

Nicole – For

Michella – For

Joe – For

Susan – For

Maria – For

The vote will be completed by email. *See Attachment E for email vote results for Motion 1 (For – 5, Against – 0, Abstain – 0).* Total votes: For – 12, Against – 0. The motion passed.

#### **NPW FoPT Table Recommendations**

The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee completed the changes to the NPW FoPT table requested by the PTPEC. Maria reviewed the changes with the committee.

Nicole asked if Footnote 1 would apply to the three new analytes on the NPW table. If it were added it would have to be edited to include this group – it does not state low level volatile halocarbons. Carl commented that the Standard is clear, so the footnote is not needed. Either the standard needs to be updated or deleted. Jeff commented that the footnote could be adjusted to read that it is relevant to Organics.

A motion was made by Susan to accept the NPW table as sent by the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee with the change of adding Footnote 1 to the header for Low Level Halocarbons and removing the footnote references 1 and 2 on the analyte headings. The motion was seconded by Nicole.

Roll Call Vote:

Pat – For

Ron – For

Michella – For

Joe P – For

Maria – For

Susan – For

Nicole - For

The vote will be completed by email. *See Attachment E for email vote results for Motion 3 (For –5, Against – 0, Abstain – 0)*. Total votes: For – 12, Against – 0. The motion passed.

Additional Discussion:

Carl asked if Footnote 1 needs to be used on the DW table. It was decided to table this discussion until the vote . This discussion will be continued on the next call.

#### 4. Subcommittee Updates

Chem FoPT Subcommittee:

The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee is currently reviewing SCM Metals analytes. The Subcommittee is seriously considering whether to keep the current model of “Study Mean” and c,d regression coefficients as acceptance criteria (linear regression of standard deviation vs. Study Mean), or to switch to the linear regressions relative to Assigned values with a,b,c,d coefficients where the trace Metals meet our SOP criteria to do so. The next teleconference is scheduled for Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>.

FoPT Table Update Subcommittee

There is no update on a chair for this subcommittee. Ilona will follow-up on the posting that went up on the TNI site and if there are no options, the work may be done by the PTPEC instead.

#### SOP Subcommittee

The committee met this month and will have one more meeting in June. They are still working on the FoPT Limit Update SOP.

### 5. New Business

- Jerry contacted Maria with an AB request about the existence of Asbestos PTs: *NSI will no longer be providing PTs for asbestos. I believe the only other approved provider is NY and they have not decided if they can supply and want to supply the rest of the country with asbestos PTs. Do you know if there are any other provider approvals in the works?*. Ilona contacted the PT Providers and Shawn Kassner suggested contacting AIHA and NIST. Ilona will contact AIHA before the next meeting and provide an update.
- Maria requested everyone to please take a look at the PT Voting Draft Standard (VDS) that has been posted on the TNI website and provide your comments. Due date for commenting is on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Carl sent an email to the committee and Maria included her additional concerns. Carl thinks the ABs should determine which PTs are required for their Program. This should not be a responsibility of the PTPEC. Nicole is not sure where Carl is getting his impression. She does not think the standard is stating that the PTPEC is responsible for setting the fields. She will look at it again.

Patrick made a comment on Volume 2 – under section 5.1.3. He voted negative because he thought the text limits a lab that normally uses QC samples in their batches, from being able to include the QC samples when running PTs. There are no analysis instructions specified in the standard. Anyone giving preparation instructions with a PT would be violating the standard. He is not sure what was intended. Nicole noted that this was not intended, but she can understand Patrick's comments.

Maria asked everyone to carefully review the draft and comment.

### 6. Action Items

- See Attachment B.

### 7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be July 17, 2014 at 1pm EDT.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43pm EDT. Michella motioned, Susan seconded. Unanimously approved.

## Attachment A

### Participants TNI

#### Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
Stacie Metzler (2009) <b>Present (until 2pm)</b>	HRSD	757-460-4217 <a href="mailto:smetzler@hrsd.com">smetzler@hrsd.com</a>
Maria Friedman (2014) - <b>Present</b>	TestAmerica	949-260-3201 <a href="mailto:maria.friedman@testamericainc.com">maria.friedman@testamericainc.com</a>
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator <b>Present</b>	TNI	828-712-9242 <a href="mailto:tauntoni@msn.com">tauntoni@msn.com</a>
Eric Smith (2010) <b>Absent</b>	ALS Environmental	904-394-4415 <a href="mailto:eric.smith@alsglobal.com">eric.smith@alsglobal.com</a>
Justin Brown (2011) <b>Absent</b>	Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc.	847-875-2271 <a href="mailto:jbrown@emt.com">jbrown@emt.com</a>
Susan Butts (2012) <b>Present</b>	South Carolina DHEC	(803)896-0978 <a href="mailto:buttsse@dhec.sc.gov">buttsse@dhec.sc.gov</a>
Patrick Brumfield (2012) <b>Present</b>	Sigma-Aldrich RTC	(307) 721-5488 <a href="mailto:Pat.Brumfield@sial.com">Pat.Brumfield@sial.com</a>
Michella Karapondo (2011) <b>Present</b>	USEPA	513-569-7141 <a href="mailto:karapondo.michella@epa.gov">karapondo.michella@epa.gov</a>
Nicole Cairns (2012) <b>Present</b>	NY State DOH	(518) 473-0323 <a href="mailto:nlc02@health.state.ny.us">nlc02@health.state.ny.us</a>
Joe Pardue (2011) <b>Present</b>	Pro2Serve, Inc.	423-337-3121 <a href="mailto:joe_pardue@charter.net">joe_pardue@charter.net</a>
Dr. Andy Valkenburg_(2011) <b>Absent</b>	Energy Laboratories, Inc.	406-869-6254 <a href="mailto:avalkenburg@energylab.com">avalkenburg@energylab.com</a>
Ron Houck <b>Present</b>	PA DEP	<a href="mailto:rhouck@pa.gov">rhouck@pa.gov</a>
Matt Sica <b>Absent</b>	ACLASS	<a href="mailto:msica@anab-aclass.org">msica@anab-aclass.org</a>

## 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.
213	Update FoPT Subcommittee lists and give to Ilona for corrections on the website.	Stacie	Next Meeting	In Progress
214	Update Tin, Total Xylene and Total Cyanide on FoPT tables and submit for approval.	Carl Stacie	Next Meeting	In Progress
217	Cyanide and Footnote 15 needs to be updated on the DW table. There is a question about analyte code. This needs to be researched and a proposed update made to the PTP EC to complete this action item.	Michella	Next Meeting	
226	Send FoPT table with need for Cyanide update to Carl Kircher. Due back to PTPEC before next meeting.	Stacie	4/4/14	
231	Meet to discuss how information is requested from PTPAs and how it relates to PT Providers.	Ilona Maria	4/15/14	
232	Update WET Recommendation and send to Ilona for distribution and email comments.	Rami	5/6/14	Complete
233	Review complaint process.	Maria Ilona	5/14/14	In Progress
234	Contact FoPT Table Subcommittee to begin process of selecting a new chair.	Ilona	5/14/14	Complete
235	Contact WET Subcommittee to revise recommendation.	Maria	6/1/14	Complete

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
236	Post opening for Chair of FoPT Table Subcommittee.	Ilona	6/1/14	Complete
237	Contact Chair (Carl Kircher) of Chem FoPT Subcommittee with recommended updates to FoPT tables.	Maria	6/1/14	Complete
238	Contact AIHA regarding Asbestos.	Ilona	7/16/14	
239	Send out voting information for 3 PT related motions that need to be closed with email votes.	Maria	7/1/14	
240	Send Rami an example FoPT table posting.	Maria	7/1/14	

**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	
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	

## Attachment D: Response to Metribuzin Inquiry

June 9, 2014

Dear <requestor>:

Thank you for your inquiry dated December 12, 2013 regarding Metribuzin.

As required by its charter, the Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) carries out periodic reviews of Fields of Proficiency Testing (FoPT) Tables to evaluate the effectiveness of the PT Program and the FoPTs. A review of the Drinking Water FoPT Table was performed in 2010. This review included expert analysis of historical PT data, followed by consensus approval of updates by the PTPEC and by the NELAP Accreditation Council. These updates were made effective on January 3, 2012.

When reviewing the concentration range and acceptance criteria for Metribuzin, an effort was made to harmonize the Drinking Water FoPTs as closely as possible in terms of concentration ranges and, to a lesser extent, acceptance limits. Metribuzin is similar chemically with Metolachlor, Propachlor, and Butachlor, which was used as the basis for the changes to the Metribuzin concentration ranges and acceptance ranges that were ultimately adopted. The concentration range was also shortened to 2-20 µg/L because higher concentrations were deemed environmentally irrelevant.

Upon receipt of your inquiry, and in accordance with the PTPEC's established procedures regarding requests to consider changes to FoPT Tables, the PTPEC requested the Chemistry FoPT Table Subcommittee to reassess the available data on Metribuzin and return a recommendation to the PTPEC on what action to take, if any. After exhaustive discussions and review of the Subcommittee's supporting documentation of the Metribuzin acceptance criteria update performed in 2010, the PTPEC decided that the current acceptance criteria are acceptable and shall remain in place.

In your inquiry, you noted that Method 525.2 states that the recovery can be as low as 50% for Metribuzin. The section cited (13.2.7) does not provide sufficient data to draw a statistical conclusion, stating only that "low recoveries of metribuzin were observed in samples fortified with relatively high concentrations of additional method analytes...approximately 80 analytes at 5 µg/L each..." However, Method 525.2 also states (Section 9.3.3) that the mean accuracy of laboratory fortified blanks, expressed as a percentage of the true value, should be 70-130% for each analyte (emphasis added), at a concentration of 2-5 µg/L per analyte (Section 9.3), which is at the low end of the Drinking Water FoPT concentration range for Metribuzin. In light of the above, the PTPEC does not deem the FoPT acceptance criteria of 50-150% to be unreasonable. The PTPEC does not have immediate plans to revisit the Drinking Water FoPT Table acceptance criteria for Metribuzin specifically, however as noted above, the PTPEC is chartered to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of all FoPTs, and so the question of Metribuzin, and all other FoPT analytes, will be revisited in due course.

Sincerely, Maria Friedman  
Chair, Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

## **Attachment E: Email Motions**

From Maria: 6/24/14

On the 6-19-2014 PTPEC teleconference, three votes were held. Your vote is now requested by e-mail for motions #1 and #2 (since both of these relate to the DW FoPT Table. Your vote on the other motion (for NPW FoPT Table) will be requested under separate e-mail.

**Motion #1** = accept the following changes to the DW FoPT Table:

a) Replace "Cyanide, Total" with "Cyanide" and the corresponding NELAC Analyte Code 1645 with 1635, under header "Misc Analytes." Similarly, Footnote 13b that is appended to this analyte will now reference "Cyanide" instead of "Total Cyanide."

Note: These were the corrections proposed by the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee, per PTPEC's request.

b) Change Footnote 15, replacing "Volatile Aromatics" with the term "Volatile Organic Compounds."

Note: Footnote 15 was previously approved by the PTPEC in 2012 and was referred to the NELAP Accreditation Council (AC) for approval. The NELAP AC returned the table to PTPEC with a request that "Volatile Aromatics" be changed because the term "Volatile Aromatics" does not appear elsewhere in the DW table.

**Motion #2** = accept the following changes to the DW FoPT Table:

a) Add new Footnote 16 with the same language as is used in Footnote 11 of the NPW FoPT Table. A corresponding reference to Footnote 16 would also be added to the "Low-Level Volatile Organic Compounds" group header.

A copy of the DW FoPT Table with the proposed changes highlighted in blue (analyte additions) and magenta (changes), and with strikeout text and underlining, is attached for your review.

Please submit your vote by close of business on 7-3-2014.

Maria sent 6/24/14:

To all:

Your vote is now requested by e-mail for motion #3 (which also has been seconded during the PTPEC teleconference on 6-19-2014).

**Motion #3** = accept the following changes to the NPW FoPT Table:

a) Remove the references to Footnotes 1 and 2 from the "Analyte" header (at the top of each page).

Note: Footnotes 1 and 2 are already referenced in the headers for the analyte groups to which they apply, therefore referencing those footnotes in the "Analyte" header on each page is not needed (and, in the case of pages where only inorganic analytes appear, invalid).

b) Correct the footnote reference in the "Low Level Analytes" group from Footnote 12 to Footnote 11. (as sent by Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee)

Note: This was a correction proposed by the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee, per PTPEC's request.

c) Add new analytes 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, 1,2-Dibromoethane, and 1,2,3-Trichloropropane under a group headed "Low-Level Halocarbons," as proposed by the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. (as sent by Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee)

d) Add a reference to Footnote 11 to the new "Low-Level Halocarbons" group. (as sent by Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee)

Note: This was a correction proposed by the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee, per PTPEC's request.

e) Add another reference Footnote 1 to the new "Low-Level Halocarbons" group.

Note: This was an addition discussed during the 6-19-2014 PTPEC teleconference.

*End of Motion #3*

A copy of the NPW FoPT Table with the proposed changes highlighted in blue (analyte additions) and magenta (changes), and with strikeout text and underlining, is attached for your review.

Email Voting Results:

Voting Member	Motion 1 Vote	Date E-mail Vote Rec'd	Motion 2 Vote	Date E-mail Vote Rec'd	Motion 3 Vote	Date E-mail Vote Rec'd
Matt Sica	Yes	7/4/2014	Yes	7/4/2014	Yes	7/1/2014
Eric Smith	Yes	6/27/2014	Yes	6/27/2014	Yes	6/27/2014
Andy Valkenburg	Yes	6/27/2014	Yes	6/27/2014	Yes	6/27/2014

Justin Brown	Yes	6/25/2014	Yes	6/25/2014	Yes	6/25/2014
Stacie Metzler	Yes	6/25/2014	Yes	6/25/2014	Yes	6/25/2014