

TNI Stationary Source Audit Sample (SSAS) Expert Committee Teleconference on October 14, 2014 – final

Attendance:

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| Tom Widera - Chair ERA (Provider) | Committee member | Present |
| Charles Simon – Vice Chair VOC Reporting, Inc. (Laboratory) | Committee member | Present |
| Maria Friedman TestAmerica (Laboratory) | Committee member | Present |
| Mike Hayes Linde (Provider) | Committee member | Present |
| Michael Klein New Jersey DEP (State Government) | Committee member | Present |
| Theresa Lowe, Golden Specialties (Stationary Source Tester) | Committee member | Present |
| Paul Meeter, Weston Solutions (Stationary Source Tester) | Committee member | Present |
| Bob O'Brien Sigma-Aldrich (Provider) | Committee member | Absent |
| Gregg O'Neal North Carolina DAQ (State Government) | Committee member | Absent |
| Michael Schapira Enthalpy (Laboratory) | Committee member | Present |
| Jim Serne TRC Solutions (Stationary Source Tester) | Committee member | Absent |
| Katie Strickland Element One, Inc. (Laboratory) | Committee member | Absent |
| Stanley Tong EPA Region 9 (Federal Government) | Committee member | Present |
| Andrew Chew EPA Region 9 (Federal Government) | Guest | Present |
| William Daystrom TNI (IT Administrator) | Guest | Present |
| Al Ramsay ERA (Provider) | Guest | Present |

Tom Widera called this meeting to order at 1415 HRS EDT. There was a quorum present.

- The July 14, 2014 meeting minutes were reviewed.
 - Michael Klein's comments were sent in by email Tom made his corrections.
 - Charles Simon mentioned that guests should not be listed if they are absent.
 - Michael Schapira noted that the spelling of his name needed to be corrected in the minutes.
 - Theresa Lowe indicated that the spelling of her name needed to be corrected in minutes. Also, she now works for Golden Specialties.
 - Mike Schapira moved to accept the minutes with the modifications discussed and Theresa seconded the motion. The meeting minutes from August 25, 2014 were approved.
 - Stan and Michael Klein abstained.

Chair Update

- Tom thanked everyone for entrusting him to take over as Maria Friedman's replacement as Chair. Maria has been a terrific help to get him started.
- Chair elections are the beginning of January of each year. Also, terms that expire in January (first 3-year term) can be extended for an additional 3 years. If you are up to 6 years, you can refile in 1 year.
- Minutes will continue to rotate. If anyone wishes to take notes permanently, let Tom know.
- In the minutes from the last meeting, we discussed the issue of the laboratories being changed after orders have been placed for the audit samples. ERA noticed that there are three testers who are doing it more often. But there have been eight different testers that they have been involved with who have changed laboratories at the end. Even though it appears to be random, there are a few that are doing it more frequently. Tom's data group has let him know that since January it has been significantly less frequent. They also have indicated that there have been a handful of times now that changing of the lab has caused the laboratory to receive the same sample twice in a row. The testers and labs have been good about contacting ERA and they have taken care of it with the regulators.
- Theresa mentioned that she has sent audit samples to a second lab after the first lab had failed.

ERA assigns different project numbers to every sample they send out. All samples receive different identifiers. All samples have a unique identifier.

Updates on Volume 1 Module 1 – Maria Friedman

- Finished. VDS will be posted by October 16. Everyone in TNI is requested to vote. The vote will be within 45 days. If we don't vote, we will miss the opportunity to turn it into a standard. Tom to send reminder.

Update on Volume 1 Module 3 – Maria Friedman

Just finished WDS. Voting concluded on 9/18/14. No comments were received. We need to turn into VDS and it will be posted on the website.

Updates on Volume 1 Module 2 – Maria Friedman

Nothing has been done to change it. We are waiting for decision of the PT standard for changes to the provider accreditor requirement. Assessments may be changed to every 4 years.

Tom Widera asked if there were any further comments on Module 3. There were no comments. It will be submitted to TNI as VDS. We will try to get them to post Module 1 and Module 3 together so that we can vote on in that 45-day period. He will keep everyone informed as to the voting so that we don't have to bring it back as a WDS. Let's make sure that we all vote in that 45-day period. Tom to get information together and submit to William so that it can be posted to the TNI website for voting.

Upcoming Meetings – Tom Widera

- TNI Semiannual Meeting: Forum on Laboratory Accreditation – early February in Crystal City, VA. We will be conducting our teleconference from there.
- SSSAP (Stationary Source Sampling and Analysis for Air Pollutants) Conference – end of March in Tucson, AZ. Al Ramsay is chairing a breakout session on SSSAP. We are hoping to get some representation there.

Al Ramsay discussed that the breakout session will include a roundtable forum for discussion between various stakeholders to the program regarding recent program developments, what is working well, challenges and areas for improvement. Al is looking for volunteers to participate. Those interested in volunteering can contact Al by email at al_ramsay@waters.com. Also, if you have any colleagues that may be interested, have them contact Al.

Update of SSAS Database – William Daystrom

- We are up to 46 states that have regulators represented in the database. New Mexico, Mississippi, Rhode Island, and Vermont are not represented. There are 155 testers, 72 labs, and 125 regulatory agencies. Regarding the pass/fail rate in the database presently, the only tests that have pass rates below 90% and that have more than 11 or 12 data points are Method 13B, fluoride, at 88% with 104 data points and Method 8, sulfuric acid mist, at 80% with 127 data points.

Discussion on the audit sample program issues and Method 8

- Tom – Method 8 seems to be the method that the labs are having most difficulty with. Discussed where the issues and difficulties are arising and where we might be able to help and make the program work better.

- Tom-What are the issues that are arising in the audit program? ERA has had labs send results using analytical methods not specified on the SSAS Table. The results cannot be reported to the database because the TNI code is not correct for that method. In the interim, ERA is adding the corrected code and placing a note about the method used.
- Maria- the table cannot be changed because the criteria are based upon EPA data. However we need to collect this data to possibly revise the table in the future. Currently the data should be entered as “not evaluated”.
- Charles- The OAQPS states that method deviations are a criteria to invalidate the test.
- The test protocol should spell out any method deviations and get approval from the agency involved prior to the test. We should get approval from OAQPS before we begin accepting data.
- Tom. The provider needs to have guidance on what to do with this data.
- Theresa and Mike mentioned NCASI 8A and EPA Method 13A, 13B are examples of alternate Method 8 procedures and that this could be the reason for the higher failure rates.
- Tom and Maria agreed that the acceptance criteria do not apply to these results and that this needs to be communicated to all parties.
- Charles-if the protocol spells out the deviations and is approved by the regulator then the regulator has the final authority to determine the acceptability.
- Tom- the provider could place a statement in the instructions provided with the samples.
- Theresa requested the same statement should be on the order form.
- Mike Schapira promised to get the Method 8 subcommittee going soon.
- Tom and Bob will put together a list of alternate methods used to date.
- Method 8 discussion was tabled until the committee is formed.

Next meeting is scheduled for 10/27/14 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern. Going forward we will return to our two week schedule.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.