

## Proficiency Testing Expert Committee

### Meeting Summary September 11, 2020

The Committee met via teleconference on September 11, 2020 at 11:00 AM ET. Chair Kirstin Daigle led the meeting. The call was 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 membership expansion.

#### Roll call

Nicole Cairns, NYSDOH (Laboratory)	Absent
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)	Present
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)	Present
Robert Wyeth, Program Administrator	Present

Associate Committee Members Mike Blades, Audrey Cornell, Danielle Pearman and Judy Morgan were also present. With a quorum present the meeting proceeded.

#### Review and approve August, 2020 minutes

August 7, 2020 minutes were reviewed; a motion was made by Rachel Bailey and seconded by Craig to accept the minutes. The motion was unanimously approved however Tim abstained. The minutes will be forwarded to William for posting on the TNI website.

#### Membership Expansion Status

Bob sent an e-mail to Associate committee members who may want to become full voting members of the PTEC. Nominations are also welcome and requested from committee members particularly for candidates in the AB and/or Other stakeholder

groups. Initial e-mail response was limited so Bob will send out a second e-mail request to all committee associates.

### **ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Review**

#### **Review Standard to identify any requirements relative to PT requirements for VIM1**

Kirstin reviewed and presented excerpts from ISO 17025:2017 regarding “proficiency testing (PT)”. The first such reference was in definitions where PT was defined as evaluation of proficiency testing performance against preestablished criteria by means of interlaboratory comparison. Interlaboratory being defined as organization performance in evaluation of measurements or tests on the same instrument or item by 2 or more laboratories in accordance with predetermined conditions.

Question was asked if Glossary definitions matched ISO exactly and Bob reported that generally (unless specifically included) do not “match” but are not inconsistent with ISO. Current PT definitions are not exact but are consistent with ISO. The only possible suggestion will be to add the term of “interlaboratory” to the definition in the glossary. Bob will bring this concept to the glossary work group for their consideration.

The next reference in ISO 17025:2017 to PT was a note in the section on externally provided products and services where PT samples are an example of said services and that utilization of these services shall be suitable to meet the requirements of the laboratories. As PT providers (PTP) used by accredited laboratories are approved by TNI it was again determined that TNI practices are not inconsistent with ISO 17025:2017.

Section 7.2 of ISO 17025:2017 speaks to “participation” and references PT as follows. Laboratories shall monitor performance by comparison with other laboratories where available and applicable. Monitoring shall include but not be limited to either or both of the following: participation in a PT program (Note in document references ISO 17043 which provides criteria for proficiency testing programs) and/or interlaboratory testing other than a PT program.

As PTEC is also responsible for EL V2M2 this reference and requirements of ISO 17043 (currently under review) needs to be maintained as a “parking lot” item for inclusion in discussions on any potential changes to EL V2M2.

Section 8.6 of ISO 17025:2017 relates to Continuous Improvement. Section 8.6.1 speaks to opportunities for improvement and the note to 8.6.1 includes results of proficiency testing as being a means to direct ongoing continuous improvement. Based on the use of and implications of PT performance in TNI accreditation programs, it is clear that TNI and ISO are not inconsistent. Kirstin noted that consideration of PT results should be considered in general terms as an opportunity for continuous improvement and suggested this as a topic at face-to-face meetings and in guidance documents.

These are the only references to PT in the body of ISO 17025:2017 and the committee believes that EL VIM1 is not inconsistent with the requirements of this ISO document and that no specific action regarding consistency with ISO 17025:29017 is necessary in consideration of potential changes to the module.

## **New/Old Business**

During the August PTEC meeting, Kirstin and Shawn were going to communicate with Rami Naddy, Chair of the WET expert committee regarding PT issues they have been struggling with for some time. Kirstin committed to follow up with Shawn who will contact Rami and get communication initiated. A meeting during the Winter Meeting (if such a meeting is held) of the appropriate personnel and committee representatives is being preliminarily planned.

The Board of Directors has authorized the planning of a Winter Meeting in January of 2021 in San Antonio, TX. The meeting would be a combined face-to-face and virtual meeting assuming attendance can be realized from our TNI membership. More information will be provided as the status of the meeting progress. At this time, PTEC does not need to meet if there is a Winter Meeting but there will be numerous PT issues to discuss at this meeting which would be of interest to PTEC committee members.

CSDEC has been working on development of a new committee training program which will be a requirement of all committee members to register for and attend. The training course will be provided in an electronic format such as a WebEx/webinar. It is anticipated that the training course will be available in late January, 2021.

The PTEC meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM ET on a motion by Tim and a second by Rachel Bailey. The motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of the PTEC is scheduled for 11:00 AM ET on October 2, 2020.

## **Attachment 1**

### **TNI Proficiency Testing Expert Committee Agenda**

**09/11/20**

**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\_08-07-2020\_draft
2. Membership Expansion Status

- Update from Bob about outreach response
3. ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Review
    - Review Standard to identify any requirements relative to PT requirements for V1M1
  4. New/Old Business