

TNI PT Board Meeting Summary October 18, 2007

1. Roll call and approval of minutes.

Chairman Carl Kircher called the TNI PT Board to order on October 18, 2007, at 12:00 PM CDT. The following members were present: Bill Ingersoll, Gary Dechant, Kirstin McCracken, Raeann Haynes, Curtis Wood, and Eric Smith. Associate Members Chuck Wibby and Mike Haller were present. Program administrator Carol Batterton was absent.

The minutes from the September 20, 2007 meeting were approved for posting on the TNI website.

2. Microbiology FoPT subcommittee

Carl Kircher reported to the Board that the Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee will meet biweekly starting October 19, 2007. Carl will actively monitor the subcommittee's activities. Any TNI PT Board members or Associates that wish to call in to those teleconferences should let Carol know, so that any necessary phone lines can be arranged.

3. Report from TNI PT expert committee: experimental FoPT parameter tables

The main discussion was about moving PT parameters currently in the experimental Field of Proficiency Testing (FoPT) tables to the accreditation (non-experimental) tables, and to eliminate the experimental tables. This is being requested because laboratories and the AA's are unclear as to how to handle the PT results obtained for experimental analytes and how to determine laboratory accreditation status if unacceptable scores are received for the experimental analytes. A proposal was presented by the PT expert committee that included an initial acceptance criteria of mean \pm 3 standard deviations based on existing PT data. Each parameter would be individually addressed to determine if sufficient data was available to make a creditable set of limits and to determine if the analyte was a poor performer with the specified method. There is a potential conflict since Drinking Water PT samples are scored based on \pm 2 standard deviations.

An additional issue was brought up on how to additional analytes can be added to the FoPT Tables in the future. The designation of analytes on experimental FoPT Tables under NELAC was a compromise where insufficient PT data exists to establish defensible acceptance limits and to allow the addition of analytes for laboratories to participate and report PT data while NELAC acquires sufficient

data to establish acceptance limits for these analytes for accreditation FoPT Tables. Under the NELAC 2003 Standard and NELAC Board of Directors policy, laboratories are required to analyze PT's for experimental analytes, but accreditation is not based on their ability to pass the PT (obtain Acceptable scores).

The PT expert committee members on the PT Board stated that they had originally included the handling of experimental or new analytes as part of the proposed new standard but that the provision for experimental analytes has been removed due to the significant amount of negative comments received during the review process, primarily from the AA's. One opinion seems to be that experimental PTs should be addressed as a policy instead of in the standard; however, it was unclear as to how that policy would be developed and managed and what the ramifications of handling this issue as a policy rather than as part of the standard would be. Another opinion could be that the TNI PT program is run from the final TNI PT Standard plus Appendices from Chapter 2 of the 2003 NELAC Standards as needed. There was no resolution at this time on what should be done, so it was decided that it is premature at this time to constitute a Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee to deal with the experimental FoPT's. The PT Board members also agreed to include this issue as an agenda item for further discussion at the next teleconference.

Since the PT Board has agreed to follow the 2003 NELAC standard until a new standard is approved, the PT Board will review the 2003 standard as it pertains to experimental or new analytes and verify that existing SOP's address all of the issues in the 2003 Standard. If additional policies are required, these will be developed and submitted to the PT Board for approval.

4. A2LA Database Meeting

A2LA has is planning on having a meeting of the PT providers and a representative of the PT board on the proposed provider data base at the A2LA headquarters in Maryland Nov 27th or 28th. Carl will be the PT Board representative with Gary as an alternate.

5. PT Tables

The PT FoPT tables, with the approved footnotes that included the Chemistry and Microbiology formulation requirements from the EPA Criteria Document, have been posted on the TNI website. With these revised tables, all of the requirements and recommendations contained in the EPA "Criteria Document" for Microbiology, Chemistry, and Radiochemistry PT sample formulations have been accommodated. The one exception is the acceptance limits and formulations specific to Toxicity (Bioassay) FoPT's are not yet addressed in the TNI tables. The goal is to address all of the issues in the Criteria Document because reference to this document will not be included in the new TNI PT standard.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the TNI PT Board will be held on November 15, 2007 at 12 Noon Central time.