

TNI PT Executive Committee Meeting Summary

August 11, 2010

1) Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chairman Eric Smith called the TNI PT Executive Committee meeting to order on August 11, 2010, at 3:30 PM EST in Washington, DC. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 9 Board members present at the meeting.

Minutes from the July 15th meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting on August 19th.

2) Overview of PT Executive Committee Activities

Eric gave a powerpoint presentation on the current activities of the PT Executive Committee (see Attachment B). Under the Fields of Proficiency Testing topic, Eric requested input on EPA's request for TNI to assume the Cryptosporidium PTs. He indicated that TNI needs to develop a response to this request. Questions and comments on this topic included:

- What are the approved methods for crypto? Are there plans for polymerase chain reaction? Should this be taken into consideration?
- What is the concentration range of these PTs? The letter from EPA said 50-200 cysts. In DW, they are looking for an absence of crypto. These are quantitative PTs for lab comparability.
- What type of statistical analysis does EPA need? Are they looking for viable organisms or just presence/absence?
- Is this an accreditation standard? If so, it could take some time to develop and should go hand in hand with FoPT development.
- EPA is currently providing PTs 3 times per year. They would be willing to discuss 2 times per year.
- What has been EPA's cost to run this program? It would be good to get feedback from their PT providers. EPA does not directly contract for PTs, but will make historical data available.
- This may be a good opportunity for the PT EC to document the process for accepting new PT programs.
- Small labs have anxiety about EPA transferring the process outside the agency. There will be increased costs. Labs have existing contracts based

on current costs. How can small lab stakeholders get involved in this process? The micro business is not like chemistry. It depends on the quality of PTs. EPA should do a cost estimate on privatizing this PT program.

- Are there any issues with the current PT vendors? No, some isolated issues, but nothing major.
- Is the program likely to grow if more PTs are available? Yes, more labs have indicated they want to be accredited. Currently, there are 57 labs accredited for Crypto, but there may be more. Crypto is just a monitoring requirement now.

Eric requested that questions and comments be e-mailed to him. He will compile this list and forward it to EPA to ask for clarification.

3) Experimental PTs

The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee has been working on the evaluation of the experimental analytes and their possible movement to the Accreditation tables. The revised DW FoPT table was sent to the NELAP AC on July 27, 2010 for their review and adoption. The PT Executive Committee has received some feedback on the FoPT tables that are being worked on and reviewed some options for dealing with the issues communicated. Questions and comments included:

- Do the experimental PTs that were moved to the accreditation tables meet the requirements of Chapter 2? If not, then some ABs cannot adopt them. Steve Stubbs (Texas) commented that he looks at three criteria: 1. Is it in violation of his rules? 2) Is the PT needed? Is there a regulatory need? 3) If the acceptance range is too wide, it doesn't say anything about the lab's operation.
- Aaren: The NELAP AC wants the experimental tables to go away. Option 1 as presented to the NELAP AC by the PT EC is almost there, but the NELAP AC doesn't want the experimental tables retained. NELAP AC suggests that the experimentals that meet the current criteria can be moved and should be moved. The others should be dropped.
- Eric commented that the benefit of leaving the experimental on a table is to possibly receive more data so that limits could be generated. Steve Stubbs commented that if there is not enough data after 5 years, perhaps they are not needed.
- July 1, 2011, is a critical date. If the experimentals are not gone by then, labs will have to participate. The current standard does not require participation.
- Kirstin (PT Expert Committee Chair) commented that the PT Expert Committee did not issue a TIA regarding experimental PTs because they

thought they were being eliminated and a TIA was unnecessary. They are now considering a TIA.

- TNI needs to consider the needs of non-AB states in eliminating or adding PTs.
- The AC would be willing to look at a list of analytes that don't meet the 2003 Standard Criteria and provide feedback regarding their deletion.
- Scott Hoatson: If experimental PTs continue to exist, they should be voluntary and they should not be scored.
- Consideration needs to be given as to how analytes will be added to the tables if the experimental tables are no longer an option.
- The PT EC will be working on an SOP for FoPT Table Management.

4) A2LA

Dan Tholan from A2LA gave a presentation (see Attachment C).

A2LA has been populating the PT database the last year. They have worked with the PT providers when they have identified any issues.

5) Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PT Executive Committee will be a conference call on Thursday, August 18, 2010, at 1:30pm EST.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5pm EST.


Attachment A

Participants

TNI

Proficiency Testing Executive Committee

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
Eric Smith, Chair (2009) Present	TestAmerica	615-726-0177 x1238 eric.smith@testamericainc.com
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Present	TNI	828-712-9242 tauntoni@msn.com
Gary Dechant Present	Analytical Quality Associates, Inc.	970-434-4875 gldechant@aol.com
Amy Doupe Present	Lancaster Laboratories, Inc.	717-656-2300 x1812 aldoupe@lancasterlabs.com
Steve Gibson Present	Texas Comm. on Env. Quality	512-239-1518 jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us
Svetlana Isozamova Absent	Accutest Laboratories – Southeast Division	407-425-6700 svetlani@accutest.com
Michella Karapondo Present	USEPA	513-569-7141 karapondo.michella@epa.gov
Carl Kircher Present	Florida DOH	904-791-1574 carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us
Stacie Metzler Present	HRSD	757-460-4217 smetzler@hrsd.com
Matt Sica Present	State of Maine	207-287-1929 matthew.sica@maine.gov
Curtis Wood Present	Environmental Resource Associates	303-431-8454 cwood@eraqc.com




Attachment B – Minutes 8/11/10 – PT Executive Committee Meeting

TNI Proficiency Testing Program


Wednesday, August 11, 2010

Presented by: The PT Executive Committee

Session Chair: Eric Smith




8/11/2010



Session Agenda

- Summary of PT Executive Committee Activities
- PTPA Evaluations
 - Update of PTPA Assessment SOP
 - New PTPA Application
 - Status of PTPA Assessments for 2010
- Fields of Proficiency Testing
 - Cryptosporidium
 - Status of Drinking Water, Non-Potable Water, and Solid and Chemical Materials Table Updates
 - Discussion with NELAP Accreditation Council on FoPT tables
 - FoPT Table Management SOP
- A2LA update and database presentation – Randy Query & Dan Tholen
- Open Floor for Questions / Comments



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PT Executive Committee

- Committee Members
 - Gary Dechant – Laboratory Quality Systems, LLC
 - Amy Doupe – Lancaster Laboratories, Inc.
 - Steve Gibson – Texas Comm. on Environmental Quality
 - Svetlana Isozomova – Accutest Laboratories
 - Michella Karaondo – US EPA OGWDW
 - Carl Kircher - Florida DOH
 - Stacie Metzler – Hampton Roads Sanitation District
 - Matt Sica – State of Maine
 - Eric Smith – TestAmerica, Inc
 - Curtis Wood – Environmental Resource Associates




8/11/2010




Overview of PT Executive Committee Activities since Jan 2010

- Finalized PT Executive Committee responses to Standard Interpretation Requests 72 and 80.
- Formed Field PT Subcommittee and tasked the subcommittee to develop a PT table for Lead PTs in soil, paint films, and dust for use by NEFAP. This table criteria will be used for analysis of PTs in the field using field equipment.




8/11/2010




Overview of PT Executive Committee Activities since Jan 2010 (cont.)

- Approved A2LA's TNI PT Provider Audit Checklist updated to include reference to TNI Standard Volume 3 requirements
- Finalized minor formatting updates to PT Executive Committee SOPs 4-101, 4-102, 4-103, and 4-105 and forwarded those SOPs to the Policy Committee for review.
- Retired SOP 4-006, Rev. 0 on Conducting the Annual PT Caucus.




8/11/2010




Overview of PT Executive Committee Activities since Jan 2010 (cont.)

- Reviewed and finalized an update to the PT Executive Committee's SOP 4-104 on Evaluating PT Provider Accreditors.
- Reviewed and updated the PT Executive Committee's TNI PTPA Application
- Made a recommendation to the TNI Board of Directors that A2LA be designated as a TNI PTPA providing accreditation and oversight of Stationary Source Audit Sample providers





8/11/2010



Overview of PT Executive Committee Activities since Jan 2010 (cont.)

- Reviewed and approved an update to the Drinking Water FoPT table and forwarded the committee's recommendation to NELAP Accreditation Council for consideration.
- Currently reviewing updates to the Non-potable Water FoPT table and Solid & Chemical Materials FoPT table proposed by the Chemistry FoPT table Subcommittee



8/11/2010

PTPA Evaluations

- Reviewed and finalized an update to the PT Executive Committee's SOP 4-104 on Evaluating PT Provider Accreditors
 - to reflect the requirements in Volume 3 (EL-V3-2009) and Volume 4 (EL-V4-2009) of the 2009 TNI Standard-Environmental Laboratory Sector and SSAS Standard modules.
 - revisions and clarifications made to both the application and assessment processes



8/11/2010

PTPA Evaluations

- Revised and finalized an update to the TNI PTPA Application Form
 - Removed application example from the PT SOP 4-104.
 - Clarified application requirements.
 - Improved document control features.
- TNI PTPA Application Form, Revision 1, Effective 7/15/10 will be posted on TNI website



8/11/2010

PTPA Evaluations

- Two PTPA evaluations are in progress for 2010 –
 - New applicant, ACLASS
 - Re-evaluation of A2LA
- Evaluation teams have been assembled for both assessments.
 - ACLASS – Carl Kircher (lead) and Amy Doupe
 - A2LA – Stacie Metzler (lead) and Kirstin McCracken



8/11/2010

Fields of Proficiency Testing

- Cryptosporidium
 - In the Spring of 2010, the EPA sent a letter to the PT Executive Committee requesting a review of documents associated with an EPA evaluation of the technical feasibility of private vendors providing PT samples to laboratories approved to analyze raw drinking water samples for Cryptosporidium.
 - The EPA has asked the PT Executive Committee to coordinate a review of the EPA's current Cryptosporidium PT procedure and potential inclusion of Cryptosporidium as a new field of proficiency testing in Drinking Water for the TNI program.


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Fields of Proficiency Testing

- Cryptosporidium (cont.)
 - PT Executive Committee review of EPA document
 - + Comments from Committee members
 - + Comments from the audience
 - Developing a response to EPA's request
 - Cryptosporidium PT and QA program meeting
 - + Thursday, August 12th from 1:30 - 3 p.m. in the Concord room. An open session designed to allow PT providers, labs, and others to provide further input on this topic. Handouts of the EPA document will be available to attendees of that meeting.


8/11/2010






Fields of Proficiency Testing

- PT Executive Committee's status on the plan to eliminate/retire Experimental FoPT tables
 - The PT Board's Chemistry FoPT table subcommittee was tasked with doing a technical review on each Experimental analyte.
 - Experimental analytes were given priority and reviewed first.
 - The Chemistry FoPT table subcommittee completed their technical reviews of experimental analytes associated with the Drinking Water, Non-potable Water, and Solid & Chemical Material tables and the subcommittee made table update recommendations to the PT Executive Committee.




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Fields of Proficiency Testing

- 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 Mouser
 - Chris Rucinski
 - Eric Smith
 - Dan Tholen
 - Chuck Wibby




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Fields of Proficiency Testing

- Drinking Water FoPT table update status
 - The PT Executive Committee reviewed and approved an update to the Drinking Water FoPT table and forwarded a recommendation to NELAP Accreditation Council for consideration.
 - The committee received comments on the Drinking Water FoPT table back from the NELAP Accreditation Council.
 - The committee revised the Drinking Water FoPT table based on NELAP Accreditation Council comments and submitted a revised recommendation to the NELAP Accreditation Council on July 26, 2010.
 - The NELAP Accreditation Council is currently reviewing that Drinking Water FoPT table recommendation.
 - If approved, the new Drinking Water FoPT table is expected to become effective January 1, 2011. This update would allow for the retirement of the current Drinking Water Experimental table.




8/11/2010




Fields of Proficiency Testing

- Non-potable and Solid & Chemical Materials FoPT tables update status
 - Both tables currently under review by the PT Executive Committee
 - Discussions in progress with the NELAP Accreditation Council to ensure that table recommendations will meet NELAP Accreditation Council needs.




8/11/2010




Fields of Proficiency Testing

- Possible FoPT table update options were presented to the NELAP Accreditation Council based on comments received from the NELAP Accreditation Council via email and during last PT Executive Committee teleconference.




8/11/2010




Fields of Proficiency Testing

- The possible FoPT table update options presented were as follows:
 - Option #1 – All analytes currently on the draft Non-potable Water FoPT accreditation table update proposed by the subcommittee that don't meet Chapter 2, Appendix C.4.1 criteria would be removed from the draft update of the NPW Accreditation FoPT table. That short list of analytes would be placed back onto a NPW Experimental FoPT table, and a revised NPW Experimental table would be made effective on January 1, 2011 along with an updated NPW Accreditation FoPT table. Analytes remaining on the revised NPW Experimental table would then be reassessed after July 1, 2011 (implementation date of the TNI Standard) for possible transfer to the NPW accreditation table. The process outlined in this option would also be applied to the pending S&CM accreditation FoPT table update.
 - Option #2 – Set the effective date for pending NPW and S&CM FoPT table updates for after July 1, 2011. Continue to review analytes (beyond just the experimental analytes already considered) and update the tables to be ready with complete table updates after July 1, 2011. Nothing changes until after July 1, 2011.




8/11/2010




Fields of Proficiency Testing

- The NELAP Accreditation Council has been invited to attend our session this afternoon to provide feedback on the possible options presented or to provide the PT Executive Committee with an alternative preferred option.
- At this time, the floor is open for any present NELAP Accreditation Council member to discuss any comments/questions on this topic with the PT Executive Committee.




8/11/2010




FoPT Table Management SOP

- Over the next year, the PT Executive Committee will be developing an SOP on FoPT Table Management. It has been proposed so far that this SOP might include how to:
 - Request / add new analytes
 - Request / add high/low concentration ranges
 - Fix FoPT table typos
 - Request removal of analytes/ remove analytes
 - Set Table effective dates
 - Set minimum time windows required to process requests
- The SOP would also outline/map the approval processes necessary to make changes to the Tables.




8/11/2010




A2LA

- A2LA update - Randy Query
- PT Database presentation – Dan Tholen




8/11/2010



Questions

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




8/11/2010

Attachment C – 8/11/2010- PT Executive Meeting

A2LA TNI PT Oversight Program

The Forum on Laboratory Accreditation


Dan Tholen
American Association for
Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)
August 11, 2010



American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

Overview


- One issue – “assigned value”
- Oversight Activities
- Database Now Active, 4thQ09, 1stQ 10
 - 174 studies uploaded
 - Nearing sufficient data for comparisons
- Plans for 2010/2011



American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

Assigned Value


- Defined effectively the same in TNI Vol 3 and in ISO/IEC 17043
- Used differently for those analytes where
 - Consensus mean is used as expected mean
 - a b regression coefficients used to determine the expected mean
- Confusion in application of footnotes
- Confusion in application of some 17043



American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

Oversight Reviews


- 1st year: focused on getting successful uploads PTPs and then reviewing flags
 - Illegal units; non-TNI studies; additional post-study results; idiosyncrasies of each PTP
 - Required active oversight from A2LA, including review of flags and formats
 - Required special encouragements (some providers)



American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

Automatic Screens


- All submitted studies are screened:
 - Analytes in proper groups, use proper units
 - Analytes in TNI range
 - Evaluation limits calculated per FoPT
 - Verification mean close to assigned value
 - Homogeneity within accepted limits
 - Stability within accepted limits



American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

Initial activities


- Clean up formatting in reports before flags could be used
- Review individual approaches by PTPs
- Error detection and correction
 - Incorrect assigned values for calculating limits
 - Failure to apply 10% and 110% limits
 - Incorrect FoPT coefficients



American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

1st year process improvements


- Revised some flag limits;
- Designed revisions to streamline input options, and interpretation of flags
- Reporting specific problems and other findings to the renewal assessment teams



American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

PT Study – Ongoing Monitoring


- 174 Studies Uploaded, from all providers
- All parts of database working for nearly all providers, most of the time
- Some PTP input processes are stable, some not.



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Oversight Analyses


- Database now (8/2010) has a practical minimum numbers of studies for extended analyses
 - Uniform concentration ranges (12-20 per PTP)
 - Unacceptable rates (3 per PTP, 50 for %tiles)
 - Recovery (6-12 per PTP, 50 overall)



American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

Uniform Concentration


- Look for sample concentrations to span range of PT testing
 - 12-20 samples per analyte per provider
 - 4 equal quartiles of concentration range
 - Chi-Square analyses (expect 3-5 samples per quartile)
 - Conducted semi-annually



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Unacceptable Rates


- For every analyte, for all PTPs, calculate distribution of unacceptable rates for all studies with n>50.
- Accumulate 3-5 consecutive studies for each analyte
- Calculate all-PTP distribution (not average)
- Flag unaccept = 0%, <5%tile or > 95%tile
 - Conducted semi-annually



American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

Unacceptable Rates


- For all analytes in a group, and all PTPs, calculate distribution of combined unacceptable rates for all studies.
- Calculate for all analyte groups
- Flag unaccept < 5%tile or > 95%tile
 - Conducted semi-annually



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Recovery


- Regression of study mean vs. expected mean (assigned value or calculated)
- Flag slope \neq 1.0 or intercept \neq 0.0
- Data query to study recovery vs. expected and vs. all PTPs
 - Conducted monthly



American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

Imminent changes


- Changes soon (this week?):
- First set of revisions, to streamline data for analytes determined to be stable and analytes not tested for homogeneity
- Modified flagging criteria
- Corrections for excluded analytes (BOD, COD, phenols, etc.)



American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

2010/2011 Changes


- Implement new FoPT Tables – maintain multiple levels of tables, as PTPs implement new requirements.
- Change Experimental to Listed analytes
- Develop review analysis templates
- Streamline flags



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PT Study Monitoring

- Will start planned monthly and semi-annual analysis reviews in Sept, 2010, when 2nd Qtr results are uploaded
- Not enough data to update FoPT tables, but will have by next year at this time
 - Identify analytes with poorest agreement
 - Identify opportunities for fixed limits




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Slide 17, 18 and 19 were examples of the data base. They were deleted because they included specific provider data.



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Questions?



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Attachment D

Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
17.	Work on language for new TNI policy based on NELAC Policy #16 and EPA Criteria Document. Policy #16 deals with headers on the PT tables.	Chuck Eric will review and determine if this is still needed.	Eric will follow-up with Chuck to determine a date.	Looking for volunteer to help Chuck.
97	Make a recommendation to address evaluation of “less than” (<) reporting. Distribute to Board for consideration.	Carl Eric will review	2/18/10 Completion next meeting.	Next call’s agenda. New item for May.
102	Highlight analytes that are listed more than one time in FoPT tables.	Curtis	6/15/10	Complete
114	Review SOW to see if an update is needed to provide data from the database. Dan – Once we explained what it was being used for, the providers did not have an issues. “n” issue was resolved. Randy said he now has the approval and data is available.	Randy	5-20-10	Per section 2.7 they need written permission from the PT Providers. Send language to Eric.
123	Update SOP to reflect changes discussed on the call. Distribute for electronic vote.	Eric	6/17/10	Complete
124	Review questions from NELAP Board and provide comment.	All	6/21/10	Complete
125	Distribute voting information on designating A2LA as a PTPA for SSAS.	Eric	7/15/10	Complete
126	Summarize possible solutions for FoPT table issues and distribute to subcommittee for comment.	Ilona	7/22/10	Complete
127	Prepare e-mail to AC with option(s) for moving forward with FoPT tables.	Eric	7/30/10	Complete

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
128	Re-establish WET PT Subcommittee.	PT Executive Committee	9/x/10	
129	Vote on revised DW FoPT Table.	All	7/30/10	Complete
130	Vote on finalization of the PTPA Application.	All	7/30/10	Complete
131	Prepare preliminary DC Agenda and distribute for comment.	Eric	7/30/10	Complete

Attachment E

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	