



## **Memorandum**

Date: February 24, 2011

To: The TNI community

From: The TNI Proficiency Testing Program's PT Executive Committee

Regarding: Experimental Fields of Proficiency Testing tables

The PT Executive Committee recently received a formal memo from the NELAP Accreditation Council requesting that the PT Executive Committee remove Experimental Fields of Proficiency Testing (FoPT) tables from the TNI website as soon as possible. Based on this request and input received from the TNI community at the recent Savannah conference, the PT Executive Committee has voted to remove the Drinking Water, Non-Potable Water, and Solid & Chemical Material Experimental FoPT tables from the TNI website as of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

The PT Executive Committee is also currently working to update the Drinking Water, Non-Potable Water, and Solid & Chemical Material Accreditation FoPT tables. Some of the Experimental analytes from the Experimental FoPT tables are slated to re-appear as Accreditation PT analytes on updated Accreditation FoPT tables later this year. Once the new Accreditation FoPT tables take effect, the PT requirements applied to new Accreditation FoPT analytes will be the same requirements associated with current Accreditation FoPT analytes. Laboratories who already maintain NELAP accreditation for new Accreditation FoPT analytes will be allowed to process two TNI-compliant PT studies per year for the new Accreditation PT analytes approximately six months apart (as per Standard requirements) and will be given the opportunity to develop a history of at least two successful performances out of the most recent three attempts.

The removal of the Experimental FoPT tables from the website effectively removes the NELAP requirement to perform Experimental PTs. The NELAP Accreditation Council has assured the PT Executive Committee that removal of these Experimental FoPT tables will not negatively impact the NELAP accredited laboratories. It is important to note that some NELAP Accreditation Bodies and some non-NELAP Accreditation Bodies have state-specific PT requirements that laboratories would still be required to meet. Laboratories with accreditation questions should contact their NELAP AB for further clarification.

*March 3, 2011:* The PT Executive Committee is working with the PT Providers and PT Provider Accreditors to address any implementation questions. A memo providing transition procedures will be made available early next week.