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## Source Audit Program

### Sen-SSAS-tional News: An update from the TNI SSAS Expert Committee

Sheri Heldstab, Chair, TNI **SSAS** Committee



to participate

The EPA’s Stationary Source Audit Program is still suspended due to a lack of a second Audit Sample Provider. Meanwhile, in the second quarter of 2020, the Stationary Source Audit Sample (SSAS) Expert Committee (“the Committee”) continued to meet at twice its normal frequency.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 6-100, “Conducting Pilot Studies for New Concentration Ranges and Acceptance Limits for Source Sampling Audit Samples”, completed its first stage of becoming a finalized TNI SOP. The Committee has spent the last year writing and refining this document. The SOP is expected to be reviewed by the Policy Committee in July, 2020.

This SOP provides the procedure for conducting a Pilot Study for purposes of expanding the concentration ranges for existing SSAS Table analytes. The expansion may include either increasing or decreasing the concentration ranges of analytes for SSAS Audit samples. For anyone wishing that 40 CFR 60 Method 26 Audit Samples had a lower concentration range, there is now a procedure by which this can be performed.

In summary, an Audit Sample Provider manufactures Pilot Study Audit Samples and multiple laboratories analyze these Pilot Study Audit Samples (each at their own cost). This generates a large enough data set to statistically determine how low an Audit Sample concentration can be before it becomes so low as to no longer be accurately detectable.

SOP 6-100 is also applicable to the addition of new methods and/or analytes requested to the SSAS Table. Prior to this SOP being written, there was no mechanism by which new methods or method analytes could be added to the SSAS Table. This SOP is part of the Committee’s plan to improve the

usefulness of Audit Samples for all of the stakeholders in the Stationary Source Audit Program.

The Committee is currently working on a second companion SOP (6-101, SSAS Table Management). This SOP governs how, why, and when changes to the SSAS Table are made. The process begins with a Change Request Application being submitted by a Stationary Source Audit Program Stakeholder. The Committee then reviews the request, and responds to the submitter with the results of the Committee’s review. Any subsequent actions are initiated, and the SSAS Table is updated, if necessary.

The SSAS Table includes Methods, Analytes, Concentration Ranges, and Acceptance Criteria. To view the current SSAS Table, go to:

[https://nelac.institute.org/docs/comm/ptair/table/SSAS%20Table%20Rev.%205\\_4-15-2014\\_final.pdf](https://nelac.institute.org/docs/comm/ptair/table/SSAS%20Table%20Rev.%205_4-15-2014_final.pdf)

TNI and the TNI SSAS Committee encourage stakeholder participation on conference calls. The Committee’s regularly scheduled conference call is on the third Monday of each month at 2:00 pm Eastern. The Committee is currently having additional conference calls on the first Monday of each month at 2:30 pm Eastern. Each call lasts 1 ½ hours. Contact the Committee Chair ([sheldstab@chesterlab.net](mailto:sheldstab@chesterlab.net)) if you are interested in participating.

