

## TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

July 25, 2013

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

Chair, Stacie Metzler, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTP EC) meeting to order on July 25, 2013, at 1PM EST. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 10 Executive Committee members present. Associate members present included: Rob Knake and Carrie Miller. Guests: Susan Wyatt and Shawn Kassner

The June 27th minutes were sent, but the e-mail did not make it through to Stacie. They will be reviewed in San Antonio.

### 2. Discussion on PT Program Implementation Issue - Susan Wyatt and Shawn Kassner

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*

Stacie asked if part of the issue is that FoPT tables need to be better defined. Susan responded that the posted tables are missing information required in the standard. The tables do not include method/technology.

Shawn asked what this should look like? Susan stated method needs to be included on the DW FoPT table. In addition, Aluminium should list ICP, GFAA, etc ... all relevant methods. Analysis date concerns are part of what raised this issue.

The current working DRAFT deals with closing date, so this issue is taken care of in the upcoming standard. This does not take care of the issue of what is listed on the FoPT table. Shawn commented that analytes are broken into categories that each have methods and technologies that go along with them. Shawn asked if a solution would be to have the FoPT Subcommittee add the method/technology to the categories. Susan thought this would help, but commented that the PT might not work for all analytes. Shawn reminded the group that this has been an ongoing issues for many years. Certain PTs cannot be run by certain technologies at different concentrations.

Stacie asked if it is up to the AB to determine if a PT should not be used for a specific analyte using a specific technology. Nicole pointed out that if an analyte does not list a method/technology then it no longer is a required technology. Andy would rather have it be listed by technology so that PTs don't have to be run by multiple methods (example: 8270 and 625). Susan commented that Drinking Water has to be by method, but the others could be technology.

Stacie asked how Susan thought PT Providers should score? Shawn and Nicole confirmed that the scoring is already set up for technology. Shawn pointed out that reporting the technology/method is not set up. The FoPT Subcommittee does not have access to this information. The providers do let their clients know what technology a PT is relevant for and this information may be helpful in looking at past data.

Shawn noted there will be issues in format to change how the information is provided. Susan asked if William might be able to enter the information similar to how method and analyte tables are entered? This would establish a database.

Stacie would like to add this to the San Antonio agenda to get input from the community in how to move forward. Susan thought a few ABs would be able to help with this effort to make sure it works with their database. Patrick commented that many states all have different upload requirements. There are non-NELAP ABs that use the information too. He is concerned that the subcommittee working on this will stall if they focus on trying to design something that works with all these different formats. Stacie also commented that this should probably be worked on by a subcommittee outside of the FoPT subcommittees because of the volume of work these FoPT subcommittees have. Eric agreed with this. He also confirmed that prep methods are not being discussed at this point. Susan stated that there are labs that have issues because of different prep methods – a more vigorous prep can cause failures. Susan would like the standard to be written in a way that an AB has the ability to take special situations into account when reviewing PTs and determine impact on accreditation.

Eric highlighted that if new technologies are developed, a PT would not be required if it is not listed in the FoPT table.

Stacie invited Susan to the meeting in San Antonio. Susan will plan to attend and include a slide presentation to define the issue. Shawn will also plan to attend.

Andy recommended Nevada's analyte list as a useful tool. Michella also noted that DW has a method list too.

### 3. FoPT Updates

#### Posting of Cryptosporidium FoPT Table – Carrie Miller

Carrie reminded the group that it is called the Protozoa FoPT table. She wants to know what is needed to have the table posted. It was approved by the Protozoa Subcommittee in 2012 and then approved by the Executive Committee. Carrie noted that Susan Wyatt helped her see how the TNI standard could be used and that a method specific audit could work. Carrie also said that Volume 2 Module 2 Section 5.2.1 regarding PTs clearly meets the needs of the Cryptosporidium program. A group will be meeting in NEMC to discuss these issues, so she believes the timing is right to have the table posted.

Stacie will send it out to the Executive Committee for review and final approval in San Antonio. She then proposed to send it to the NELAP AC for review and approval. Stacie asked if the table will be a NELAP or Non-NELAP table. Eric reminded the committee that the table does not have to be posted as a NELAP table.

Stacie will make sure that the version with the corrected footnote is distributed (without the outlier comment). William will need to be notified that we have our first non-TNI Program FoPT table to make sure he has a procedure to post it.

Patrick confirmed that non-NELAP Program FoPT tables do not require that PTs be produced by TNI approved providers.

Carrie will e-mail Stacie the final version of the table that she has. Stacie will confirm it is the same table approved by the Executive Committee.

#### Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee

The subcommittee is continuing its work on the SCM FoPT Table. They are working on midlevel volatile organics.

They also reviewed the questions regarding Tin and Cyanide and sent the result to Stacie. Stacie will check with Dan Hickman if any analyte codes need to be changed.

Letter from Carl:

*Dear Stacie,*

*The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee met by teleconference on Tuesday, July 9, 2013. By acclimation of all the members present on the call, we agreed that the listing for the FoPT and footnote 13b on the DW FoPT Table should be changed to "Cyanide" (strike-through "Total" in each case). We also agreed that the PTRL for Tin on the NPW FoPT Table was an error and should be corrected to 140 ug/L.*

*Both Tables are attached to this e-mail. Please distribute to the TNI PTPEC, NELAP AC, and whomever else you think should be receiving this. The NPW FoPT Table should go to the NELAP AC right away since they might get around to ratifying it next Monday, July 15.*

*Both actions were done by acclimation and not by any formal motion, second, or vote, by choice of the Subcommittee Chair (me). Please let me know if you think a formal process to make these changes was needed.*

*Please let me know if you have any questions.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Carl Kircher, Chair, Chem FoPT Subcommittee*

#### Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee

A report and recommendation will be given in San Antonio.

#### 4. Position Paper

Joe, Eric and Jennifer prepared a DRAFT for review. Comments from the committee were all favorable. Eric commented that one of the reference documents did not have a date. Nicole found the date for the resource – 2007.

There is a typo for SSAS.

The committee will review the document in San Antonio and vote to finalize it.

#### 5. Membership

A few ABs have been invited to complete a nomination form to possibly join the committee, but no one has applied to date.

Stacie reminded people that a new chair needs to be elected for a change in January 2014.

#### 6. SOPs

The subcommittee has been working hard on the FoPT table update SOP. It is now ready for review. It will be presented in San Antonio.

#### 7. New Business

None.

#### 8. Action Items

- See Attachment B.

#### 9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in San Antonio, TX on Tuesday afternoon (8-6-13).

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20pm EST. Motion – Carl Second – Nicole Unanimously approved.

## Attachment A

### Participants TNI

#### Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
Stacie Metzler (2009) CHAIR <b>Present</b>	HRSD	757-460-4217 <a href="mailto:smetzler@hrsd.com">smetzler@hrsd.com</a>
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator <b>Recorded</b>	TNI	828-712-9242 <a href="mailto:tauntoni@msn.com">tauntoni@msn.com</a>
Eric Smith (2010)  <b>Present</b>	ALS Environmental	904-394-4415 <a href="mailto:eric.smith@alsglobal.com">eric.smith@alsglobal.com</a>
Justin Brown (2011)  <b>Present</b>	Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc.	847-875-2271 <a href="mailto:jbrown@emt.com">jbrown@emt.com</a>
Steve Gibson (2011)  <b>Present</b>	Texas Comm. on Env. Quality	512-239-1518 <a href="mailto:jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us">jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us</a>
Susan Butts (2012)  <b>Absent</b>	South Carolina DHEC	(803)896-0978 <a href="mailto:buttse@dhec.sc.gov">buttse@dhec.sc.gov</a>
Carl Kircher (2010)  <b>Absent</b>	Florida DOH	904-791-1574 <a href="mailto:carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us">carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us</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>
Jennifer Loudon (2013)  <b>Present</b>	Raritan Township Municipal Utilities Authority	(908) 782-7453 x19 <a href="mailto:JLoudon@rtmua.com">JLoudon@rtmua.com</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>Present</b>	Energy Laboratories, Inc.	<a href="mailto:avalkenburg@energylab.com">avalkenburg@energylab.com</a> 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	
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	Complete
207	Distribute DRAFT of Position Paper to EC.	Eric	7/24/13	Complete
208	Work with Dan Hickman on any method code issues regarding Tin and Cyanide issues.	Stacie	8/6/13	
209	Distribute Protozoa FoPT Table to Committee.	Stacie	8/6/13	
210	Distribute final Analyte Addition SOP to Committee for review in San Antonio.	Stacie	8/6/13	

**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			