SUMMARY OF THE
TNI PROFICIENCY TESTING EXPERT COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING
TNI Winter Meeting, Forum on Environmental Accreditation

January 20, 2022

The Committee held a public meeting on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 1:00 PM CT during the TNI Winter meeting. For a number of reasons, many of the committee members were not in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Kirstin Daigle, the Committee Chair.

On behalf of the Proficiency Testing Expert Committee (PTEC), Kirstin presented the meeting agenda, reviewed committee membership as well as the committee's past accomplishments and goals for 2022.

In the attached PowerPoint presentation, activities relative to the CEC and progress on SIRs and modifications to EL V1M4 was reviewed.

Daigle_PT Expert Committee_Meeting A

During the discussion of membership on the PTEC, a current roster of the committee was presented, and appreciation was expressed to all members. Kirstin advised the attendees than a number of vacancies on the PTEC are likely and that candidates for membership on the PTEC should ensure that they have submitted the appropriate application available on the TNI website.

Accomplishments in 2021 included updating the PTEC Charter for consistency with the TNI Strategic Plan. Expansion of the Committee's voting membership to fifteen members which is the maximum number of full members on a TNI expert committee. Resolution of the one SIR received by the Committee in 2021, and development of plans to review and modify the existing volumes and modules concerning proficiency testing. These include EL V1M1, EL V2M2, V3 and V4.

EL V1M1	Proficiency Testing Requirements for Laboratories
EL V2M2	General Requirements of AB regarding labs performing environmental testing
EL V3	General Requirements for Proficiency Test Providers (PTP)
EL V4	General Requirements for Accreditors of PTP

Notice of Intent to Modify these four pieces of the TNI Standard were prepared, approved by the Committee, and forwarded to the Consensus Standard Development Program Executive Committee (CSDP EC) for approval which was subsequently granted.

Prior to getting into solicitation of concerns and thoughts regarding changes to these volumes and modules, Kirstin provided a brief overview of the Special Session on Proficiency Testing for Radiochemistry held on Tuesday morning, January 18, 2022.

The fundamental issue of this session was the reporting and management of uncertainty data in PT results. Radiochemistry members stated that all PT related volumes and modules require PT results

include a report of uncertainty (PTEC comment: this statement from the Radiochemistry committee is actually inaccurate as reporting is only an issue in V1M1). However, no PTP has means of capturing this information and there are no criteria to accept uncertainty if it were collected. The Radiochemistry Committee believes this is an important and PTP evaluation of uncertainty is necessary. The Radiochemistry Committee will continue working on this issue with the Proficiency Testing Executive Committee to development resolution.

Kirstin then moved the public meeting onto one of the major objectives of the meeting which was to solicit comments for potential changes to PT volumes and modules subject to the approved NOIs.

The PTEC has been collecting internal Committee ideas and issues of concern for potential/necessary changes to the PT sections of the Standard. While not specifically presented at the meeting, the attached spreadsheet presents those collected concerns.

Copy of 5_Comments - Review of PT Standa

Kirstin then led the public meeting through the following comments collected from the participants of the public meeting. The PTEC will, during the development of a new DS for these volumes and modules, consider all of the following comments/concerns:

- Conformity/Consistency with ISO/IEC 17025, 17034 and 17043
- Work to resolve PT issues with Radiochemistry and Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Committees
- Issue of “running PTs like samples;” inconsistency between volumes
- PT scoring by technology; reconcile V3 and V1/V2
- Keep lab requirements out of V2 and ensure all requirements are in V1
- PT materials for Asbestos testing
- PT materials for Emerging Contaminants
- Supplemental PT; value, use, revisit language in V3; should be random
- Supplemental PT; rectify difference between V1 and V2
- Ensure consistent definitions between volume and modules and glossary (e.g., referee lab, annual, etc.)
- Radiochemistry: look at timelines and make sure timelines match requirements in modules
- Microbiology concerns relative to FoPT analyte codes for different technologies
- Ensure method code issues are appropriately resolved (e.g., codes do not upload, are incorrect, inconsistent, too many for same method, etc.), major complaint of both laboratories and accreditation bodies.

One concluding note from a participant, while not a comment or suggested change to a volume and/or module, was that PTEC to the extent possible needs to ensure that implementation of EL V1M1, EL V2M2, EL V3 and EL V4 occur simultaneously.

As time was expiring for the meeting, Kirstin thanked the participants and advised that progress can be monitored through the Website and that the PTEC will be soliciting formal comments as soon as the Draft Standard (DS) is published.

The public meeting concluded 2:45PM CT. The next meeting of the PTEC is scheduled for February 11, 2022, at 2:00 PM ET.