

TNI Stationary Source Audit Sample Expert Committee Teleconference
August 2, 2011

Attendance:

Maria Friedman – Chair TestAmerica (Laboratory)	Committee member	present
Mike Hayes Linde (Provider)	Committee member	absent
Michael Klein New Jersey DEP (State government)	Committee member	present
Theresa Lowe CCI Environmental	Committee member	absent
Gregg O’Neal, North Carolina DAQ (State government)	Committee member	present
Michael Schapira Enthalpy Analytical (Laboratory)	Committee member	present
Jim Serne TRC Solutions (Stationary Source Tester)	Committee member	absent
Richard Swartz, Vice-chair Missouri DNR (State government)	Committee member	present
Stanley Tong EPA Region 9 (Federal government)	Committee member	present
Ken Jackson TNI (Program Administrator)	Program Administrator	absent
Ty Garber Wibby (Provider)	Associate member	absent
Shawn Kassner ERA (Provider)	Associate member	absent
Mike Miller (Member at large)	Associate member	present
William Mills Mills Consulting (NELAC Assessor)	Associate member	absent
William Daystrom TNI (Webmaster)	Guest	present
Charles Simon	Guest	present
Wayne Stollings	Guest	present

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

All present confirmed receipt of the documents e-mailed August 2, 2011.

- 2) Review and approve minutes from teleconference on July 18, 2011

Jim Serne had e-mailed a correction to the minutes regarding the attribution of a suggestion made to use a single cylinder for both lab and field audits. Maria also had a minor edit for clarity regarding Method 25 being updated versus being added to the SSAS Table. It was moved by Michael Schapira and seconded by Richard to approve the July 18 minutes as amended. All Committee Members present voted in favor.

3) Chair Update

Maria said that she had not had an opportunity to complete her assignment from the July 18 meeting regarding contacting A2LA to ask if Providers could be accredited before the Providers had audit samples for all methods. It is still on her to-do list.

4) Continue discussions re. SSAS Table

The subcommittee did not have an opportunity to meet since the July 18 expert committee meeting, so a proposal regarding Method 25 is still pending.

Charles Simon announced that, on their own initiative, his laboratory had ordered an audit gas and cylinders that emulate those used in the Method 25 program as done by the EPA. They are going to conduct a self-funded internal investigation to establish achievable acceptance criteria for Method 25. They will be generating criteria both for samples collected in the laboratory as well as in the field; he anticipates similar results if the procedures are done proficiently. He characterized the costs as “exceedingly modest.” The trial should begin in about two weeks, pending receipt of the gases and cylinders, and he will keep the committee updated.

Gregg asked Charles if one of his goals was to evaluate differences between audit samples collected in the field versus in the lab. Charles said that, unlike lab audit samples, field audit samples are inundated in dry ice for a couple of weeks, which draws CO₂ into the traps and pollutes the atmosphere. The CO₂ has to be flushed out, which is more difficult with field samples than with lab samples. That is something that they will have to monitor. Gregg further asked if there was a potential change in methodology that could mitigate the difference in difficulty. Charles said that his laboratory routinely performs a modification to the method, called an “ambient warm purge,” which dramatically increases the precision of the method. He has made efforts in the past to see if EPA would add that to the published method.

Wayne raised a concern regarding a topic mentioned in the July 18 minutes: the potential of audit samples to be used as PT samples. He said that if Method 25 PT samples were produced, they should be the same as the audit samples, or there would be potential for conflict if performance was not consistent between them. Mike Miller said there were no PT requirements for these methods at present. Maria concurred, and suggested that since this is uncharted territory, the matter should be brought to the PT Executive Committee, at the appropriate time, for their consideration and to coordinate efforts.

5) Discussion regarding upcoming meeting at Bellevue, WA

Maria said that she would like to take the opportunity of her talk at the NEMC meeting to solicit more Regulator contacts for the SSAS Central Database. She would like to collect as many contacts as possible now so there are not so many applications to process when the SSAS Program starts. The idea of using a hardcopy application form was discussed. Gregg suggested including a link to the online form on the hardcopy, so that people could go online and fill out the form electronically if they prefer. Maria asked Gregg to contact William to get the latest list of contact information already submitted to the Central Database. Maria will create a hardcopy form and send it to the committee for their consideration prior to the meeting.

Maria also asked everyone to let her know as soon as possible if they had any topics they wished to be added to the agenda for discussion at Bellevue. The topics already planned are the subcommittee proposal for Method 25, voting on all of the previously-discussed SSAS Table updates, and a presentation of guidelines for collection of Method 25 samples. The latter topic will need input from Richard's group.

Charles was asked if he would have any preliminary results from his independent study of Method 25 acceptance criteria in time for the Bellevue meeting. He said he might have the first few data points by that time, but it would depend on how soon he received the materials he had ordered. It was more likely that his results would not be ready before mid-September. There was discussion about whether Method 25 should be resolved at the meeting before the results from Charles' study were available. Maria reminded everyone that the rest of the SSAS Table could be approved without changes to the existing Method 25 criteria, so Charles should not be pressured to complete his study before the meeting. Gregg thanked Charles for his efforts.

Wayne said his laboratory is building a prototype Method 25 audit sampler, designed to be foolproof and provide consistency between groups. The design is based on a critical orifice and two non-adjustable rotometers to monitor inflow and outflow. He estimated the cost of the sampler to be from \$150-\$200. It is non-proprietary, and he volunteered to share the information with Richard's group. Richard will follow-up.

6) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm EDT.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 18 in Bellevue, 12:00 – 1:00 and 1:30 – 3:00 pm EDT. Call-in information will be distributed for those unable to attend in person.

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- 3) Chair Update
- 4) Continue discussions re. SSAS Table