

**SUMMARY OF THE  
TNI LABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING EXPERT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2015**

The Committee met by teleconference on Friday, September 11, 2015, at 11:00 am EST. Chair Shawn Kassner led the meeting.

**1 – Roll call**

Fred Anderson, Advanced Analytical Solutions (Other)	Present
Kareen Baker, Independent (Other)	Present
Nicole Cairns, NYSDOH (Other)	Present
Rachel Ellis, NJ DEP (AB)	Absent
Scott Hoatson, Oregon DEQ (AB)	Present
Shawn Kassner, Phenova (Chair; Other)	Present
Stacie Metzler, Hampton Roads San. Distr. (Lab)	Absent
Mitzi Miller, Dade Moeller Assocs. (Other)	Present
Judy Morgan, Pace (Lab)	Absent
Joe Pardue, P2S (Vice-Chair; Other)	Absent
Jim Todaro, Alpha Analytical (Lab)	Absent
Lisa Touet, MA DEP (AB)	Absent
Ken Jackson, Program Administrator	Present

Associate Committee Members present: Steve Arpie, Absolute Standards; Mike Blades, ERA; Amy Blum, NYC DEP; Amanda Bruggeman, Phenova; Chandra Thekkekalathil Chandrasekhar, FLDEP; Audrey Cornell, ERA; Craig Huff, ERA; Rob Knake, A2LA; Shari Pfallmer, ESC; Brian Stringer, ERA; Tom Widera, ERA

**2 – Previous Minutes**

It was moved by Fred and seconded by Scott to approve the minutes of August 21, 2015. All were in favor except Kareen who abstained.

**3 – Comments on V3 Voting Draft Standard**

Several Associate Committee Members, who had collectively made comments on the VDS, were on the call. Their comments were discussed.

**Section 5.6** This section of the standard concerned verification of assigned value, homogeneity testing, and stability testing. Craig Huff commented that the section was too vague and flexible. It was not stated it had to be completed within a defined time period, and there was nothing to assure it had to be done before reports were issued. Steve Arpie argued this is covered in ISO 17043, which requires this must be done before reports are issued. However, others said there is no time frame given in ISO 17043. Shawn said Clauses 5.6.3.2 and 5.6.3.3 partially addressed this. After further discussion, it was agreed by the Committee Members that a time frame should be added. It was moved by Mitzi and seconded by Scott to re-insert the following language that had been in the 2009 standard and then removed: “PT providers shall verify, after the closing date of the PT study, but prior to the issuance of final reports....” All were in favor.

**5.6.1.5** The comment read: *“Regarding "Analytical method used by the PT provider for assigned value verification shall have a repeatability relative standard deviation of not more than 1/6 of the acceptance limits for the participant laboratories.”:*

*Dropping this requirement disconnects the required precision of the verification method selected by PT providers for the products final intended use.*

*Additional Comment: PT providers have been meeting this standard for years. Removing it serves no purpose other than to give more "wobble" room to the verification process performed by the PT providers. It can introduce additional variability and adds no value to the accrediting authorities or participants.*

*Possible Resolution: Add statement back to standard”*

Craig Huff added that the ISO language is too vague, and it leaves too much for the PTPA to decide if the analytical method is satisfactory. Nicole said the intent of the committee was to drop the prescriptive requirements in the 2009 Appendix A, because there are acceptable alternative ways to determine precision etc. Mike Blades said acceptance intervals are pre-determined in TNI, but not internationally, so the TNI requirements need to be specific. He said it would remove credibility if those pieces are pulled out. Mitzi suggested taking this and related comments back to the sub-committee, which should review the logic that was used to pull these requirements out. She said statisticians and PTPAs should be involved. Shawn agreed to take the comments to the sub-committee, and on Mitzi's suggestion it was agreed to get some of the sub-committee members on the next call.

Shawn said he would e-mail the committee members whose assigned comments would be discussed during the next call. This would include his and Fred's assignments.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm EDT.