

Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee Meeting Summary

February 21, 2018 1 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Announcements

Rami welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1, below. The minutes from December 6, 2017, and January 23, 2018, were approved. The two new associate members, David Johnston and Erin Consuegra, were not present to introduce themselves.

2. Committee Membership

At the December meeting, all current full members of the WET committee indicated their desire to continue for a second three-year term. We discussed adding one additional full member from the “other” stakeholder category – probably an EPA regional program manager, either Vel Rey or someone from R6 -- and then we could add two of the highly active associate members as full members, as well. Committee membership is limited to fifteen individuals, but we must have an additional “other” member before we can add more individuals from either the lab or AB stakeholder category.

Rami will follow up with Vel Rey to see if she wishes to become a full member, or whether we should pursue one of the other two identified possibilities. Since all current members will complete their second terms at the same time, it is important to have some additional individuals who will remain on the committee into the year 2021 and beyond.

3. Follow-Up Items from Conference

NEFAP – Rami asked for a volunteer to work with the Field Activities Committee to have WET input into the revision of the Field Sampling and Measurement Organization (FSMO) Standard being developed for the National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP.) Their standard is also based on ISO 17025, but this revision will be using the 2017 revision rather than the 2004 version with which we are all familiar. Please contact Rami or Lynn if you are willing to serve in this role.

WET Methods for the TNI Method Compendium in LAMS – at conference, TNI’s Database Administrator, Dan Hickman, asked for some guidance from the WET committee about whether and how to eliminate extraneous material from the method manuals, so that each individual method can be posted for this compendium, which is an integral part of the Laboratory Accreditation Management System (LAMS) database. Elizabeth and Rami agreed to work with Dan on this.

FoPT Analyte Codes – Prior to conference, Craig Huff (representing PTPEC) had contacted Rami about matching the analytes in the WET Field of Proficiency Testing table with the correct analyte codes in LAMS. Committee members who were at conference met with Craig and also Dan Hickman, and Dan offered to do a “first cut” at that match. Since then, he did so, and Craig sent the results to Rami, asking that the WET committee review them. Michele, Beth and Chandra offered to work with Rami to review these codes, with the final product coming to the full committee before being returned to Craig for PTPEC.

4. Revising the WET Module of the TNI Standard (V1M7)

Chemistry QA/QC -- John and Michele provided a revised draft of language describing these requirements for chemistry measurements, as they impact WET testing, as follows:

Instruments used for routine measurements of chemical and physical parameters such as pH, DO, temperature, conductivity, salinity, alkalinity and hardness must be calibrated

and verified according to the instrument manufacturer's procedures as indicated in the general section on quality assurance of each referenced test method.

Wet chemical methods used to measure hardness, alkalinity and total residual chlorine must be verified prior to use according to the procedures for those specific test methods.

Unless otherwise noted by a mandated method or by regulation, chemical and physical tests in toxicity testing are supporting parameters to help aid in the interpretation of toxicity results. As these are support measurements, only the calibration requirements specified in the applicable reference methods apply.

Comments from participants were as follows:

- Need to clarify what "verified" means – is this per method with a demonstration of proper calibration?
- While we don't cite the chemistry module, we can put the words from it into V1M7
- Want to show that calibration need not be daily
- Shouldn't have to verify "NIST-traceable" reagents, but just record the information from the certificate (NOTE *ad hoc* from your Program Administrator – do you need to periodically check to ensure that contamination/dilution/evaporation has not happened?)
- Write more specific language for each technique being verified
- The method manual cites old (no-longer-in-the-CFR) EPA methods for verification
- Revise the second paragraph to read "Wet chemical methods used to measure hardness, alkalinity and total residual chlorine must be verified prior to use according to the procedures *as indicated* for those specific test methods." (italics used for inserted words)

John and Michele agreed to revise this language to provide details, specifics, and minimum requirements for "verification" and to have this language available for review at the April 2018 meeting. One suggestion was that grouping them by the specific activity (calibration, titration, etc.) might help. Rami asked that committee members from labs submit information about their practices with regard to chemistry QA to John, and to please copy him and Lynn.

Participants asked whether there will be an additional section for chemistry measurements, and also questioned how to perform demonstration of competency (DOC) for chemistry measurements. Consensus was that an additional section is probably not needed.

DOC/IDOC – Steve and Pete will have revised language for the demonstration of competency section in early March, so that committee members will have time to review it before the March 21 meeting.

5. New Business

Steve thanked everyone who responded to his request for SRT information.

Rami noted that the Consensus Standards Development Executive Committee has reminded him that all committee members should complete the Committee Member training, available at <http://nelac-institute.org/eds/download/ChairTraining.php>. While this says "Committee Chair Training," it's beneficial for all committee members.

6. Next Meeting

The next teleconference will be Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at 1 pm Eastern. Teleconference information and an agenda will be provided in advance.

Attachment 1

Committee Membership

Member	Affiliation	Email	Category	Term Expiration	Present
Rami Naddy (Chair)	TRE Env. Strat. LLC	naddyrb.tre@gmail.com	Lab	Dec. 2020	Yes
Ginger Briggs	Bio-Analytical Laboratories	bioanalytical@wildblue.net	Lab	Dec. 2020	Yes
Pete De Lisle (Vice Chair)	Coastal Bioanalysts Inc.	pfd@coastalbio.com	Lab	Dec. 2020	Yes
Steven Rewa	Environmental Resources Management	steven.rewa@erm.com	Lab	Dec. 2020	Yes
Chris Burbage	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	cburbage@hrsd.com	Lab	Dec. 2020	Yes
Chris Pasch	Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.	cpasch@apainv.com	Other	Dec. 2020	Yes
Teresa Norberg-King	USEPA	norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov	Other (Affiliate)	Dec. 2020	Yes
Elizabeth West	LA DEQ LELAP	elizabeth.west@la.gov	AB	Dec. 2020	Yes
Amy Hackman	Penn. Dept. Environ. Protection	ahackman@pa.gov	AB	Dec. 2020	No
Michele Potter	New Jersey Dept of Environ Protect.	Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov	AB	Dec. 2020	Yes
Michael Pfeil	Texas Comm. Environ. Quality	Michael.pfeil@tceq.texas.gov	AB	Dec. 2020	No
Kari Fleming	WI DNR	kari.fleming@wisconsin.gov	AB	Dec. 2020	Yes
Associate Members					
Debmalya Bhattacharyya	NE Ohio Regional Sewer District	bhattacharyad@neorsd.org	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Michael Chanov	EA Eng., Sci. &Tech.	mchanov@eaest.com	Lab (Assoc.)	--	No

Erin Consuegra	ERA LAB	econsuegra@eralab.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Kevin Dischler	Element Materials Technology	Kevin.dischler@element.com	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Monica Eues	CK Associates	Monica.eues@c-ka.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Marshall Faircloth	FL DEP	joseph.faircloth@dep.state.fl.us	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Christina Henderson	Bio-Aquatic Testing, Inc.	chenderson@bio-aquatic.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
David Johnston	Valero Refining Co - Benecia	david.johnston@valero.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Vel Rey Lozano	USEPA Region 8	Lozano.VelRey@epa.gov	Other (EPA)	--	No
Linda Nemeth	Northwestern Aquatic Sciences	lnemeth@tds.net	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Mark O'Neil	Environmental Enterprises USA, Inc.	moneil@eeusa.com	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
John Overbey	American Interplex Corp.	joverbey@americaninterplex.com	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Katie Payne	Nautilus Environmental	katie@nautilusenvironmental.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Christina Pottios	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	cpottios@lacsdsd.org	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Shain Schmitt	ESC Lab Sciences	sschmitt@esclabsciences.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Greg Savitske	US EPA OECA	Savitske.gregory@epa.gov	Other (EPA)		No
Thekkekalathil "Chandra" Chandrasekhar	FL DEP	Thekkekalathil.Chandrasekhar@dep.state.fl.us	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Beth Thompson	Shealy Consulting	bthompson@shealyconsulting.net	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Jordan Thorngren	Eurofins (Horsham, PA)	jordanthorngren@eurofinsUS.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Tom Widera	ERA	twidera@eraqc.com	Other		No
Program Administrator					
Lynn Bradley	TNI	Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org			Yes

Attachment 2Action Items

	Action/Activity	Responsible Person(s)	Anticipated Completion	Comments
15	Draft language about DOC requirements	Steve and Pete, with others	??	Revised draft expected for March 2018 meeting
16	Submit difficult questions from webinar to committee for response	Ginger, Elizabeth, et al	December 2017	
17	Draft language about QC requirements for water chemistry measurements	Michele, John, others?	??	revised draft language expected for April 2018 meeting
18	Reply to Laura Phillips' questions in follow-up to August meeting about PT/DMR-QA	Rami	12/15/18	
19	Contact Vel Rey Lozano about full membership, and if not, then one of two other possible candidates from the "other" stakeholder category	Rami	March 16, 2018	
20	Work with TNI Database Administrator about WET methods in the compendium	Rami, Elizabeth		
21	Review FoPT table with inserted analyte codes in	Rami, Michele, Beth, Chandra		