

TNI Stationary Source Audit Sample Expert Committee
November 16, 2009

Participants:

Committee members –

Maria Friedman, Chair

Richard Swartz, Vice-Chair

Stan Tong

Gregg O'Neal

Michael Klein

Ray Merrill

Mike Schapira

Jack Herbert

Jane Wilson, program administrator

Associate members –

Shawn Kassner

Guests –

William Daystrom

Chuck Wibby

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

Maria confirmed the documents for review today – the agenda and November 9 minutes emailed by Jane.

- 2) Review and approval of minutes from teleconference on November 9, 2009

Jane added a notation that the November 2 minutes were approved via email after last week's meeting.

Mike Schapira motioned to accept the minutes as amended/Richard seconded. Ray abstained from voting since he was not present for the call. All other committee members were in favor.

- 3) Begin discussion re. types of reports to be made available via the SSAS Central Database

Maria requested that the regulators list the types of reports they currently can generate from the EPA database and whether the TNI database should have the same reports available, and can they be printed or only viewed, etc.

Gregg noted they can currently print information for past audits (specific to a certain sample or project) and audits related to specific test report. Michael Klein stated he hasn't used the reports very much, but users can get a report by state, region, year, method, lab, etc. He emailed a screen shot of the reports that are

available. William noted there is not much difference between the information in the various reports, just how you search for it. Maria noted one approach for the new central database is to start with what is already available from the EPA system.

Maria asked if there are new reports the regulators would like that are not currently in the EPA system. New reports could be added after the TNI database is launched, assuming the data needed are already in the database. Jack added it might be good to have access to a report of the type(s) of equipment being tested. This isn't information that is currently collected, but this would help advance the program. Gregg agreed this is valuable information.

A project test ID report would be useful. Gregg asked whether the database design is relational - can you pull data for a project ID having 10 sites and one audit sample? William explained it will depend on how many factors the user wants to search/filter in the query. Ray asked to clarify if we are specifying what reports are needed or what data will be searchable in the database.

The committee discussed what reports Providers might need. Providers have their own databases that they will use. Providers won't be asked for information outside of what they have uploaded to the central database. Shawn suggested that data may need to be pulled from Providers to update SSAS table limits, etc. Do Accreditors ask Providers for specific reports or data? Providers will probably submit more information to Accreditors from their own databases than from the central database.

Maria asked the committee to discuss a permissions matrix for the central database. Will there be publicly available information that any user can view? Labs should be able to view only their own information. Could they guess the range on their audit sample if they can see the information from other labs? One option is for the data to be visible but without any laboratory identification. Shawn suggested looking at the TNI model for laboratory access to PT data for guidance. Maria also suggested a survey of labs and testers to see what, if any, information they would want to access. Some committee members are concerned that labs will rerun samples based on results they can see in the database.

It was suggested to determine EPA's view of other participants having access, since the proposed EPA rule describes providing a database for "compliance authorities". Do other entities really need access, since it potentially makes the process less blind. TNI could charge for access to the database (outside of regulatory users), which may serve to limit users. Testers may want to identify labs that are most successful in reporting audit samples. The database will have reported values and actual values. The committee also needs to make sure the permissions matrix is consistent with details in the SSAS standards, e.g., labs can only see their own data, etc.

Maria summarized that as a start, William will add all the reports used in the EPA database. He can access the EPA database itself to view the specific choices available. The additional suggestions from today will be discussed further.

Maria will consult with Jerry about whether public access is needed. For a given participant, the committee would have to define which fields each user can see and search. William will include everything to start and it can be trimmed back from there. It will take a couple of weeks to mock up the reports function.

The committee will continue to work on FAQs for the next meeting. Richard's group will submit the draft flowchart and checklist for review prior to the next meeting. Richard gave an overview on what he will be proposing.

Maria congratulated everyone on finalizing the SSAS standards. A2LA has started a checklist for approval of providers. No request for applications has gone out yet. Chuck stated A2LA plans to audit only elements that are completely different than the existing PT program for this program.

Gregg asked about starting the SSAS table limits update – no decision yet. Data for the new tables will come from EPA. Gregg suggested restarting the committee with the invitation of others that participated in the first round. Gregg, Jack, Michael K, Richard, Jeff L, and Carl K will be invited. Maria will email people for their interest. When EPA rule is finalized, EPA will have to accept the TNI program as fulfilling the requirements of the new EPA rule. Ray M noted that EPA can extend the current audit sample contract through Sept 2010 if needed to avoid gaps in the program. It was suggested that the committee get the most current data from EPA for use in the new tables. Maria will ask Candace for the most recent data.

Next meeting is Nov 23rd 2:00 pm ET.