

TNI Stationary Source Audit Sample Expert Committee Conference Call Summary December 15, 2008

Participants: Maria Friedman (Test America), Richard Swartz (MO DNR), Gregg O'Neal (NCDAQ), Stanley Tong (EPA R9), Candace Sorrell (EPA), Shawn Kassner (ERA), Michael Klein (NJ), Jerry Parr (TNI), William Daystrom (TNI), Jane Wilson (Program Administrator)

The subject of this conference call is an initial discussion and considerations for the development of a TNI database to support the SSAS program.

1. Define TNI's responsibilities regarding providing a website for SSAS results.

Maria invited Jerry and William as guests for this discussion. There are some similarities to the needs of the TNI PT program. The SSAS program will need a central database for holding SSAS data, similar to one currently provided by EPA. The existing audit database allows data to be posted for pass/fail and users can query other information such as how labs have performed, failure rates, methods, state trends, etc. It allows this information to be examined on a historical basis. The database handles approximately 1000 audit samples/year. It is currently also used for sample inventory, but that functionality probably wouldn't be needed under the new program..

2. Define the basic services a TNI-hosted database should provide (e.g., public vs. private access, extent of historical data to maintain).

Currently the EPA database has three distinct sections used by different participants – audit sample provider, administrative section (Candace), user/requester section (states) for requesting samples and reporting/generating data tables. The states feel it is important not to lose the historical data.

Questions about who owns the data, etc. will have to be worked out during the database development process. The database would be a TNI-owned database. The committee will need to develop a requirements document for William and Jerry. It would be helpful to capture screen shots of the current database as examples. Candace can give limited access to a few people to get a sense of what it looks like and functionality. The current system does need improvements and TNI would not be bound by the same constraints as EPA. Some functionality could be beefed up and other parts slimmed down. One of the committee's primary concerns is how to get data from several different providers. Shawn noted that providers just need to know format of the electronic deliverable, and this is routinely addressed for other programs. It was asked whether the existing EPA database will remain accessible. Candace would like to keep it accessible in some fashion until the TNI version is up and running, but it won't have funding for much longer. EPA could potentially turn the historical data over to TNI for upload into the new system.

Labs do not have access to the database and the different sections have access protection so that data and other entries are not changed by unauthorized users. Ordering samples will not be part of the functionality.

3. Discuss how to go about determining the structure/format of the TNI database and how to collect the data from the providers; it may be a good idea to define a minimum standard of data the providers need to record in their database (e.g., which fields of data are required) so that when the time comes to transfer that data to TNI, we won't have a problem with gaps in data from different providers.

The committee decided to use time in Miami to form a subcommittee to discuss the database further and to start drafting the requirements document.

In the interim, Candace can give a few people access to get a feel for the existing site.

The next committee meeting is December 22, 2008 at 2:00 pm EST. The committee will not meet on December 29th.