

Proficiency Testing Expert Committee

Meeting Summary September 6, 2019

The Committee met by teleconference on September 6, 2019 at 11:00 AM ET. Chair Nicole Cairns led the meeting.

Roll call

Jim Brownfield, ESC (Laboratory)	Resigned
Nicole Cairns, NYSDOH (Chair; Laboratory)	Present
Thekkekalathil Chandrasekhar (Chandra), FLDEP (Laboratory)	Present
Patrick Garrity, KYDOW (AB)	Present
Craig Huff, ERA (PT Provider)	Present
Susan Jackson, SC DHEC (Laboratory)	Present
Tim Miller, Phenova (PT Provider)	Present
Reggie Morgan, Hampton Roads San. Distr. (Lab)	Absent
Rachel Bailey, Advanced Analytical Solutions (PT Provider)	Present
Matt Sica, ANAB (AB)	Present
Robert Wyeth, Program Administrator	Present

Associate Committee Member Fred Anderson was also present in the audience. Melanie Ross of ANAB was present in Matt Sicas's absence. With a quorum present the meeting proceeded.

Review and approve minutes from 08/06/19

The minutes from the meeting held at the Environmental Measurements Forum in Jacksonville, FL were reviewed. No changes were made and on a motion by Tim, a second by Craig and a unanimous vote of the members present, the 8/6/19 minutes were approved. Minutes will be forwarded to William for posting.

PTEC Membership – look forward

Nicole announced that Jim Brownfield had resigned from the committee. In his absence balance/lack of dominance is still maintained with 2 ABs, 4 labs and 3 Other (PTPs). A copy of the current roster is provided as Attachment 2.

Paul Junio, Chair of the CSDEC, has requested rosters from all committees in preparation for a TNI Newsletter article regarding membership. The PTEC can have a maximum of 15 members if balance is maintained. The PTEC subsequently has room for new members.

Nicole reminded members that she would be vacating her chair position at the end of 2019 while remaining a committee member through the end of her term in 2020. A volunteer to succeed her was discussed and any interested committee members should discuss the duties and responsibilities of this role with her directly.

What's next for the committee?

Nicole presented questions to the committee as to which activities the committee should engage in next. She also presented a collection of "issues" that were believed relevant to the committee regarding changes and/or clarifications needed in PT related modules (Attachment 3).

Numerous topics were discussed but no specific direction for moving forward was arrived at. Rather the consensus of opinion was to have the committee review the "issues" list Nicole provided and comment upon, add to or delete issues for subsequent discussion by the committee again during the October meeting. It was further suggested and generally believed to be of value to this discussion that no final decisions on direction be made until the 2016 standard was being implemented (post January 2020).

The question of value of a FAQ document related to PTEC was also thought to be more relevant after implementation of the 2016 Standard had been on-going for a time.

The next meeting of the PTEC originally scheduled for October 4 was re-scheduled for October 11, 2019 at 11:00 AM ET.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM ET on a motion by Rachel, a second by Tim and a unanimous vote of the committee.

Attachment 1

TNI Proficiency Testing Expert Committee Agenda

09/06/19

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM EST

1. Review and approve minutes from 08/06/19 (Jacksonville)
 - TNI_PTEC_08-06-2019 Jacksonville meeting draft.docx

2. PTEC Membership – look forward
 - 2019 PTEC Roster.doc

3. What's next for the committee?
 - Comments for Consideration in Next Revision of PT Standards.docx
 - FAQs
 - Trainings

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Access code: 822 174

Attachment 2

Proficiency Testing Expert Committee 2019 Roster

Member	Organization	Term Expires	Representation
Rachel Bailey	Advanced Analytical Solutions	12-31-2021	PT Provider
Jim Brownfield*	Pace Analytical	12-31-2020	Laboratory
Nicole Cairns (Chair)	New York - DOH	12-31-2020 2 nd term	Laboratory
Thekkekalathil Chandrasekhar	Florida – DEP – Lab	12-31-2020	Laboratory
Patrick Garrity	Kentucky - DEP	12-31-2021 2 nd term	Accreditation Body
Craig Huff (Vice Chair)	ERA	12-31-2021 2 nd term	PT Provider
Susan Jackson	South Carolina DEHC	12-31-2019	Laboratory
Tim Miller	Phenova	12-31-2021 2 nd term	PT Provider
Reggie Morgan	HRSD	12-31-2020	Laboratory
Matthew Sica	ANAB	12-31-2021	Accreditation Body
Robert Wyeth	TNI	N/A	Administrator

2 – ABs
3 – PTPs
5 4 – Labs
0 – Others

*Updated 09/04/19.

Attachment 3

Comments for Consideration in Next Revision of PT Standards

General

- 1) Radiochemistry requirements (Bob Shannon)
- 2) Prep Methods
- 3) Review and update to latest ISO/IEC standard where applicable in all volumes
- 4) Standardization of WET PTs and dealing with small data sets (see white paper by Rami)
- 5) For V1M1 and/or V2M2 – who determines what fields of accreditation have corresponding fields of proficiency testing? Is it the Primary NELAP AB? Does this need to be part of the standard or should this be a NELAP AC policy? (Carl Kircher)
- 6) SIRs that were not resolved in the 2016 standard

Volume 1, Module 1

- 1) Section 3.0 – add a definition for Secondary AB; may not be applicable if glossary of terms completed. (PTPEC)
- 2) Breakdown products – how to report (V1M1) – i.e. Endrin, DDT (Matt Sica)
- 3) Additional reporting information. Zero (0) values and values associated with greater than (>) Not Acceptable. (Micro – consider whether some > reporting is appropriate).
- 4) PCB evaluation as a total group vs. individual Aroclors for accreditation (may need to look at where this fits in with V2M2 as well).
- 5) Supplemental PT requirements – qualitative vs. quantitative – if we keep specific requirements in Volume 3; then we need the labs to be required to comply; nothing in lab module about supplemental PTs. See SIR 7 as well.
- 6) Second column confirmation not explicitly required for PT samples – see SIR; may need to more clearly define PT sample as a completely unknown with expectations of treating it as an unknown, even though PT test ranges, PTRLs, and components are known when purchased.
- 7) See SIR 266 – Definition of FoPT
- 8) See SIR from 12/8/10 (no number?) regarding second column confirmation; analysis of PTs as “real environmental samples” requires second column confirmation – add clarity – PTs should be considered “unfamiliar” samples.
- 9) See SIR from 6/27/11 (no number?) – what defines a matrix for an FoPT.

Volume 2, Module 2

- 1) See SIR 275 – revocation notifications to secondary ABs.

Volume 3

- 1) Section 3.0 – PTPA is defined, but not PTPEC – add PTPEC or remove PTPA; may not be applicable if glossary of terms completed. (PTPEC)
- 2) Section 3.0 – Definition of PTRL is not a great one – could use tweaking; may not be applicable if glossary of terms completed. (PTPEC)
- 3) Section 4.6 – do we need to provide additional detail on why a referee lab would be needed. (PTPEC)
- 4) Section 5.5.3.4.2 – add “...with the justification for modification(s).” to the end of the phrase as is done in Section 5.7.1.2 (PTPEC)
- 5) Section 5.6.1.7 and 5.6.1.8 a) and b) – should biased and unbiased verification methods be more clearly defined. (PTPEC)
- 6) General comment with regard to VHS criteria – would like to have specific criteria/calculations that PTPs must follow and meet for VHS – consistency among PTPs. (Donna Ruokonen)
- 7) Update from Guide 34 to ISO/IEC 17034 (Lauren Smith)
- 8) Breakdown products – how to score (V3) – i.e. Endrin, DDT (Matt Sica)
- 9) PCBs as collective FoPT – may require new standard updates depending on resolution.
- 10) Supplemental PT requirements – qualitative vs. quantitative (lots of gray areas; benzo(b) vs benzo(k) – if they mis-ID, is this qualitative or quantitative failure?) – do we need these specifications? What purpose does this serve? Labs don't have to take supplemental PTs to regain compliance with successful PT frequency history. They can plug along with regular studies (especially if only one failure). See SIR 7 as well
- 11) Micro > Values?: get AC feedback on using FoPT ranges to dilute appropriately, PT Providers – include info in instructions? Labs must follow PT Provider instructions

New PTs for Program

- 1) Legionella? – would this require updates to the standard? (Donna Ruokonen)