

Proficiency Testing Expert Committee

Meeting Summary August 7, 2020

The Committee met via teleconference on August 7, 2020 at 11:00 AM ET. Chair Kirstin Daigle led the meeting. The call is being recorded for the sole purpose of preparation of meeting minutes. The recording will be deleted immediately upon creation of said minutes. The agenda for the meeting is provided as Attachment 1. The agenda was approved by the committee with the addition by Kirstin of an item on committee expansion.

Roll call

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

Associate Committee Members Stacy Crandall, Shawn Kassner, Danielle Pearman, Keith Ward and Brian Stringer were also present. With a quorum present the meeting proceeded.

Review and approve June, 2020 minutes

June 5, 2020 minutes were reviewed; a motion was made by Nicole and seconded by Craig to accept the minutes. The motion was unanimously approved. The minutes will be forwarded to William for posting on the TNI website. The PTEC was not scheduled to meet in July. A brief statement of same will be submitted for posting relative to the July meeting.

Invalid SIR

Lynn Bradley send a list of invalid SIRs that while no action is specifically required, the committee reviewed SIRs 342, 376 and 377 to ascertain whether or not any considerations should be given to potential changes in the current standard. SIR 342

refers to Radiochemistry regarding uncertainty. PT providers can not capture uncertainty values nor do FoPT tables address uncertainty. While the standard states uncertainty should be reported but PT Providers do nothing with this information. Will need to address this issue in EL V3 and ensure input is received from the Radiochemistry Expert Committee.

SIR 376 refers to the guidance document for PTRL. The guidance document is clear and no action from the PTEC is required. LASEC recommended that the submitter resubmit as it relates to the Standard as opposed to the Guidance Document. A resubmission has not been received.

SIR 377 refers V1 M1 section 5.1.1, can PTs be used as Matrix duplicates and/or Matrix spikes? It is deemed as acceptable if no samples are actually run and it is the only sample that can be used for compliance with the standard. Advice from LASEC was to seek AB position on the issue. No response is required and need not be addressed in future changes to the standard.

Wet PT

The Whole Effluent Toxicity Expert Committee has been concerned for some time regarding the effectiveness of PT analysis in these laboratories. They produced a white paper to this effect was presented to ELAB for assistance in resolution to this issue. The basic problem is that laboratories follow test conditions specified in permits which differ widely amongst PT sample analyses making an assessment of comparability impossible. With the abolishment of ELAB, the WET Expert committee is attempting to resolve their issue by changes in their module. The question being posed to PTEC and the PTPEC is whether or not the detail necessary to impose standardizing conditions within their module is appropriate. The proposed detail being presented are in the attached files:



**A question about
putting requiremen**



**Suggested Steps to
Standardize WET PT**

The PTEC supports the ability of WET PTs to evaluate the competency of laboratories. A question is where should the establishment of these proposed conditions be found? In the FoPT tables, in V 1M1 and/or V1 M7?

Shawn, as chair of the PTPEC reviewed these suggested steps and responded with the following e-mail. He will also address issue with his executive committee and review their thoughts with the PTEC.



**question about
putting requiremen**

As to whether or not the AB's share this concern is not known but communication with the AC is needed.

Kirstin suggested a joint meeting of PTEC and PTPEC to discuss this matter. Also suggested inclusion of Paul Junio (Chair of the CSDEC) and Cathy Westerman (AC representative to CSDEC) and Rami Naddy (Chair of the WET expert committee) in this meeting. Will attempt to plan this meeting as a special session at the winter meeting. Kirstin and Shawn will attempt to plan such a meeting of involved parties.

Another question that was raised and believed relevant was "what is PT in WET analyses and what is the value of a PT to the WET community". The other issue is what is the EPA's approach to accreditation versus permit compliance.

Questioned whether, in the absence of ELAB, was there an opportunity to engage ACIL's Independent Laboratory Institute (ILI) to participate in this issue.

Future Work Plan

Kirstin collected information from past committee records and presented the following spreadsheet



**Copy of
5_Comments - Revie**

Items included in the spreadsheet were categorized as major or minor and should be addressed in that order. The question was raised that what impact results from the newly revised ISO 17025 standard. It was suggested we start with review of 17025 across the modules that the committee is responsible for. Kirstin will develop an agenda relative to this review of 17025 and distribute to committee members.

ISO 17034 (the primary ISO standard regarding PTs) is also beginning a review process. Dan Tholen is reportedly chairing this effort and Craig volunteered to speak with Dan in an attempt to ascertain whether their review was an affirmation of the existing standard or if a revision (and to what extent) is anticipated.

Kirstin will reach out to Jerry for guidance on use of ISO standards for committee use. Kirstin has a copy of ISO 17025 and the committee will review it using WebEx.

Committee Expansion

Kirstin advised that an application for membership had been received but acceptance as a voting member would create a balance issue. The applicant will subsequently be offered an associate position on the committee unless additional AB or PT members were to volunteer. As the expert committees may have 15 voting members and PTEC currently has only 12, Bob will reach out to associate committee members as to their willing to

participate as full voting members. The final decision on the new applicant can then be made.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 AM ET on a motion by Craig, seconded by Reggie and passed unanimously by committee members present. The next meeting of the PT Expert committee is scheduled for September 4, 2020 at 11:00 AM ET but due to the Labor Day holiday, the next meeting was changed to Friday September 11, 2020 at 11:00 AM ET and will utilize WebEx for discussion of ISO 17025.

Attachment 1

TNI Proficiency Testing Expert Committee Agenda

08/07/20

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM EST

Dial-in using your phone:

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

Access code: **822 174**

1. Review and approve minutes from previous meetings
 - TNI_PTEC_06-05-2020_draft
2. Invalid SIR
 - Non-Valid SIRs for PT
3. WET PT
 - A question about putting requirements for WET PTs...
4. Future Work Plan
 - Comments-Review of PT Standards 11.01.19
5. **Committee Expansion (added by Kirstin during the conference call)**