

Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee Meeting Summary

February 15, 2017 1:00 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Announcements

Rami welcomed everyone to the meeting. Minutes of the January 18 and 25, 2017, meetings were approved, with the minutes from January 25 being approved by acclamation since only Rami was present at that session and for this teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1, below.

After the roll was called, Rami invited the new associate members, Mike Chanov and T.M. Chandrasekhar, to briefly introduce themselves.

2. Recap from Conference

Rami explained that he was present only for one day, and that the WET session was good and well-attended. Lynn provided a brief update from Warren Merkel's talk about the revisions to ISO/IED 17025, which should be final in mid-2018. While there will be a change in structure and some different focus on risk control and remote assessments, the consensus of other TNI members seems to be that only the quality systems module of Volume 1 will be greatly impacted.

3. DMRQA for 2017 is Indefinitely Delayed

With the change of administration, the federal executive branch has ordered that no new regulations be published until further notice. The DMRQA is technically an "information collection regulation" and thus cannot be published in the Federal Register until such time as that order is rescinded. Further, a separate order requires that for each new regulation published, two regulations must be withdrawn. The 2017 Method Update Rule, even though released as a pre-publication copy, cannot be published in the Federal Register and is also on indefinite hold. Laboratories should check with their Accreditation Body or state certifying agency for further compliance information, but TNI-approved PT providers will still be offering WET PT samples.

4. Scheduling the Webinar from Assessment Forum Presentation

After some discussion, the committee including the presentation team decided to aim for May 2017 for the promised webinar of this material. A few tweaks will be needed and perhaps some of the extra functions of Webex can be utilized to gain participant feedback during the presentation. Ginger, Beth, Katie, Rami and Elizabeth will meet on March 1 to make further plans.

5. Updating the Committee Charter

With TNI's adoption of its Quality Management Plan (see Document #381 at <http://nelac-institute.org/content/tnidocs.php>), a new Charter format and activity tracking are being implemented, along with TNI Board approval of committee annual workplans. A new draft charter was prepared from the original WET charter and the committee's adopted goals and priorities, and circulated with the meeting agenda. With the time remaining, participants worked through the first portion of the document, and several sent comments by email, after the meeting. The version in Attachment 3 below is the latest with all changes suggested by the end of the day for the meeting. Discussion will resume with Objective number 4, at the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting

The next teleconference of the WET Expert Committee will be on **Wednesday, March 29, 2017**, at 1 pm Eastern. This is a rescheduled date to accommodate several different individuals' availability. Teleconference information and an agenda will be circulated in advance.

Attachment 1

Committee Membership

Member	Affiliation	Email	Phone	Category	Term Expiration	Present
Rami Naddy (Chair)	TRE Env. Strat. LLC	naddyrb.tre@gmail.com	970-416-0916	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Ginger Briggs	Bio-Analytical Laboratories	bioanalytical@wildblue.net	318-745-2772	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Pete De Lisle (Vice Chair)	Coastal Bioanalysts Inc.	pfd@coastalbio.com	804-694-8285	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Steven Rewa	Environmental Resources Management	steven.rewa@erm.com	616-738-7324	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Chris Burbage	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	cburbage@hrsd.com	757-355-5013	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Chris Pasch	Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.	cpasch@apainv.com	512-687-2162	Other	Feb. 2018	Yes
Teresa Norberg-King	USEPA	norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov	218-529-5163	Other	Feb. 2018	No
Elizabeth West	LA DEQ LELAP	elizabeth.west@la.gov	318-676-7457	AB	Feb. 2018	Yes
Amy Hackman	Penn. Dept. Environ. Protection	ahackman@pa.gov	717-346-8209	AB	Feb. 2018	No
Michele Potter	New Jersey Dept of Environ Protect.	Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov	609 984-3870	AB	Feb. 2018	No
Michael Pfeil	Texas Comm. Environ. Quality	Michael.pfeil@tceq.texas.gov	512-239-4592	AB	Feb. 2018	No
Kari Fleming	WI DNR	kari.fleming@wisconsin.gov	608-267-7663	AB	Dec. 2017	Yes
Associate Members						
Michael Chanov	EA Eng., Sci. &Tech.	mchanov@eaest.com	410-584-7000 ext: 5120	Lab (Assoc.)	--	Yes
Kevin Dischler	Element Materials Technology	Kevin.dischler@element.com	337-443-4010	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No

Monica Eues	CK Associates	Monica.eues@c-ka.com	225-923-6946	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Vel Rey Lozano	USEPA Region 8	Lozano.VelRey@epa.gov	303-312-6128	Other (EPA)	--	No
Linda Nemeth	Northwestern Aquatic Sciences	lnemeth@tds.net	541-265-7225	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Mark O'Neil	Environmental Enterprises USA, Inc.	moneil@eeusa.com	800-966-2788	Lab (Assoc.)	---	Yes
John Overbey	American Interplex Corp.	joverbey@americaninterplex.com	501-224-5060, ext. 209	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Joe Pardue	Pro2Serve	Parduegjr@oro.doe.gov	423-404-4117	Other	---	No
Katie Payne	Nautilus Environmental	katie@nautilusenvironmental.com	858-587-7333 ext. 212	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Christina Pottios	San Jose Creek Labs, LA County	CPottios@lacs.org	562.908.4288 x3055	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Shain Schmitt	ESC Lab Sciences	sschmitt@esclabsciences.com	615-758-5858	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Thekkekalathil "Chandra" Chandrasekhar	FL DEP	Thekkekalathil.Chandrasekhar@dep.state.fl.us	850-245-8075	Other (Assoc.)		Yes
Beth Thompson	Shealy Consulting	bthompson@shealyconsulting.net	803-582-7996	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Tom Widera	ERA	twidera@eraqc.com	303-463-3536	Other		No
Program Administrator						
Lynn Bradley	TNI	Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org	540-885-5736			Yes
Guests						

Attachment 2

Action Items

	Action/Activity	Responsible Person(s)	Anticipated Completion	Comments
7	Review draft response to second set of questions, as provided by Rami, and submit comments	All members	February meeting	Be prepared to finalize responses to Questions 2, 3, & 4
10	Review 2009 and 2012 versions of V1M7, and determine which issues/revisions you wish to work on	All members	January meeting	Received formal approval for beginning the revision; notification posted to TNI website on January 17, 2017.
11	Pick a target timeframe for presenting the Webinar from the August 2016 Assessment Forum	Rami, Ginger, Beth and Katie, and other members	February meeting	Planning call on March 1 with Rami, Ginger, Beth, Katie, Elizabeth and Lynn
12	Finalize responses to second set of questions	All members	March meeting?	
13	Consider additional discussion topics from February meeting	All	March meeting?	

WET Expert Committee

Charter

(SECOND DRAFT -- Spring 2017)

Mission

Update and maintain the whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing Standard (TNI Environmental Laboratory Standard, Volume 1, Module 7) based upon public comment, provide technical assistance on issues related to whole effluent toxicity, develop tools to aid implementation and facilitate the implementation of the Standard.

Composition of the Committee

This is an Expert Committee with balanced membership representing TNI's three categories of stakeholders – laboratories, accreditation bodies and other. A number of associate members also participate.

Objectives

1. Standardize Proficiency Testing conditions and endpoints
 - **Success Measure:**
 - Standardize test conditions required for PT/DMRQA WET studies, rather than the current practice of conducting multiple tests using different NPDES permit test conditions, so that a statistically significant number of comparable sample results are available.
 - Improve the statistical power and evaluation of WET data sets and results in PT/DMRQA studies by selecting one statistical method to calculate the test endpoint and eliminating the use of hypothesis test endpoints.
2. Offer expert assistance to TNI on WET testing methods, quality control and data interpretation.
 - **Success Measure:**
 - Educate assessors on IC25 vs. NOEC for PT/DMRQA endpoints.
 - Work with PT providers and assessors to consolidate, clarify, and improve the guidance on acceptable and unacceptable corrective actions for laboratories when a PT/DMRQA study result is outside of the acceptance limits.
3. Revise and maintain the WET module of the TNI standard.
 - **Success Measure**
 - Improve the way initial demonstration of capability and continuing demonstration of capability are handled specifically for WET testing.
 - Clarify the appropriate QC for WET supporting chemical analyses.
 - Offer expert assistance to TNI, auditors and laboratories on interpretation of the Standard as it pertains to WET.
4. Work Plan: the committee will create or review the Work Plan on at least an annual basis and as part of any internal audit process.
 - **Success Measure:**
 - Work plans are presented to the TNI Board for review on at least an annual basis

Decision Making

Decisions on review of any TNI procedure, policy or guide changes will be made by Majority Vote and in the presence of, or by electronic voting of, a committee quorum; voting options are: Yeah, Nay or Abstain. Exceptions may be made as requested by the chair when there are no objections from the committee members, in which case the decision rule used will be stated clearly.

Available Resources

- Volunteer committee members
- TNI Infrastructure
- Environmental technical community
- Teleconference services
- Administrative support
- Technical editor support

Anticipated Meeting Schedule

- Teleconferences: regular schedule of calls to be published on the TNI website.
- Occasional additional calls and subcommittee meetings as needed.
- Face-to-face meetings as needed at TNI conferences.