

**Radiochemistry Expert Committee (REC)
Meeting Summary**

November 18, 2015

1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Bob Shannon, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm Eastern on November 18, 2015 by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 7 members present. Associate Members: Reed Jeffrey, Joe Pardue and Terry Romanko (joined 1:40pm EST).

Summary of Minutes Approved by Email:

A motion was made by Larry to approve the minutes for October 21, 2015. The motion was seconded by Tom. Email vote: For – 7 (Bob, Dave, Marty, Vas, Nile, Tom and Carolyn), Against – 0, Abstain – 1 (Larry Penfold), Missing Votes – 3 (Ron, Keith, and Richard). The motion passed.

2. Charter

Bob sent the Charter out after the last meeting and did get some comments. He made the changes and redistributed them on November 8, 2015.

A motion was made by Nile to approve the Charter as sent out on November 8, 2015. The motion was seconded by Richard and unanimously approved. Ilona will update any format changes and send it on to the CSDP.

Carolyn and Vas joined the meeting at 1:10pm Eastern.

3. Standard Interpretation Request (SIR #294)

Bob sent a copy of SIR #294 to the committee and did get some feedback. He summarized how SIRs work and emphasized that they are only interpretations of the Standard as written. They cannot change the Standard.

Standard	2009 TNI Standard
Volume and Module (eg. V1M2)	V1M6

Section (eg. C.4.1.7.4)	1.7.1.d
Describe the problem:	This clause discusses instrument contamination monitoring. Does this refer to the swipe testing on the outside of the instruments or is this testing inside the instruments?
Committee Comments:	
Response:	

Bob provided the following information by email:

From the Standard:

d) Instrument Contamination Monitoring

The laboratory shall have a written procedure for monitoring radiation measurement instrumentation for radioactive contamination. The procedure shall indicate the frequency of the monitoring and shall indicate criteria, which initiates corrective action.

Possible Response:

Section 1.7.1.d) does not prescribe any specific measure(s) that must be taken, rather it requires the laboratory to maintain a written procedure to monitor radiation measurement instrumentation for contamination, and to define the frequency and the criteria which trigger corrective action.

Note: The intent of this step is to monitor for and minimize the risk that radioanalytical contamination will impact measurements, in contrast to radiological contamination monitoring which is the concern of the radiation safety program). This does not imply that health physics surveys (e.g., removable contamination surveys or gamma dose rate surveys) have no place in monitoring for radioanalytical contamination, but it does not limit. The concept of "frequency" may refer to periodically recurring routine monitoring or incidental monitoring (e.g., monitoring after a triggering event such as processing of a sample with activity above a specified activity level.)

The committee cannot prescribe a procedure.

Carolyn asked if this is the difference between contamination monitoring they may do on a GC with an ECD vs. things that will effect the counting background? Are they concerned about contamination on the exterior? Larry noted the question may be thinking about the Nickel-63 contamination. Richard suggested going back to the inquirer to find out exactly what was meant. That would avoid speculation. It could be outside of the scope of the standard. Carolyn is concerned that using the term radioactive contamination is making this unclear and more questions may be asked. The question may be about swipe tests.

Bob will send this back to Lynn with a request for clarification of the question.

Tom noted that he made some additional comments by email about the SIR that were not taken being into consideration during this conversation. He thinks the person is asking for guidance and the Draft response is not giving guidance. Bob reminded everyone that SIRs can only provide interpretation and not guidance.

4. Tools for Implementation of the Standard

Assessment Checklist

Larry provided an update on the subcommittee's progress. The subcommittee has not met yet.

Larry asked if the checklist should follow a question format like the 2003 Standard checklist. Marty likes the DOE format.

Bob noted that he did raise some questions about the checklist format on a CSDP call. It looks like the committee can develop what they think will be most helpful, but ABs will not be required to use it.

Bob would like to take a small portion of the standard and do what the subcommittee likes and then get feedback from the ABs about the format. Bob believes a good checklist will be used.

The checklist would need to get started and feedback will need to be received soon if it is going to be part of the training in Tulsa. Although having the checklist would be nice, given the timeframe, it may not be possible

A meeting of the Subcommittee will be planned in the upcoming week.

Training for Labs and Training for Assessors/ABs

Training has been scheduled in Tulsa. Richard, Vas and Bob got together this last week and talked about developing some concepts. Richard will start an outline.

- Here's the 2009 standard item that corresponds to the 2915 item. Then it would present what is new or different in 2015.

The training will contain more detail than what has been done in the past for the Standard presentations.

Ilona will let Jerry know that the training will likely be a half day.

Training for Labs:

The Committee wants to do some focused training for labs. They think the labs may have more experience than the ABs – so the training would be a bit different. This type of training could be available as early as summer.

No one will be excluded from any trainings, but the focus or level of detail may be geared towards a specific audience.

Tom: It would be nice if ABs would be willing to assess labs to the 2015 standard sooner. Vas noted that the states have to formally adopt the 2015 Standard to do this. He does not think there is enough flexibility to do it earlier. Labs need to work directly with their AB to this ends.

The subcommittee does not have an update yet. They need to meet to figure out a direction. The lab training will be more in depth.

Bob is hoping to have some lab training by the summer meeting in Orange County. We have 2 ½ years to start training labs. This is probably the time frame for states to accept and adopt the 2015 Standard.

Carolyn will try to set a meeting date for Dave and Keith and they will look at training topics for Orange County.

6. Small Lab Handbook

Dave is working on putting a DRAFT together by January.

Bob asked Vas and Richard to think through findings they have seen and share this with Dave. There should be no mention of specific labs - just general information. Vas said it will take a little time to put this together.

Bob mentioned that he presented a few years ago as well as some that DOECAP put together after that that address common lab findings. Some of this might be helpful. Bob will send Dave his presentation. The DOECAP findings talks may be on the DOECAP website. It is important to keep in mind that they focus on the DOECAP QSAS which is based on the TNIS standard, but not identical to it.

7. Feedback on Impact Statement

Ilona will prepare this next time.

8. PT Module Feedback

Shawn has a new email address and that is why Bob, Carolyn and Vas haven't heard anything back.

The PT Expert Committee has been focused on Modules 3 and 4. The comments of concern are in Module 1 and 2 and they are still alive and will still be addressed.

9. TNI Advocacy Committee

Steve sent out some emails to the chairs of the expert committees. Advocacy want to do an update of the Handbook on Good Practices for Environmental Laboratories. In the 1970's the old version of this handbook was called – "Handbook for Analytical Quality Control in Water and Wastewater Laboratories".

Bob forwarded copies of the DRAFT handbook to the committee. He asked if anyone had been able to look at this document?

The general comment is that it looks pretty elementary. Bob is trying to figure out what to do with this document at this point. He thinks this is a much larger task than the Advocacy Committee thinks. The 1970's document is very out of date. He did not see that the Advocacy Committee had done much in the way of updates.

The section on significant figures does not address Radiochemistry.

The goal of Advocacy is great, but starting with the old document means it requires a lot of updating. Bob will contact Steve Arms and discuss the committee concerns.

Vas commented that if the Handbook contains a statement that it does not really cover Radiochemistry ... then that changes what the concerns would be.

8. New Business

- None.

9. Action Items

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

10. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 11am Eastern. Webex invitations will be distributed the morning of the 17th.

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

The meeting was adjourned 2:08 pm Eastern. (Motion: Marty Second: Vas Unanimously approved.)

Attachment A
Participants
Radiochemistry Expert Committee

Members	Affiliation		Contact Information	
			Phone	Email
Bob Shannon (Chair) Present	QRS, LLC Grand Marais, MN	Other	218-387-1100	BobShannon@boreal.org
Tom Semkow (Vice Chair) Present	Wadsworth Center, NY State DOH Albany, NY	AB	518-474-6071	tms15@health.state.ny.us
Sreenivas (Vas) Komanduri Present	State of NJ Department of Environmental Protection Trenton, NJ	AB	609-984-0855	Sreenivas.Komanduri@dep.state.nj.us
Marty Johnson Present	US Army Aviation and Missile Command Nuclear Counting Redstone Arsenal, AL	Lab	865-712-0275	Mjohnson@tSC-tn.com
Dave Fauth Present	Consultant Aiken, SC	Other	803-649-5268	dj1fauth@bellsouth.net
Carolyn Wong Present	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Livermore, CA	Lab	925-422-0398	wong65@llnl.gov
Keith McCroan Absent	US EPA ORIA NAREL, Montgomery AL	Lab	334-270-3418	mccroan.keith@epa.gov
Nile Ludtke Absent	Dade-Moeller and Associates Oak Ridge, TN	Other	865-481-6050	nile.luedtke@moellerinc.com
Larry Penfold Present	Test America Laboratories, Inc; Arvada, CO	Lab	303-736-0119	larry.penfold@testamericainc.com
Richard Sheibley Absent	Sheibley Consulting, LLC	Other (Former AB)	651-485-1875	RHSHEIB111@yahoo.com
Ron Houck Absent	PA DEP/Bureau of Laboratories	AB	717-346-8210	rhouck@pa.gov
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) Present	The NELAC Institute	n/a	828-712-9242	Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org

Attachment B

Action Items – REC

	Action Item	Who	Target Completion	Completed
63	Send note to QS to ask them to consider making all references to “days” more clear by stating “calendar” days.	Bob	7/13/15	
66	Tool subcommittees should start meeting.	All	First report at August meeting.	Reports started at October Meeting. Close Out
67	Distribute DOE and TNI checklists for Radiochemistry.	Bob	10/20/15	Complete
68	Send common lab assessment findings to Dave for his use in preparing the chapter for the Small Lab Handbook.	All	10/20/15	
69	Ask if LASEC will be preparing impact statements in their NELAP AC recommendation. Is there something like this needed from the committee? Send message to Judy and Lynn.	Ilona	11/17/15	
70	Send a request to get “Lesson Learned” ideas from committee and associate members.	Dave	11/17/15	
71	Follow-up with Ken and Shawn regarding PT Standard Issue.	Bob	11/17/15	

Attachment C – Back Burner / Reminders

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
1	Update charter in October 2015	n/a	
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	
6	Consider preparing an impact statement on the effects of the new standard. This may be part of the “crosswalk” prepared to compare the old and new standard.	10/21/15	

Radiochemistry Expert Committee

(REC)

DRAFT - 2016 Charter

(Revised: **TBD**)

Mission:

To maintain the radiochemistry standard (TNI Volume 1, Module 6) based on input from stakeholder groups and public; to provide technical assistance on issues related to radiochemistry; and, to develop tools that facilitate the implementation of the standard.

Strategic Goals and Objectives:

1. Review and revise standards based on input from all stakeholder groups and public.
2. Review and revise a standard consistent with relevant national and international standards and guidelines where appropriate.
3. Improve the quality and consistency of environmental data by establishing standards for activities related to radiochemical testing.
4. Provide technical assistance such as responding to Standard Interpretation Requests (SIRs).
5. Provide technical assistance in developing tools to facilitate the implementation of the Standard, such as:
 - Develop Module 6 audit checklist
 - Develop training on new Module 6 for labs and auditors
 - Clarification of key Module 6 concepts (e.g., glossary or specific topics such as detection capability or validation life cycle)
6. Ensure continuity with TNI Volume 1 Modules.
7. Utilize existing and future TNI infrastructure and resources to accomplish mission.

Success Measures:

- Completion of Draft Checklist in 2016
- Prompt response to SIRs (responses issued within 2 meetings)
- Completion of Training for Assessors in 2016
- Completion of Training for Labs Checklist in 2016

Key Milestones for 2016:

- Maintenance of balanced committee representation
- Development of white paper or crosswalk on differences with new version of Module 6
- Identification of needs and initiation of work on tools needed for labs and assessors

Considerations:

- Volunteer member organization with time constraints.
- Limited funding.
- Committee must maintain a balance representation from among accreditation bodies, accredited laboratories and "others".

Available Resources:

- Volunteer committee members
- Existing national and international consensus-based standards
- TNI Website and TNI support services (administrative, technical editing, etc.)
- Teleconference and web-based services
- Industry experts

Additional Resources Required:

- Travel funding

Anticipated Meeting Schedule:

- Monthly Committee Teleconferences (open to all Full and Associate Members)
- Additional committee teleconferences as needed
- Committee meetings (face-to-face) during semiannual TNI Forums (Winter and Summer)

Committee Membership

Proposed Members	Organization	Term Expires January	Representation	Subgroup
Bob Shannon, Chair	QRS, LLS	2019	Other	
Tom Semkow, Vice Chair	Wadsworth Center, NY State DOH	2017	AB	
Dave Fauth	Consultant	2018	Other	
Marty Johnson	US Army Aviation and Missile Command Nuclear Counting	2019	Lab	
Sreenivas Komanduri	NJ Department of Environmental Protection	2019	AB	
Ron Houck	Pennsylvania DEP	2018*	AB	
Nile Ludtke	Dade-Moeller and Associates	2019	Other	
Keith McCroan	US EPA ORIA NAREL	2018	Lab	

Larry Penfold	TestAmerica Laboratories, Inc.	2018	Lab	
Richard Sheibley	Sheibley Consulting, LLC	2017	Other	
Carolyn Wong	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	2017	Lab	
* - Renewable for 3 years.				

Balance:

- 4 Lab
- 4 Other
- 2 AB

Subcommittees:

- None

Program Administrator: Ilona Verrips Taunton