

MINUTES FROM WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY (WET) SUBCOMMITTEE

Subcommittee to The NELAC Institute's (TNI's) Proficiency Testing Board

Date: June 19, 2008

The meeting was called the order at 11:30 AM EST by RaeAnn Haynes, the elected Chair for this Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee members present were (in addition to the Chair) Faust Parker, Jim Pletl, Jeff Lowry, Lori Pillsbury (ODEQ), Chuck Wibby and Chris Rucinski. RaeAnn Haynes served to take minutes for this meeting.

Minutes from the 6/5/2008 meeting were approved. R. Haynes will send all approved minutes to TNI for posting.

Old Action Items:

The committee reviewed the old action items. R. Haynes sent an email to several regional EPA staff who have been involved with NELAC. Two names came forward, Bonita Johnson from R4 and Phillip Jennings R6. Mr. Jennings is known by several members on the subcommittee so it was decided that R. Haynes should contact him first as a possible EPA member of the subcommittee.

J. Pletl asked about the response from the PT Board about a meeting at the August TNI meeting with Patrick Yellin of EPA about the DMTQA program. R. Haynes indicated that she did bring it to the PT Board but hasn't heard anything since. She will bring it up again later this date at the PT Board meeting and move for some action be taken. She asked if J. Pletl would be a willing participant at any possible meeting and he agreed.

The third PTP has not provided data to the subcommittee. We may have to move forward without the data.

Data Review:

The Committee discussed the summary presented at the last teleconference by C. Kircher. The discussion centered around how to move forward in the process. J. Pletl wondered if C. Kircher used more professional judgment than may be warranted and if there was a rule we could use to be more definitive about which data is statistically significant. J. Lowry suggested that we look at the test mean and determine by using the Student t Test if test means across groups are statistically different. What J. Lowry asked for is a list from F. Parker and J. Pletl based on what conditions may be combined. J. Pletl asked about the assumption we may make with regard to provider identity and year the PT sample was analyzed. R. Haynes asked if that isn't part of the variability we need to include in the limits/ J. Lowry indicated that we can look for variability across PTP's and years and even toxicants once we have the data normalized for the sample variability. F. Parker asked if it's worth the effort to prove there is no difference between 20 and 25 degrees or can we just say "you shall run at 25 degrees" and leave it at that. J. Pletl indicated that since we will never get 100% for all datasets we have to look at when the deviation from 100% is affecting the datasets. It is also the process that shows the TNI community that the acceptance criteria are robust enough for the tests in question (in this case WET).

F. Parker will look at matrix and J. Pletl will look at temperature and give a list to J. Lowry to combine for the statistical analysis. J. Lowry will check the influence on PTP and study year during the calculations and the Committee can review those possible influences on the data. Concentration of toxicant will always have a large influence on the results so all data analysis will be limited to a single concentration.

The new ACTION ITEMS from this meeting are as follows:

- R. Haynes will contact the P Jennings of EPA R6.
- F. Parker and J. Pletl will send their lists of combinable datasets to J. Lowry
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The next teleconference for this Subcommittee will be Thursday, July 17th at 11:30 AM EST (or equivalent Local Time).