

# Radiochemistry Expert Committee (REC) Meeting Summary

October 26, 2016

## 1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Bob Shannon, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1pm Eastern on October 26, 2016 by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 8 members present. Associate Members: Jim Chambers.

The September 28, 2016 minutes were distributed by email for review. If there are no comments by next Monday, they are considered approved and will be posted on the TNI website.

## 2. Charter

Bob will hold off on the charter until next month. Vas noted there could be some topics of interest to a national radiochemistry committee that might not be in sync with what this committee has done in the past or what TNI might expect. Should some of this be included in the Charter? Is it OK to work with other groups in a collaborative manner? Bob thinks there is some flexibility depending on the topic. The committee would need to collectively agree on which issues should be addressed.

Vas sometimes comes across issues related to radiochemistry, but not directly related to the TNI Standard. PT needs for non-drinking water labs is one topic of interest to Vas.

Richard asked how a topic outside of the Standard would be appropriate for the committee to address. Unless it is related to the Standard or could impact it in the future, it does not seem appropriate. Richard also commented that PT concerns should be discussed with the PT Executive Committee.

This topic will be discussed more when the Charter is looked at and there is a topic Vas has asked to talk about at the end of the meeting.

## 3. Subcommittee Updates

### Laboratory/Assessor Training

This subcommittee is on hold as per the discussion last month.

### Small Laboratory Handbook

Dave got through the first Draft Revision with feedback from Vas, Bob and Carolyn. The section has to be consistent with the other chapters in the Handbook. It will not be a stand-alone document. He is concerned that he may have too much information. He would like feedback to help streamline the chapter. He asked people to think about what would be helpful to a small lab.

Dave needs examples that will help a small lab meet the Standard. They can be examples of how to meet the Standard.

Bob asked if Dave needs a subcommittee to help him. He thinks the biggest help would be for people to carefully review the work that has been done.

Vas noted that he thinks most labs that do Radiochemistry are small labs. Even when it is done in a larger lab, the radiochemistry department is often isolated. He thinks the Handbook will be very relevant to all labs that do radiochemistry. Small labs don't get any exceptions and large labs don't have to do anymore than the Standard requires.

Ilona joined the call and noted that the Quality Systems Expert Committee reviewed the information Dave provided on the Small Laboratory Handbook and they plan to use his format for the other module sections.

Ilona offered suggestions on how to include examples – put the example within the body of the section if it is text or short and in an Appendix if there are example forms, SOPs, etc ....

Bob asked who will be providing feedback to Dave in the next two weeks. Carolyn and Bob have already given comments that have been incorporated into the handbook. Marty and Keith will try to get something to Dave. Bob will take one more look too.

Ilona will work with Paul and try to get something more solid on how examples should be incorporated into the Handbook.

### Checklist

Larry could not attend the meeting today. Bob asked who has not looked at the checklist yet. No response. Carolyn and Dave have been reviewing and commenting on the sections.

Bob asked if Richard could go through the checklist. He and Vas are familiar with implementing checklists and their input would be very helpful. He will try.

Bob asked if there are any questions about the current checklist. Vas gave some comments to Larry and asked about the front table. If you look at the end there is modified methods listed. He is not familiar with these and he wants to know what exactly they are and what it modified means. Modified for solids and air. He also commented that any of the methods on the table could be modified, so why are these particular ones

highlighted. Bob had a similar question. The comment will be kept active until Larry can give some feedback. Keith commented that many labs use the water method and then use it on solids and call it modified.

Bob noted that the committee can work with Larry on the details of the table. The concept is that the table exists and the details can be worked out.

Vas asked about other methods on the table. There are still methods listed that have been superseded by updates. He tries to steer labs to the most recent version of Standard Methods. He asked how others are handling this? Is there a place to put comments regarding versions of the methods?

Richard recommends to labs that their references are updated, but if it is an approved method you can't tell the lab they can't use it. Bob noted that if they can't pass PTs with an old method, they will update.

Larry could add a comment that the table needs to be customized to the assessments. Vas doesn't think labs will go back to the 13<sup>th</sup> Edition of Standard Methods. Vas noted that they steer labs, but it is the lab's final call. Sometimes a lab sticks with an older method version because a project plan states a specific version.

Bob noted that not all labs run prescribed DW methods. Many labs run methods that are either significantly modified or laboratory developed.

Marty asked if the table should be blank and the assessor can add the methods? Carolyn suggested making it modifiable, so methods can be added. Ilona asked if you'd really want to start with something blank? Wouldn't it be easier to delete and add?

Bob will send out the last installment of the checklist. He asked that everyone comment and discussion will continue at the next meeting.

#### 4. New Business

##### EPA 900 Methods

Vas acknowledged this topic may not be as relevant to TNI activities, but it is of interest to radiochemistry community.

EPA is trying to revise the 900 series methods and Vas thought perhaps the committee could be part of this effort. As discussed above, the committee should discuss this type of involvement.

The methods are old and may not discuss QC as more modern methods do.

EPA wants to focus on the methods used most frequently – alpha, beta and 903.0 and 903.1. He thinks they may have 900 already updated.

Bob commented that there is a potential overlap with TNI when QC considerations start being changed. It would make sense for the committee to get involved. There is not as much interest in how a method works, but QC requirements are important to the committee.

Marty noted that there are some DW methods that have been approved. Bob stated that there are EPA methods and alternate methods that have been approved. They are focusing on the EPA methods because it is easier to address. Longer term there is talk about deactivating older methods or methods that are not as adequate as the newer methods. There are lots of politics involved. ASTM and Standard Methods would not be impacted by this.

It would be appropriate to review QC, but not the technical side. Bob will contact Linda. Bob thinks they are trying to stick to requirements in the Drinking Water Certification Manual. Bob will add this to next month's agenda. The alpha beta method was far along and did not have anything in conflict with the TNI standard.

#### MAPEP

Marty asked if there was any new info on MAPEP. They are not going to go away immediately. They are looking at funding. Bob talked to Anita and they are still in place.

Was asked if MAPEP has accreditation from external bodies? Bob confirmed they are ISO certified and have multiple additional certifications.

#### 5. Action Items

A summary of action items can be found in Attachment B.

#### 6. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting is scheduled for November 23, 2016 at 1pm Eastern. This will be the day before Thanksgiving. Everyone did not think this would be a problem.

A summary of action items and backburner/reminder items can be found in Attachment B and C.

The meeting was adjourned 2:18 pm Eastern.

**Attachment A**  
**Participants**  
**Radiochemistry Expert Committee**

Members	Affiliation		Contact Information	
			Phone	Email
Bob Shannon (Chair) <b>Present</b>	QRS, LLC Grand Marais, MN	Other	218-387-1100	<a href="mailto:BobShannon@boreal.org">BobShannon@boreal.org</a>
Tom Semkow (Vice Chair) <b>Present</b>	Wadsworth Center, NY State DOH Albany, NY	AB	518-474-6071	<a href="mailto:thomas.semkow@health.ny.gov">thomas.semkow@health.ny.gov</a>
Sreenivas (Vas) Komanduri  <b>Present</b>	State of NJ Department of Environmental Protection  Trenton, NJ	AB	609-984-0855	<a href="mailto:Sreenivas.Komanduri@dep.state.nj.us">Sreenivas.Komanduri@dep.state.nj.us</a>
Marty Johnson  <b>Present</b>	US Army Aviation and Missile Command Nuclear Counting  Redstone Arsenal, AL	Lab	865-712-0275	<a href="mailto:Mjohnson@tSC-tn.com">Mjohnson@tSC-tn.com</a>
Dave Fauth  <b>Present</b>	Consultant  Aiken, SC	Other	803-649-5268	<a href="mailto:dj1fauth@bellsouth.net">dj1fauth@bellsouth.net</a>
Carolyn Wong  <b>Present</b>	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory  Livermore, CA	Lab	925-422-0398	<a href="mailto:CTWRACE@gmail.com">CTWRACE@gmail.com</a>
Keith McCroan  <b>Present</b>	US EPA ORIA NAREL,  Montgomery AL	Lab	334-270-3418	<a href="mailto:mccroan.keith@epa.gov">mccroan.keith@epa.gov</a>
Nile Ludtke  <b>Absent</b>	Dade-Moeller and Associates  Oak Ridge, TN	Other	865-481-6050	<a href="mailto:nile.luedtke@moellerinc.com">nile.luedtke@moellerinc.com</a>
Larry Penfold  <b>Absent</b>	Test America Laboratories, Inc; Arvada, CO	Lab	303-736-0119	<a href="mailto:larry.penfold@testamericainc.com">larry.penfold@testamericainc.com</a>
Richard Sheibley  <b>Present</b>	Sheibley Consulting, LLC	Other (Former AB)	651-485-1875	<a href="mailto:RHSHEIB111@yahoo.com">RHSHEIB111@yahoo.com</a>
Ron Houck  <b>Absent</b>	PA DEP/Bureau of Laboratories	AB	717-346-8210	<a href="mailto:rhouch@pa.gov">rhouch@pa.gov</a>
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) <b>Present</b>	The NELAC Institute	n/a	828-712-9242	<a href="mailto:Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org">Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org</a>

## Attachment B

### Action Items – REC

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Target Completion</b>	<b>Completed</b>
78	Send Checklist Review requests in smaller chunks to make it easier and quicker to review.	Bob	Ongoing	Last installment will go out next week.
79	Contact Glynda Smith at EPA about revising 900 Series methods and the committees role in this update.	Bob	11/22/16	11/2/2016

**Attachment C – Back Burner / Reminders**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Meeting Reference</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	Update charter in October 2016	n/a	Delayed due to new Charter format.
2	Issue of noting modifications to methods.	1/16/13	
4	Look at need to reference year for any standard references– which version is being referenced. Is this necessary?	5/22/13	
5	Form subcommittee of experts in MS and other atom counting techniques to see that these techniques are adequately addressed in the radiochemistry module.	9/24/14	