

## Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee Meeting Summary

March 23, 2016 1 pm Eastern

### 1. Welcome, Roll Call, Approval of Minutes and Announcements

Rami Naddy welcomed everyone to the meeting. Minutes of the February 17, 2016, meeting were approved. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1, below.

Please note the addition of an Action Items table as Attachment 2.

### 2. Recap of WET Presentation to ELAB

Rami was invited to present the committee's white paper on PT, as sent to EPA, to the EPA Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) at its March 16 meeting. His presentation covered the basics of WET testing and explained the purpose and justification for the white paper, and was well received by the ELAB members. The ELAB Chair agreed that ELAB will discuss what they learned at the next meeting and consider forming a workgroup to address the issues raised (essentially, method harmonization and the need for data comparability in WET PT.)

Lynn noted that ELAB is a formally constituted Federal Advisory Committee, and as such, that any recommendations it makes to the Agency should be adopted unless the Agency justifies its reasoning for not adopting such recommendations.

The presentation was shared with committee members in a pdf format.

### 3. Assessment Forum

The ELAB discussion led to an initial discussion about planning the WET session of the Assessment Forum at conference in August. That preliminary discussion and the later, more complete discussion, are summarized here.

As noted before, Barbara leads the subcommittee of LASEC that manages and plans the Assessment Forum and Mentor Session blocks of the TNI conferences. She has an initial planning session for this group set for Friday April 8, and likely will hold a separate call, later, with just the people from our committee who have offered to work with developing the WET session, which is scheduled for Tuesday morning, August 9; the committee meeting will be Tuesday afternoon, following lunch. Ginger and Elizabeth were the initial WET volunteers, and Rami, Teresa plus either Katie or Beth will join in with planning also. It seems most likely that Ginger will be the lead presenter for our topic.

Barbara explained that the purpose of these sessions is to help people with assessments – both labs and assessors – and that it's intended to be an informal session with a heavy focus on interactive discussions. Two suggestions arose from this discussion, to entertain the participants with a closing discussion highlighting mis-applications of traditional assessment requirements to WET labs, and also to develop a checklist for WET assessors who are unfamiliar with aquatic toxicity. NOTE: A checklist exists on the TNI website, but it is for all of Volume 1, not just the WET module (V1M7.) Due to the ISO language included in the checklist you need to affirm ownership of a copy of the Standard before it lets you view the document. See <http://www.nelac-institute.org/content/NELAP/qscheck2009-access.php> then go to the spreadsheet tab for module 7 checklist items. The checklist only includes TNI Standard requirements and does not include method items. There is also PA State Specific checklist posted.

#### **4. PTPEC Representative**

As noted in February's minutes, John Overbey agreed to serve as WET's liaison to the PTPEC. John joined the February PTPEC meeting and notified that executive committee of the new EPA requirement to report IC25 as a PT sample result. He reported that there was not much discussion on the topic.

#### **5. Glossary**

Tom was not present for a report on the larger project, but Rami sent the most recent updates of the WET glossary to him and the CSDEC Chair, Bob Wyeth. Rami also prepared a draft glossary for the Microbiology Expert Committee and sent it forward to that committee chair for review.

#### **6. Should WET Become a Resource for Method Refinements and Recommendations?**

Rami was contacted for advice about a WET method, and asked the participants whether this committee was interested in assuming the role of resource for method refinements and recommendations. Discussion points were varied, as follows:

- TNI's policy is not to address questions about EPA regulatory methods (40 CFR requirements,) since only EPA can provide answers that will be acceptable for regulatory testing
- Forms of assessor training would be helpful
- The relevant programs within EPA are the Office of Wastewater Management, the Office of Science and Technology, and portions of the Office of Research and Development (ORD) plus its contractors. The DMRQA program is run out of the Office of Compliance, part of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance
- This committee could give feedback in the form of "our interpretation" or "best advice" or "best professional judgment"
- EPA may be able to use our feedback to create some form of guidance for distribution with the methods, or to rely on the committee as a long term advisory workgroup
- Method questions should properly be directed to the NPDES permit writers in the individual states or the WET coordinators in the EPA regional offices, but many method questions eventually make their way to Teresa's group in ORD's Environmental Effects Research Laboratory  
Mid-Continent Ecology Division in Duluth, MN. Teresa can provide a list of state and EPA regional coordinators if we choose to refer such questions to them.

The group finally reached consensus that an appropriate type of response, for questions that the committee chooses to address, would be to provide our "thoughts" on the question with a federal or state regulatory contact for an official answer.

NOTE: The questions prompting this discussion are being distributed with these minutes and will be discussed at the April committee meeting.

#### **7. Revising V1M7**

One participant asked about when we can begin our revision of V1M7. Lynn explained that we can work quietly within the committee any time now, but that we cannot officially announce and begin the formal revision process until the modules currently being revised are all approved and accepted by ANSI. TNI estimates another 4 to 6 months are needed to complete all that's required there.

The action items accumulated thus far are to review the standard, determine how to rewrite the IDOC/training requirements (probably breaking that into smaller pieces), and to create a checklist

for assessors to use for WET labs specifically. Rami suggested that maybe we need a champion for each section of the WET module. Steve promptly volunteered to take on the Demonstration of Competency section. Additional volunteers are needed to address the ancillary chemistry testing aspects as well as improved specificity for the test methods.

Steve moved and Pete seconded that the meeting be adjourned. There were no objections.

#### **8. Next Meeting**

The WET Expert Committee will meet again on Wednesday, April 20, 2016, at 1 pm Eastern. Teleconference information and an agenda will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

## Attachment 1

## Committee Membership

Member	Affiliation	Email	Phone	Category	Term Expiration	Present
Rami Naddy (Chair)	TRE Env. Strat. LLC	<a href="mailto:naddyrb.tre@gmail.com">naddyrb.tre@gmail.com</a>	970-416-0916	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Ginger Briggs	Bio-Analytical Laboratories	<a href="mailto:bioanalytical@wildblue.net">bioanalytical@wildblue.net</a>	318-745-2772	Lab	Feb. 2018	No
Pete De Lisle	Coastal Bioanalysts Inc.	<a href="mailto:pfd@coastalbio.com">pfd@coastalbio.com</a>	804-694-8285	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Steven Rewa	Environmental Resources Management	<a href="mailto:steven.rewa@erm.com">steven.rewa@erm.com</a>	616-738-7324	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Chris Burbage	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	<a href="mailto:cburbage@hrsd.com">cburbage@hrsd.com</a>	757-355-5013	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Chris Pasch	Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.	<a href="mailto:cpasch@apainv.com">cpasch@apainv.com</a>	512-687-2162	Other	Feb. 2018	Yes
Teresa Norberg-King	USEPA	<a href="mailto:norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov">norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov</a>	218-529-5163	Other	Feb. 2018	Yes
Elizabeth West	LA DEQ LELAP	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.west@la.gov">elizabeth.west@la.gov</a>	318-676-7457	AB	Feb. 2018	No
Amy Hackman	Penn. Dept. Environ. Protection	<a href="mailto:ahackman@pa.gov">ahackman@pa.gov</a>	717-346-8209	AB	Feb. 2018	Yes
Michele Potter	New Jersey Dept of Environ Protect.	<a href="mailto:Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov">Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov</a>	609 984-3870	AB	Feb. 2018	Yes
Michael Pfeil	Texas Comm. Environ. Quality	<a href="mailto:Michael.pfeil@tceq.texas.gov">Michael.pfeil@tceq.texas.gov</a>	512-239-4592	AB	Feb. 2018	Yes
Kari Fleming	WI DNR	<a href="mailto:kari.fleming@wisconsin.gov">kari.fleming@wisconsin.gov</a>	608-267-7663	AB	Dec. 2017	No
<b>Associate Members</b>						
Kevin Dischler	Element Materials Technology	<a href="mailto:Kevin.dischler@element.com">Kevin.dischler@element.com</a>	337-443-4010	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Monica Eues	CK Associates	<a href="mailto:Monica.eues@c-ka.com">Monica.eues@c-ka.com</a>	225-923-6946	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Barbara Escobar	Pima County RWRD, CRAO Laboratory	<a href="mailto:Barbara.escobar@pima.gov">Barbara.escobar@pima.gov</a>		Lab (Assoc.)	---	Yes

Melinda Hooper	Englewood Water District, Florida	<a href="mailto:hoopermelinda@gmail.com">hoopermelinda@gmail.com</a>		Lab (Assoc.)		No
Robert Kelley	ETT Environmental Inc	<a href="mailto:bobkelley@ettenvironmental.com">bobkelley@ettenvironmental.com</a>	864-877-6942	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Brian Krausz	USEPA	<a href="mailto:krausz.brian@epa.gov">krausz.brian@epa.gov</a>	202-564-3069	Other (EPA)	--	No
Jennifer Loudon	Raritan Township Municipal Utilities Authority	<a href="mailto:JLoudon@rtmua.com">JLoudon@rtmua.com</a>	908-787-7453 x 19	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Vel Rey Lozano	USEPA Region 8	<a href="mailto:Lozano.VelRey@epa.gov">Lozano.VelRey@epa.gov</a>	303-312-6128	Other (EPA)	--	No
Robert Martino	QC Laboratories	<a href="mailto:rmartino@qclaboratories.com">rmartino@qclaboratories.com</a>	267-699-0103	Lab (Assoc.)	---	Yes
Jamie Mitchell	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	<a href="mailto:jmitchell@hrsd.com">jmitchell@hrsd.com</a>	757-460-4220	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Linda Nemeth	Northwestern Aquatic Sciences	<a href="mailto:lnemeth@tds.net">lnemeth@tds.net</a>	541-265-7225	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Mark O'Neil	Environmental Enterprises USA, Inc.	<a href="mailto:moneil@eeusa.com">moneil@eeusa.com</a>	800-966-2788	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Marilyn O'Neill	Nautilus Environmental	<a href="mailto:Marilyn@nautilusenvironmental.com">Marilyn@nautilusenvironmental.com</a>	858-587-7333	Lab (Assoc.)		No
John Overbey	American Interplex Corp.	<a href="mailto:joverbey@americaninterplex.com">joverbey@americaninterplex.com</a>	501-224-5060, ext. 209	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Joe Pardue	Pro2Serve	<a href="mailto:Parduegjr@oro.doe.gov">Parduegjr@oro.doe.gov</a>	423-404-4117	Other	---	No
Peter M Paulos	Atkins Environmental Toxicology Lab	<a href="mailto:Peter.Paulos@atkinsglobal.com">Peter.Paulos@atkinsglobal.com</a>	713-292-9023	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Katie Payne	Nautilus Environmental	katie@nautilusenvironmental.com	858-587-7333 ext. 212	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Beth Thompson	Shealy Consulting	bthompson@shealyconsulting.net	803-808-3113	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Tom Widera	ERA	twidera@eraqc.com	303-463-3536	Other		No
Program Administrator						
Lynn Bradley	TNI	<a href="mailto:Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org">Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org</a>	540-885-5736			Yes

## Attachment 2

### Action Items

	Action/Activity	Responsible Person(s)	Anticipated Completion	Comments
1	WET session for Assessment Forum – determine content and presentation format for one 60-minute & one 90-minute block	Ginger/Elizabeth w/ Rami, Teresa & Katie/Marilyn to work w/ Barbara & LASEC	August 2016 conference in Orange County, CA	
2	Review questions distributed with minutes, for discussion at April 20 meeting	All members	April 20 or possibly May meeting	
3	Review V1M7 for needed revisions	Steve – DOC  Additional volunteers needed for other sections	Ongoing	Formal revision cannot yet begin
4	Develop checklist for WET assessors, possibly for use with Assessment Forum	TBD	Discuss at April 20 meeting	Reference WET portion of current QS checklist
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7				