

Proficiency Testing Expert Committee

Meeting Summary May 1, 2020

The Committee met via teleconference on May 1, 2020 at 11:00 AM ET. Chair Kirstin Daigle led the meeting. The agenda for the meeting is provided as Attachment 1. Kirstin added a new business agenda item concerning status of TNI summer meeting.

Roll call

Nicole Cairns, NYSDOH (Laboratory)	Present
Thekkekalathil Chandrasekhar (Chandra), FLDEP (Laboratory)	Present
Patrick Garrity, KYDOW (AB)	Present
Craig Huff, ERA (Vice-Chair; PT Provider)	Present
Susan Jackson, SC DHEC (Laboratory)	Present
Tim Miller, Phenova (PT Provider)	Present
Reggie Morgan, Hampton Roads San. Distr. (Laboratory)	Present
Rachel Bailey, Advanced Analytical Solutions (PT Provider)	Absent
Amy Pollard, Occidental Chemical(Laboratory)	Present
Kirstin Daigle, Pace Analytical (Chair; Laboratory)	Present
Sennett Kim, A2LA (AB)	Present
Rachel Ellis, NJ DEP (AB)	Present
Robert Wyeth, Program Administrator	Present

Associate Committee Members Stacie Crandall and Shawn Kassner were also present. With a quorum present the meeting proceeded.

Review and approve April 3, 2020 minutes

April 3, 2020 minutes were reviewed and with one editorial change (spelling of “other”), a motion was made by Nicole and seconded by Reggie to accept the minutes. The motion was unanimously approved and will be posted on the TNI website.

COVID-19 Update

After working with the Proficiency Testing Executive Committee (PTExC), and the AC, a message was posted to laboratories concerning the potential impact on the COVID-19 pandemic regarding compliance with accreditation requirements. The message was essentially business as usual but if impacted WC members agreed to work with laboratories to resolve any issues that arise. The letter was posted on the TNI website. Craig Huff reported that some laboratories were having issues but less now than earlier in the pandemic. As Chandra initiated committee efforts regarding this topic last month, Kirstin asked if the letter that had been prepared and posted addressed his concerns. It was believed that it had.

PCB FoPT / Scoring

Kirstin has been made aware of an analyte request form has been received by the PTPEC for PCBs. Shawn Kassner, chair of the PTPEC and an associate member of this committee, reported that the PTPEC will attempt to resolve the issue with a footnote in the FoPT table. If this is unsuccessful, the PTEC will ask this committee to address the issue within a modification to the Standard regarding evaluation of PCB PT results. No action of this committee is required at this time.

Kirstin mentioned that if a standards modification was required, timeliness would be an issue. The approval of a standard remains on a 5 year cycle and standards have no provisional status as so SOPs. Committees should continue with their efforts without regard to the timing. The Standard and/or modules of the Standard can be developed and approved and accepted by ANSI as an American National Standard but the real issue is when ABs can implement a new standard. Nicole noted that with regard to this PCB issue, the ABs only implement Volumes 1 and 2. If changes were made within Volume 3, the only group that would adopt the change would be the PTExC and the change can be implemented on a schedule established internally. EL V3 & V4 are not under the purview of the AC.

Tim inquired as to why this issue couldn't be handled in the table itself, similar to the WS resolution for PCB identification. Shawn reminded participants that there was significant pushback to the WS solution. It was further pointed out that ABs accredit differently and that even within program offices of a given state differing requirement for PCB detection and quantification can also exist complicating the matter further. The basic conclusion for the proficiency testing expert committee is to take no action at this time and await input from the PTExC.

New Business

The status of the TNI summer meeting scheduled for August in Minneapolis has been cancelled and the symposium section (NEMC) will be handled as a virtual meeting. TNI meeting will continue on our monthly schedule by conference calls. All other elements of the meeting (plenary sessions, showcase, etc) will be presented virtually. Costs will be associated with some sessions of the meeting and others will be offered for free to attendees. Planning continues and more information will be presented soon.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM ET on a motion by Craig, seconded by Tim and passed unanimously by committee members present. The next meeting of the PT Expert committee is scheduled for June 5, 2020 at 11:00 AM ET.

Attachment 1

TNI Proficiency Testing Expert Committee Agenda

05/01/20

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM EST

Dial-in using your phone:

United States: **+1 712-832-8330**

Access code: **822 174**

1. Roll Call
2. Review and approve minutes from previous meetings
 - TNI_PTEC_04-03-2020_draft_2
3. Covid-19 Update
 - TNI Website Posting
4. PCB FoPT / Scoring
 - Share with committee request the PTEC is working on for which they may request our assistance
5. New Business
 - Status of TNI Summer meeting