

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

June 27, 2013

1. Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chair, Stacie Metzler, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTP EC) meeting to order on June 27, 2013, at 1PM EST. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 9 Executive Committee members present. Associate members present included: Rob Knake.

The May 16th minutes were reviewed. Eric's contact information has been updated. Nicole motioned that they be approved. The motion was seconded by Eric and unanimously approved.

2. FoPT

DW FoPT Table

Stacie sent the footnote clarification to the NELAP AC, but has not heard anything back yet. The effective date may need to change.

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee

The subcommittee is continuing its work on the SCM FoPT Table.

Questions

Michela sent an e-mail about Cyanide –

June 7, 2013: I had a question raised to me recently about how cyanide is listed on the DW FoPT table.

The regulated analyte is free cyanide. We have cyanide listed as total on the FoPT table. The composition of the PT is correct, as potassium cyanide (as it is in the EPA Criteria Document). Why did we list it as total instead of free? One of the EPA Regions has raised this concern, as there is no PT for a regulated analyte (free cyanide). EPA considers total cyanide as a screening method for free cyanide.

Cyanide is regulated as free cyanide. Laboratories need to determine and report "free" cyanide using one of the methods approved in 40 CFR Part 141 or Appendix A to Subpart C of Part 141 for determining "free" cyanide. Alternatively, they can use an approved

method that determines "total" cyanide; these are adequate screening methods and are cheaper than the Manual (Preliminary) Distillation followed by Manual Spectrophotometry, Free Cyanide Amenable to Chlorination method. The result of a "total" cyanide method will determine if you need to run an additional test for "free" cyanide.

If you run a method that determines "free" cyanide, report the amount of "free" cyanide. If you run a method that determines "total" cyanide:

- If the "total" cyanide is less than the MCL for "free" cyanide (currently < 0.2 mg/L), report the "free" cyanide as < 0.2 mg/L (since 40 CFR 141.62 currently states that cyanide should be reported as "free" cyanide).*
- If the "total" cyanide is greater than or equal to the MCL for "free" cyanide (currently ≥ 0.2 mg/L), determine the "free" cyanide using methods approved in 40 CFR 141.23 or Appendix A to Subpart C of Part 141 and report "free" cyanide.*

Pat noted that free Cyanide has a different analyte code than Total Cyanide. The addition of just Cyanide may cause some confusion. This will be forwarded to the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee for discussion. This will be added to the next agenda and hopefully Carl and Michella can be on the next call in July to resolve this. Nicole noted that 40 CFR Part 141 only lists Cyanide. It does not specify Total or Free. Pat commented that if it were listed as Cyanide on the table, a note (13b) would need to be modified on the table to clarify.

Stacie will e-mail the concern to Carl for discussion at the next Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee meeting.

Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee

The next meeting will be July 16th. There has been discussion on specifying strains. The committee has decided it is not a global issue and they plan to recommend not specifying strains in the FoPT table. The subcommittee may have at least one recommendation in San Antonio.

3. Position Paper

Eric is working on the DRAFT and the subcommittee will meet to work through it. The paper describes TNI's philosophy behind PTs and was originally requested by the Advocacy Committee. A DRAFT will be distributed to the Executive Committee before the July meeting.

4. PT Program Evaluation Update

Subcommittee Membership: Stacie Metzler, Carl Kircher, Curtis Wood, Randy Quarry, Susan Butts, Matt Sica, Rob Knake, Keith Ward, and Kelly Black. There will be a

conference call planned for the second week in July so a recommendation can be ready for the next call.

5. Membership

Stacie followed-up with the possible candidates, but did not hear anything back. Ilona will follow-up with David and Stacie will work with Rachel.

6. SOPs

The subcommittee has been working hard on the FoPT table update SOP. The committee will be meeting prior to the July meeting and hopes to have something to present to the Executive Committee for review.

7. San Antonio

Agenda ideas:

Accomplishments

FoPT subcommittee updates

PTPA presentations (Kelly will present for A2LA. The PTPAs would like some direction on what to present. Stacie will send something similar to the last face-to-face meeting.)

Break

Position Paper

SOPs

PT Program concerns and other issues.

Stacie would like to invite discussion on PT program concerns – how to add an analyte to a table, etc.

8. New Business

PT Program Concerns – from Susan Wyeth:

The AC invited assessors from all ABs to attend a discussion on topics decided by the AC members. Minnesota was selected to lead a discussion on evaluation of PTs and compare evaluation criteria from one AB to another. The issue regarding FoPTs that I presented on the call is as follows:

Background:

The standard (VIM1) requires laboratories to analyze a PT sample for each FoPT listed on their accreditation or application (4.1.1).

The actual FoPT combinations are inferred by Note 2 of this section, which states "Accreditation and experimental FoPT are established by the TNI PT Board [Editorial change needed: should be "TNI PT Executive Committee"]. The official Tables of FoPT are posted to the TNI website."

Implementation Issue:

From an interpretation/legal standpoint, do we assume that the FoPT tables represent the complete available list of analyte and matrix combinations for PTs? Meaning if an analyte is represented on the FoPT table for drinking water, then a PT must be analyzed by the laboratory and the AB must require the PT to be analyzed.

For NPW and SCM matrices, I think the consensus was that ABs require a laboratory to analyze PTs for every analyte on the corresponding FoPT table for each technology on their scope. The problem is that we hear from PT Providers and laboratories that the PT formulations do not lend themselves to analysis by all technologies. (A PT Provider stated this during the Denver meeting. ABs have heard this from their laboratories when PT failures occur.) For this reason, it would be helpful to remove analytes from the FoPT tables that do not work in the available technologies OR change the table so that the table truly reflects the ALL the elements of the definition for FoPT and only lists the technologies for which the PT will function.

For DW, some ABs only require analysis of PTs for the regulated analytes in the 40 CFR 141 (i.e. NOT every analyte on the corresponding FoPT table).

Some statement about the applicability of the table might be useful in resolving the formulation issue and in resolving the inconsistent application of the 'required analytes' by ABs. I think the Council would be open to helping resolve these issues in the most expedient and least cumbersome manner possible.

---Susan

The committee will review Susan's information and discuss this at the next meeting. Patrick commented that not all of this is relevant to the PTP EC scope and others agreed. Nicole noted that this might lead to a sample preparatory discussion too.

Eric noted that one PT cannot necessarily be designed to work with all technologies for an analyte.

Stacie has seen ABs work with the labs when PTs are inappropriate for a technology, but other's have experienced ABs that have still required the PTs even when the technology was not appropriate.

9. Action Items

- See Attachment B.

10. Next Meeting

Next call. A number of people cannot meet on the normally scheduled 18th. The call will be rescheduled for the 25th at 1pm. Stacie will invite Susan and Shawn Kassner.

Ilona will contact Jerry about a phone at the San Antonio meeting. It is not critical, but would be appreciated by committee members that cannot be present.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm EST. Motion – Joe Second – Nicole Unanimously approved.

Attachment A

Participants TNI

Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
Stacie Metzler (2009) CHAIR Present	HRSD	757-460-4217 smetzler@hrsd.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
Steve Gibson (2011) Present	Texas Comm. on Env. Quality	512-239-1518 jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us
Susan Butts (2012) Present	South Carolina DHEC	(803)896-0978 buttse@dhec.sc.gov
Carl Kircher (2010) Absent	Florida DOH	904-791-1574 carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us
Patrick Brumfield (2012) Present	Sigma-Aldrich RTC	(307) 721-5488 Pat.Brumfield@sial.com
Michella Karapondo (2011) Absent	USEPA	513-569-7141 karapondo.michella@epa.gov
Jennifer Loudon (2013) Present	Raritan Township Municipal Utilities Authority	(908) 782-7453 x19 JLoudon@rtmua.com
Nicole Cairns (2012) Present	NY State DOH	(518) 473-0323 nlc02@health.state.ny.us
Joe Pardue (2011) Present	Pro2Serve, Inc.	423-337-3121 joe_pardue@charter.net
Dr. Andy Valkenburg (2011) Present	Energy Laboratories, Inc.	avalkenburg@energylab.com 406-869-6254
OPEN	Looking for an AB.	

Attachment B

Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
165	Follow-up on need for NEFAP EC approval of the FSMO FoPT Table.	Eric	Next Meeting	4/18/13: Ilona – will ask NEFAP EC if they need to approve the Lead table.
185	Send updated DW table with Footnote 15 to NELAP AC for approval.	Stacie	4/1/12	Follow-up with NELAP AC. Stacie will look into this.
196	Prepare final response to Complaint and forward to committee for approval.	Stacie	10-18-12	
203	Stacie to provide Dispute Resolution and Voting SOP to Ilona for clean-up and distribution to the Policy Committee.	Stacie	5/15/13	Complete
204	Charter updated based on Board comments. Redistribute to EC.	Stacie Ilona	5-15-13	Complete
205	Follow-up on membership candidates.	Stacie	6/19/13	In progress.
206	Send information about Cyanide issue to Carl for Chem FoPT Subcommittee evaluation.	Stacie	6/30/13	
207	Distribute DRAFT of Position Paper to EC.	Eric	7/24/13	
208				

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			