

TNI PT Executive Committee Meeting Summary

August 8, 2012

1) Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chair, Stacie Metzler, called the TNI PT Executive Committee (PTP EC) meeting to order on August 8, 2012, at 1:30PM EST in Washington, DC. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 9 Executive Committee members present.

2) Database

See slides in Attachment B.

Jeff asked who will own the data that is being collected and reviewed by TNI? This is something that the Subcommittee will address.

A2LA met with Jerry last January and they have not heard back. Peter Unger feels there is a breach of contract. There should be one database and they were asked to develop this.

There were concerns expressed by one PTPA that a PT Provider developed the ACLASS database. ACLASS stated that they received input, but that they maintain their own database. The PT Provider in question felt they offered similar help to A2LA as their database was being established.

The original standard did not consider multiple PTPAs and so language does not define whether there needs to be one or multiple databases.

There are some issues from the past that have not been resolved.

- Director of TNI did not follow-up on a meeting with A2LA.
- Need to determine costs to take over A2LA database in a manner that produces the information the EC needs.
- Suggested that TNI evaluate costs to do what subcommittee has been looking at. 2 separate databases with TNI requesting specific information to establish what the EC needs to do to evaluate the PT Program.

Conclusions:

Both PTPAs will continue down the path they are currently on.

The subcommittee should continue their work and finalize a recommendation to the PTP EC on what needs to be collected to perform the overview needed. Costs for the different

options to accomplish this compilation of information should be evaluated and presented to the PTP EC. The PTP EC then needs to review all the information and provide a recommendation to the TNI Board of Directors.

Establishing a database that can collect all PT data for use when establishing FoPTs has been a desire for a long time. This issue needs to be considered separate from the need for the PTP EC to review the PT program. If this is something the PTP EC feels is needed, a cost analysis to do this should be developed and it should be proposed to the TNI Board of Directors.

Iiona will speak with Jerry Parr regarding the concerns raised at today's meeting.

3) FoPT Subcommittee

See slides in Attachment B for committee update.

Mitzi Miller (Chair of PT Expert Committee): Need to evaluate how FoPT tables are posted. Need to be sure that it is clear what program(s) they belong to. If they don't belong to a program, that needs to be clear.

4) SOP Update Subcommittee

A subcommittee has been formed to work on PTP EC SOPs. This subcommittee is chaired by Curtis. Membership: Nicole, Patrick and Justin. A complaint resolution SOP is in progress and will be this subcommittee's first priority.

5) Microbiology PT Scoring

See PPT in Attachment B.

This issue was raised by Susan:

I had a WP PT report for reporting a E. Coli MPN sample by Colilert as a greater than (>) number. The lab reported >2400 which I believe is the top of the MPN chart for Colilert.

I contacted the PT provider to verify if this was correct. They currently send us reports for the 2003 NELAC standard since we were not able to accept the 2009 standard. When I asked them about a ">" number, they told me that it was acceptable by the standard. To quote: "it is correct that for MPN they can report a ">" and be graded "Acceptable". The numerical value that is reported with the > sign is what is evaluated and is included in the calculation of the statistics."

There are two items in regards to this that our office does not agree with.

1) A ">" number should not be acceptable as they cannot report a ">" number on their DMR, they must dilute the sample to fall within the MPN range. The purpose of the PT is to determine the laboratory's proficiency with the test and by the acceptance criteria above, in theory, they could report >1 and still have an acceptable result.

2) The actual MPN value the laboratory achieved is unknown. We know it is somewhere above 2400, but to assume a numerical value of 2400 and to include that in the calculation of the statistics would seem incorrect since it is changing an unknown value into a known.

I looked in the 2003 and 2009 standards and could not find anything on reporting ">" results and including them in the statistical calculation. I also looked at the FoPT table and could not find anything.

My questions boil down to these:

1) Are ">" values reported for Micro supposed to be graded as acceptable and used in the statistical calculations?

2) If so, where is this defined in the standards?

3) If not, what is the next course of action our office needs to take?

Mitzi noted that the PT Expert Standard is in final review. Any comments must be given within the next 2 weeks.

A Microbiology subcommittee was formed. Members include Susan B., Andy V and Shawn Kassner. Possible additional members include Deb Waller, Patsy Root, and Jeff Lowry. Stacie will talk to Michella.

6) New Business

None

7) Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PTP Executive Committee will be the third Thursday in September.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5pm EST.


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	TestAmerica Laboratories, Inc.	615-726-0177 x1238 eric.smith@testamericainc.com
Justin Brown (2011) Present	Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc.	847-875-2271 jbrown@emt.com
Amy Doupe (2009) Absent	Lancaster Laboratories, Inc.	717-656-2300 x1812 aldoupe@lancasterlabs.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
Patrick Brumfield (2012) Present	Sigma-Aldrich RTC	(307) 721-5488 Pat.Brumfield@sial.com
Carl Kircher (2010) Absent	Florida DOH	904-791-1574 carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us
Nicole Cairns (2012) Present	NY State DOH	nlc02@health.state.ny.us
Joe Pardue (2011) Absent	Pro2Serve, Inc.	423-337-3121 joe_pardue@charter.net
Dr. Andy Valkenburg (2011) Present	Energy Laboratories, Inc.	avalkenburg@energylab.com 406-869-6254
Curtis Wood (2010) Present	Environmental Resource Associates	303-431-8454 cwood@eraqc.com





TNI Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Wednesday, August 8, 2012


Presented by: The PT Executive Committee

Session Chair: Stacie Metzler


Session Agenda

- PTPA Reports
- PTPA On-Site Assessments
- Database Subcommittee Update
- FoPT Updates
- SOP Subcommittee
- Micro Scoring Question
- Assigned Value
- Complaint






PTP Executive Committee

- Committee Members
 - Stacie Metzler, Chair- HRSD
 - Eric Smith, Past Chair – TestAmerica, Inc
 - Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator- TNI
 - Justin Brown- Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc.
 - Susan Butts- South Carolina DHEC
 - Patrick Brumfield- Sigma- Aldrich RTC
 - Nicole Cairns- NY State DOH
 - Amy Doupe – Lancaster Laboratories, Inc.
 - Steve Gibson – Texas Comm. on Environmental Quality
 - Michella Karapondo – US EPA OGWDW
 - Carl Kircher - Florida DOH
 - Joe Pardue – Pro2Serve, Inc.
 - Andy Valkenburg – Energy Laboratories, Inc
 - Curtis Wood – Environmental Resource Associates



PTPA Reports

- A2LA
- A-Class


PTPA Evaluations


- A2LA- September of 2012
 - Stacie Metzler, PTP Executive Committee Chair
 - Susan Butts, PT Executive Committee Member
 - New York Department of Health
- A-Class- Early 2013
 - Stacie Metzler, PTP Executive Committee Chair
 - Nicole Cairns, PTP Executive Committee Member
 - Absolute Standards

PTPA Evaluations



- Checklist Review
- Database Evaluation
 - Subcommittee review of checklist
 - Designate which questions correspond to database







Database Subcommittee

- Members:
 - Stacie Metzler, HRSD (Chair)
 - Matt Sica, A-Class representative
 - Randy Querry, A2LA
 - Rob Knake, A2LA
 - Steve Arpie, Absolute Standards
 - Curtis Wood, ERA
 - Keith Ward, Wibby Environmental
 - Carl Kirshcer, Florida DOH
 - Susan Butts, South Carolina DHEC
 - Ilona Taunton, TNI
 - William Daystrom, TNI Webmaster



Database Subcommittee

- Objectives:
 - To define a list of what is required to be in any PTPA database based on the TNI 2009 Standard. We need to be sure this is clearly covered in the PTPA checklist.
 - To define what the PT Executive Committee requires from the PTPAs to evaluate the PT Program, and the format for submittal of this information.
 - To determine if there are re-writes to the TNI standard necessary to more clearly define the expectations and requirements for PTPA databases.



Database Subcommittee

- To define a list of what is required to be in any PTPA database based on the TNI 2009 Standard. We need to be sure this is clearly covered in the PTPA checklist.
 - + Completed spring 2012
 - + Questions on the full PTPA checklist will indicate which questions pertain to the database



Database Subcommittee

- To define what the PTP Executive Committee requires from the PTPAs to evaluate the PT Program, and the format for submittal of this information.
 - + Have developed a table using terminology from the A2LA and A-Class Databases
 - + Determined information is captured in both databases
 - + Working to determine calculations, or programming needs to merge data into usable format
 - PTP Executive Committee Program Evaluation
 - FoPT Subcommittee evaluations


Database Subcommittee


- To determine if there are re-writes to the TNI standard necessary to more clearly define the expectations and requirements for PTPA databases.
 - + Next step to be completed once the database is operational

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee



- Recognition of the PT Executive Committee's current Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee:
 - Carl Kircher (chair)
 - Stephen Arpie
 - Dan Dickinson
 - Amy Doupe
 - Stacey Fry
 - Jeff Lowry
 - Jim Morotti
 - Eric Smith







PT Program FoPT Subcommittee Activities

- Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee
 - Meets every other Tuesday at 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
 - The group contains a balanced mix of laboratories, PT providers, and State Accreditation Bodies.



PT Program FoPT Subcommittee Activities

- The group is performing a review of and update to each of the analytes on the Non-Potable Water Accreditation FoPT table. The subcommittee is roughly 80% through that review, and they expect the review will be completed in the Fall of 2012.
- Once that task is completed, the subcommittee will proceed with a review and update to each of the analytes on the Solid & Chemical Materials Accreditation FoPT table.



WET FoPT Subcommittee

- Recognition of the WET FoPT Subcommittee members :
 - Naddy Rami (Chair)
 - Ginger Briggs
 - Pete De Lisle
 - Robert Kelly
 - Jamie Mitchell
 - Jeff Lowry
 - Bob O'Brien
 - Faust Parker
 - Chris Pasch
 - Brian Krausz
 - Steven Rewa
 - Teresa Norberg-King


WET FoPT Subcommittee

- Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 11:00 AM MT
- Addressing issues with FoPTs and acceptance limit determination
 - Data Evaluation

PT Program FoPT Subcommittee Activities


- Protozoa FoPT Subcommittee
 - Leadership- Leah Villegas and Carrie Miller
 - Completed FoPT Table
 - Will begin determining use of FoPTs
 - NELAP or other




SOP Update Subcommittee



- Newly formed
- Initiate committee review of SOPs
- Incorporate SOP comments





SOP Update Subcommittee



- Members:
 - Curtis Wood
 - Patrick Brumfield
 - Justin Brown
 - Nicole Cairns
- In the process of updating SOP 4-104 "Dispute Resolution Procedures"

Microbiology PT Scoring

Susan Butts:



- The issue involves scoring of PT results reported as "Greater than" as ACCEPTABLE.
- The evaluation is determined based on the numerical value reported, not including the ">"

Microbiology PT Scoring



Questions:

- 1) Are ">" values reported for Micro supposed to be graded as acceptable and used in the statistical calculations?
- 2) If so, where is this defined in the standards?
- 3) If not, what is the next course of action our office needs to take?



Assigned Value

- PT Expert Committee update:
 - Definition for TNI Standard
 - Consistent implementation
 - + TNI Database
 - + PT Providers
 - + Laboratories


Complaint

Many of the State AB websites link directly to the A2LA website for the list of approved TNI PT Providers. This information is no longer correct since PT Providers can now (since January 2011) be accredited by 2 different PTPAs. This situation involves accreditation bodies in both NELAP states and non-NELAP states that use the TNI Standards. We feel that TNI is not actively or has not properly notified the states and that this situation is contributing to a restraint of trade with the state accreditation bodies defined above.

Questions

- Open Floor for Questions and Comments:
 - On topics discussed today
 - On new topics/issues



Attachment C
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	
168	Update FoPT Management SOP, distribute to EC and then distribute to NEFAP EC and NELAP AC for comment.	Eric	Next Meeting	Received from NELAP AC. Need to follow-up with NEFAP.
169	Contact Chem FoPT Subcommittee to look at the PCB data again and make sure that it supports the limits TNI has set.	Eric	Next Meeting	Eric will touch base with Carl.
170	Ask NEFAP EC and NELAP AC if they are aware of any analytes that need to be added to the table.	Eric	8/16/11	Need to follow-up with NEFAP.
181	Supply Ilona with Scope information for PTPAs.	Eric	12/22/11	
183	Update Protozoa FoPT Table and distribute.	Carl	4/19/12	
185	Send updated DW table with Footnote 15 to NELAP AC for approval.	Stacie	4/1/12	
186	Follow-up with PT Expert Committee regarding “Assigned Value”.	Susan	4/19/12	
187	Review complaint #1 included in Attachment D before the next meeting.	All	4/19/12	
188	Review SOP 4-101 in preparation for review during the next conference call.	All	On-going	
189	Review Complaint SOP and May minutes prior to the call in order to provide SOP feedback to the SOP subcommittee.	All	Next Teleconference (Sept)	

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
190	Take Susan's concern regarding reporting of greater than values to the PT Expert Committee.	Joe Nicole	8-8-12	
191	Look into teleconference line in DC.	Stacie	7-31-12	
192	Discuss issues raised during the PTP EC meeting in DC with Jerry Parr.	Ilona	Sept 2012	Complete

Attachment D

Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
6	DW Table Micro Total Coliform Rule Request	10/15/09	9 out of 10 vs. 10 out of 10
7	Add the Field PT Subcommittee to the limit update SOP during its next update.	3/4/10	
8	Implement all policies and procedures necessary for operation and continual improvement of a national PT program – including FoPTs for various matrices, stakeholders and accreditation programs. (Need to update SOPs – including an appeals process) – Complete by 7/1/11.	10/21/10	From 2010 Strategic Plan Review
9	Implement a process to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the PT provider oversight program and the Fields of Proficiency Testing. Complete by 6/1/11.	10/21/10	From 2010 Strategic Plan Review
11	Evaluate how labs are accredited for analytes that co-elute.	5-19-11	
12			