

TNI Stationary Source Audit Sample Expert Committee Teleconference
January 11, 2010

Attendance:

Maria Friedman, Chair	Committee member	present
Jack Herbert	Committee member	present
Michael Klein	Committee member	absent
Ray Merrill	Committee member	present
Gregg O'Neal	Committee member	present
Michael Schapira	Committee member	present
Jim Serne	Committee member	absent
Candace Sorrell	Committee member	absent
Richard Swartz, Vice-chair	Committee member	absent
Stanley Tong	Committee member	present
Jane Wilson	Program Administrator	present
Shawn Kassner	Associate member	present
Mike Miller	Associate member	present (late)
Chuck Wibby	Associate member	absent
Jeff Lowry	Guest	present
William Daystrom	Guest	present

- 1) Double-check of documents to be referenced in this teleconference

Maria first asked for votes on the December 14 minutes from Ray Merrill and Mike Schapira. Both voted yes, so the December 14 minutes are accepted as amended.

Maria confirmed the documents to be reviewed during today's teleconference from her email of 1/08/10.

- 2) Review and approval of minutes from teleconference on January 4, 2010

Gregg motioned to accept the minutes as written / Mike Schapira seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

- 3) Discuss SSAS Table subcommittee charter

Maria provided a draft charter for the SSAS Table subcommittee that will oversee the review of the historical EPA audit sample data with the goal of revising the SSAS table. Gregg asked about the process for making updates to the charter as may be needed in the future. The revision process would follow TNI's committee operations process as defined in TNI SOP 2-101 Expert Committee Operations.

Item 1 of Charter:

Gregg had a concern about whether the EPA historical data represent all the current techniques that are being used in some audit samples, and whether that needs to be considered in the process of reviewing data and updating the table. Shawn suggested adding the term "available and appropriate data" to the text to reflect this concern.

If methods and techniques have changed, non-relevant data can then be excluded. Jack asked if other data sources are available, such as the TNI PT program, and whether that should be included in addition to the EPA data. The committee agreed to add “other suitable data” to the text.

1. Review available *and appropriate* historical stationary source audit sample data *and other suitable data* to determine appropriate analyte concentrations and acceptance limits, and document findings.

No comments were made on Items 1 a) and b), and Items 2-4 of the Charter. Jack motioned to accept the charter as amended / Stan seconded. All were in favor of the motion. The subcommittee charter will be presented in Chicago at the SSAS session.

- 4) Discuss SSAS Central Database permission matrix

Maria provided a draft permission matrix for review. It is based on previous committee discussion and comments received from Jack and Mike S.

Maria briefly reviewed the draft permissions matrix and which participants would have access to which data. The Committee discussed whether the TNI membership will determine access since this is being developed as a TNI database. Maria hasn't gotten feedback from TNI on several issues yet, including potential cost. Some committee members would like open use of the database (as stated in previous comments), but that may not be acceptable to all participants. There is also the question of whether TNI is planning to use the database as a marketing tool. One suggestion was to query the TNI membership and/or potential users. Shawn proposed doing this through the subcommittee reviewing the SSAS table.

Shawn suggested that regulatory agencies should only access their own data rather than all data (all states). The committee discussed that the agency may want to access all data to compare how they are doing against other states. Shawn thought that providing access as summary data would be sufficient, rather than by provider. The agency could also get the data through the SSAS provider or SSAS PA. Stan noted it is different to be able to manipulate the data yourself rather than rely on what is provided through other entities. Shawn's concern is that data remain as blind as possible, so that comparisons are not being made inappropriately.

Maria proposed that the statistics can be separated from the rest of the audit sample results, etc. Statistics would be summary in nature and not identify specific labs, providers, etc. States will differ in the number of audit samples that are requested for specific methods, etc, so they may not have meaningful statistics on their own and comparison to summary data provides a better comparison. Jeff suggested changing line 6 of the permissions matrix to “own data” for the regulatory agency and adding another line for summary data (not by provider) that everyone could access. Jack wants to be able to see data from all sources, not just what his state has ordered. He also wants to know if there were high range samples, etc. or a basic summary of all the individual samples. One example is that Oregon hadn't requested method 25 samples, and when Jack reviewed data he found there were lots of problems. Shawn asked whether this is an intended purpose of the database.

Maria will send an updated spreadsheet for everyone to consider and provide feedback from today's discussion. Maria will ask everyone to fill in their proposed access matrix and return it by Friday 1/15/10.

It was also noted that regulators are looking for data by method. Jeff asked if the database will accommodate method codes (William confirmed there is a field reserved), and Shawn has talked to TNI about getting method codes assigned.

5) Chair update

Maria noted she had not yet gotten a response from TNI regarding the questions from last week – the access cost of the central database and posting of the FAQs document.

Since Monday January 18 is a Federal holiday, the next meeting will be January 20th 2:00 pm EST.