

Radiochemistry Expert Committee (REC)
Meeting Summary

December 17, 2015

1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Bob Shannon, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm Eastern on December 17, 2015 by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 7 members present. Associate Members: Carl Kircher and Brian Miller.

A motion was made by Dave to approve the minutes for November 18, 2015 with two editorial changes to include adding Larry as present and correcting the year on a date from 2815 to 2015. The motion was seconded by Vas and unanimously approved.

2. Standard Recommendation

Ilona sent a message to Lynn regarding Action Item # 69. They do not need anything further from this committee. The Standard has already been moved on. Lynn did comment that she thought someone expressed a concern that the Radiochemistry Standard should cover more matrices – expand the Scope. It was felt that the emphasis is currently on Drinking Water (DW).

Vas agreed that the Standard is geared more towards DW, but that is because there are some specific requirements. This gives a misconception because the Standard is relevant to other matrices.

Bob noted that this can be covered in the training. There can be an emphasis made in the training how the standard is relevant to other matrices.

3. Standard Interpretation Request (SIR #294)

Bob did contact Lynn about clarification. The requester withdrew their SIR after speaking with other labs. No further information was provided. No further action needed.

4. Tools for Implementation of the Standard

Assessment Checklist

Vas noted that the subcommittee did take a portion of a module and turn it into a checklist. Larry will be sending it out to the entire committee to get comments. This will happen before the next meeting. He does not think it will be ready for Tulsa.

Training for Labs and Training for Assessors/ABs (Richard, Vas, Bob)

This is the training that will happen in Tulsa.

A part of the training is “Here’s What Changed”. Richard said the subcommittee looked at whether this comparison needed to be made to the 2003, 2009 or both. Richard noted that most labs are familiar with 2009 and they are thinking they will use this standard as the basis for the comparison. Going back to 2003 would be a lot of additional work.

Richard noted there is also a section for “Here’s What’s New ...”

Carl suggested covering radiation measurement batch and different types of background measurements. He also suggested covering minimum detectable activity and how that relates to detection sensitivity verse MDL. Some people are still caught in the world of Chemistry and don’t fully understand this.

Richard noted that MDL should never be discussed in relation to the Radiochemistry Standard. It should never have been in the DW manual or the old TNI Standard.

The changes moving into 2016 are far greater than the changes between 2003 and 2009.

Carl commented that the Standard presentations that Bob did during the Standard updates should be considered in preparing this training. Bob agreed.

Dave Carolyn and Keith – Training for Labs

Carolyn noted that this group has not gotten started yet. They plan to begin meeting in January.

5. Small Lab Handbook

Dave is still working on this. He is working with Dale to get input on format.

His key points are:

- Performance Based Methods
- Measurements around zero
- Detection Capability
- Contamination Control and Reagent Quality
- Radiation Measurement Batch

He hopes to have this completed before the next meeting.

Bob sent him a presentation he did at the DOECAP Workshop about 8 years ago. Dave also received material from Joe Pardue that is more recent. This info has been very helpful and he will use this to complete the Lessons Learned and Audit findings section.

6. TNI Advocacy Committee

Bob hopes to provide some initial feedback on this document. He asked if anyone else wants to provide feedback. There were no other volunteers.

7. New Business

- Bob asked if a conference line will be available for people that can't make it. Ilona noted that a call can be set-up if it is needed. Carolyn, Dave, Ron and Richard will not be there. Ilona will also look to see if a phone line can be added for people to join in on the training session Thursday morning.

(Addition: There will be a phone line on Thursday morning. Ilona will keep people in the loop as this date gets closer. The intent is to do this as a Webinar in addition to recording it for future use. There will be a small charge for attendees, but committee members can start letting people know this class will be available online.)

8. Action Items

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

9. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be planned by email. Bob will send out a Doodle for meeting times the week of 1/11/16. The committee will discuss the training presentation.

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

The meeting was adjourned 12:42 pm Eastern. (Motion: Richard 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 Absent	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 Absent	Test America Laboratories, Inc; Arvada, CO	Lab	303-736-0119	larry.penfold@testamericainc.com
Richard Sheibley Present (Added 1:15)	Sheibley Consulting, LLC	Other (Former AB)	651-485-1875	RHSHEIB111@yahoo.com
Ron Houck Present	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	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 Ongoing	
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	Complete
70	Send a request to get “Lesson Learned” ideas from committee and associate members.	Dave	11/17/15	Complete
71	Follow-up with Ken and Shawn regarding PT Standard Issue.	Bob	11/17/15	Complete

Attachment C – Back Burner / Reminders

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
1	Update charter in October 2015	n/a	Complete
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	Complete
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 Fully 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