

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

OCTOBER 5, 2018

The Committee met by teleconference on Friday, October 5, 2018, at 11:00 am EST. Chair Nicole Cairns led the meeting.

1 – Roll call

Fred Anderson, Advanced Analytical Solutions (PT Provider)	Present
Jim Brownfield, ESC (Laboratory)	Present
Nicole Cairns, NYSDOH (Chair; Laboratory)	Present
Thekkekalathil Chandrasekhar (Chandra), FLDEP (Laboratory)	Present
Rachel Ellis, NJ DEP (AB)	Present
Patrick Garrity, KYDOW (AB)	Absent
Craig Huff, ERA (PT Provider)	Present
Susan Jackson, SC DHEC (AB)	Present
Tim Miller, Phenova (PT Provider)	Present
Reggie Morgan, Hampton Roads San. Distr. (Lab)	Absent
Ken Jackson, Program Administrator	Present

Associate Committee Members present: Amanda Grande, Phenova; Brian Stringer, ERA

2 – Previous Minutes

It was moved by Fred and seconded by Craig to approve the minutes of September 7, 2018. All were in favor.

3 – Status of 2016 TNI Standard implementation

Nicole reported V1M2 and V2M1 were adopted by the ABs and awaiting implementation, with FL already doing so, and NY planning to implement soon. The PT Executive Committee and the PTPAs were planning to discuss an implementation date for Volumes 3 and 4.

4 – PTRL Guidance Document

Nicole had circulated a revised annotated comment document as a result of discussions on the previous conference call.

A request for clarification on **Comment 2** was sent to Lynn Bradley, but she was unable to get clarification as she could not remember who had submitted the comment. Therefore, the committee agreed to take no action on this comment and to have the response read: “PTEC does not clearly understand this comment. PT Providers do not have the capability to accept notes regarding results reported below the LOQ, nor would these notes serve any purpose to the PT Provider.”

In response to **Comment 3**, that asked for additional explanation about why the lab is not allowed to qualify PT samples beyond just “not required, the committee considered adding a note to Example 2 Option 1 of the Evaluating and Reporting section. On discussion, it was agreed the note would read: “Laboratories may report PT results below their lab LOQ, but qualification is not required nor

allowed. A PT result qualified with an alpha character (e.g., “J” qualifier) will be scored as “No Evaluation” per volume 3 of the 2016 TNI standard.”

An additional comment received from Cathy Westerman, pertaining to example 5 of the Evaluating and reporting section of the guidance document, was considered. The example was of a numeric value below the PTRL with benzene not spiked and a laboratory obtaining a value of 5.2, with a PTRL of 7.0 and a laboratory LOQ of 10.0. Section 4.3.7 of V1M1 allows laboratories to report <LOQ or <PTRL if the analytical result is below the LOQ and the PTRL, but this is conflicted with Section 4.3.5 states that laboratories must report to the PTRL. It was considered whether to change the language in the guidance document to avoid this discrepancy, but on reflection it was agreed nothing could be done to remove the conflict in the standard, so the guidance example would remain as written. This issue would be put in the parking lot to be corrected in the next standard revision.

This completed the discussion, and it was moved by Fred and seconded by Tim to approve the amended guidance document and return it to LASEC and the NELAP AC. All were in favor. Ken would add a header and page numbers before submission.

5 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm EDT.