

## **TNI PT Board Meeting Summary February 18, 2010**

### 1) Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chairman Eric Smith called the TNI PT Board meeting to order on February 18, 2010, at 1:00 PM EST. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 7 Board members present during voting. Associate members Jeff Lowry and Chuck Wibby were also present. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 EST (Motion: Curtis Second: Stacie Unanimously approved.)

The minutes from the January 21<sup>st</sup> and January 26, 2010 meetings were reviewed. Michella was in attendance on the 21<sup>st</sup>. A motion was made by Gary to accept the minutes with the attendance change for the 21st. It was seconded by Curtis. The motion was unanimously approved and the minutes will be posted on the TNI website.

### 2) DW FoPT Table

Michella has been trying to reach people in DC for comments, but the weather has prevented them from meeting. She has had an opportunity to review the table and would like to see that a comment be added to the EDB and DBCP limits that are not appropriate for DW certification purposes. She also asked about how concentration ranges were derived because some look higher than the original criteria document. This is mainly an issue with inorganic analytes. People in DC may be concerned that the PTs are not challenging enough. This is not just a concern with the DRAFT table, they were also concerned with some of the limits in the original criteria document. Eric asked if a specific list of analytes of concern could be put together.

Chuck mentioned that he has a copy of the original criteria document and he would be willing to compare the concentrations on the DRAFT table to the criteria document. He will provide the result of this review to the PT Board. (Later in the call he mentioned that he reviewed the information and found that there were a few analytes where the concentration range went up, but there were more where it went down. There were no large increases or decreases.)

Chuck brought up one more issue on the DRAFT DW FoPT table – between the December 15<sup>th</sup> version of the table and the current version, there was a part of a footnote that was dropped off. It concerns the formulation design criteria for mercury, cyanide, etc. That part of the footnote should be put back into the table. Similar text is being added back into the DRAFT NPW FoPT table. Eric will revise the table to include this addition and Michella's concern. He will distribute this update to the PT Board.

Michella will let the Board know when she gets comments back from the people in DC. Gary commented that it would be helpful if data could be provided to support any requests for lower concentration limits. Eric pointed out that one of the purposes of this table is to get the experimental analytes moved over, and that the rest of the analytes will be looked at during the next update.

A special meeting will be held on March 4, 2010 at 1pm EST to vote on the table. If Michella is able to get the comments earlier, an e-mail vote may be possible.

### 3) Analyte Codes

Chuck went through a comparison between the TNI analyte code table and the DRAFT DW FoPT table.

The TNI analyte code tables have been modified multiple times and the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee wanted to be sure that the codes in the DRAFT DW FoPT table were correct. All the analyte codes in the DRAFT DW FoPT table are still in the analyte code table. Any differences in names were minor. For example, in the DRAFT table Hexavalent Chromium (VI) is listed. In the analyte table it is listed as Chromium VI. There are other examples. At some point there needs to be consistency, but this should not prevent a vote on the table at this time.

Later in the call, Eric came back to this topic. He commented that concerns have been expressed that analyte codes are changed or retired, but these changes are not well communicated. This information was not passed on to the PT Board. After discussion, it was agreed that data base changes need to be posted in some way for comment before they are finalized. This needs to be communicated to the IT Committee - there needs to be a restricted process that requires a review. Eric will send an e-mail to the IT Committee.

Chuck pointed out that a new analyte table was posted this morning. He will review it to make sure that there aren't any changes that will impact the DRAFT DW FoPT Table.

### 4) PT Charter Update

Eric is working on an update and he will send a DRAFT copy out the Board before the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. He would like to vote on it at that meeting. It was last updated in 2007.

### 5) PT Board SOP 4-004 (Evaluating PTPA)

The SOP needs to be updated to reflect the use of Volumes 3 and 4 of the TNI standard. Eric would like to see it updated by June. Eric asked for volunteers, but the full membership was not on the call. He will e-mail out a request and recommend that at least an AB and a lab work on this. Gary commented that the bulk of the SOP is the checklist. References need to be updated. Gary also commented that the wording of the checklist was ambiguous in some areas – difficult to audit.

6) Discuss interim policy development on evaluation of “less than” (<) reporting

Carl provided some language on this, but Eric has not had a chance to evaluate it. This is still ongoing.

7) Discuss Standard Interpretation Requests 72 and 80

#72:

Curtis sent out proposed language for #72 before the start of the call. It is consistent with what was discussed at the Chicago meeting:

*The TNI PT Board does not generally get involved in questions concerning the appropriateness of methods for specific analytes. Accrediting bodies routinely accredit labs for “non-standard” methods and then require the analysis of PTs included on the FoPT tables. So, the general answer is that, yes, it is appropriate to have a required PT for a non-standard method. In this particular case, the PT Board responded to a request to add this analyte to the FoPT tables. The PT Board will request the NELAP Board to clarify the identification and need for the analyte.*

A motion was made by Gary to accept the proposed language and it was seconded by Stacie. It was unanimously approved. The response will be forwarded to the NELAP Board for approval.

Eric did e-mail the NELAP Board asking about the need for the analyte. He will follow-up if he does not receive a response within the next week.

#80:

Eric received comments from Carl and Curtis on this response. The following language was developed:

*The Accrediting Body’s interpretation is consistent with guidance provided a number of years ago by a different committee overseeing the FoPT tables at that time.*

*However, the TNI PT Board's current consensus is that group headers in those FoPT tables hold important significance, and group headers are to be utilized to classify when an analyte is required to be processed and analyzed.*

*The TNI PT Board would agree that there has been a general lack of consistency within all sectors of the community on how the group headers in the FOPT tables are being interpreted. The TNI PT Board is currently working to address this by adding some clarification on this matter to the FOPT tables.*

Curtis made a motion to accept the proposed language above. It was seconded by Gary and unanimously approved. The response will be forwarded to the NELAP Board for approval.

#### 8) FoPT Table Management SOP

Eric put together a summary of what he feels should be included within this SOP. He volunteered to start this SOP, but would like someone on the Board to prepare a flow chart of how analytes are currently added to FoPT tables. Michella volunteered to help with this. Stacie and Curtis volunteered to help with the writing of the SOP. Eric would like to see this completed before the DC meeting.

#### 9) New Items

- Curtis asked if anything has been resolved on the issue of new analyte codes for the low level mercury and low level total residual chlorine. Eric responded that there has not yet been any resolution on the issue. There is still some question remaining as to how the PT Board should proceed with addressing the NELAP Board's issue.

The NELAP Board needs to be involved in what the new analytes will be called if additional analyte codes are developed. Different concentration analytes are the issue. Do you assign multiple codes to the same analyte because of different concentrations? Many feel this would be a disaster to the database. There are lots of these in the soil tables. Chuck commented that this came up after a state purchased a new data base that could not accommodate the same analyte code being used for two different samples.

Carl joined into the call and commented that codes should be the result of technology, method and analyte. This should produce a unique code. This shouldn't be a problem. Chuck commented that if you have multiple analyte codes for the same analyte, you have to redesign the entire database. This is not the best way to set-up the database.

Eric told Aaren that the PT Board could provide a list of analytes that have multiple concentrations and that they would need to discuss whether to give them different names for different codes.

Curtis volunteered to take the current tables and highlight examples of analytes that are listed twice. He felt that the PT Board should send a note to the NELAP Board and highlight the issues of multiple analyte codes for the same analyte. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### 10) Open Action Items

Will be reviewed at the next meeting.

#### 11) Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PT Board will be Thursday, March 4, 2010, at 1:00pm EST.

Action Items are included in Attachment B and Attachment C includes a listing of reminders.

## Attachment A

### Participants TNI Proficiency Testing Board

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
Eric Smith, Chair (2009) <b>Present</b>	TestAmerica	615-726-0177 x1238 <a href="mailto:eric.smith@testamericainc.com">eric.smith@testamericainc.com</a>
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator <b>Absent</b>	TNI	828-712-9242 <a href="mailto:tauntoni@msn.com">tauntoni@msn.com</a>
Gary Dechant <b>Present</b>	Analytical Quality Associates, Inc.	970-434-4875 <a href="mailto:gldchant@aol.com">gldchant@aol.com</a>
Amy Doupe <b>Absent</b>	Lancaster Laboratories, Inc.	717-656-2300 x1812 <a href="mailto:aldoupe@lancasterlabs.com">aldoupe@lancasterlabs.com</a>
Steve Gibson <b>Present</b>	Texas Comm. on Env. Quality	512-239-1518 <a href="mailto:jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us">jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us</a>
Svetlana Isozamova <b>Present</b>	Accutest Laboratories – Southeast Division	407-425-6700 <a href="mailto:svetlani@accutest.com">svetlani@accutest.com</a>
Michella Karapondo <b>Present</b>	USEPA	513-569-7141 <a href="mailto:karapondo.michella@epa.gov">karapondo.michella@epa.gov</a>
Carl Kircher <b>Present</b> (Last 15 minutes of call.)	Florida DOH	904-791-1574 <a href="mailto:carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us">carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us</a>
Stacie Metzler <b>Present</b>	HRSD	757-460-4217 <a href="mailto:smetzler@hrsd.com">smetzler@hrsd.com</a>
Matt Sica <b>Absent</b>	State of Maine	207-287-1929 <a href="mailto:matthew.sica@maine.gov">matthew.sica@maine.gov</a>
Curtis Wood <b>Present</b>	Environmental Resource Associates	303-431-8454 <a href="mailto:cwood@eraqc.com">cwood@eraqc.com</a>

**Attachment B**

**Action Items – TNI PT Board**

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
10.	Let the new Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee know that information is available from NY regarding extraction/prep methods and PT results.	Carl / Ilona	When Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee is formed.	Describe what this is. Soil in metals too? SVOA.
17.	Work on language for new TNI policy based on NELAC Policy #16 and EPA Criteria Document.	Chuck	Eric will follow-up with Chuck to determine a date.	Looking for volunteer to help Chuck.
70	Reassess need to contact PT Providers to give them a heads-up on the FoPT table updates.	Eric	Ongoing	
93	Talk to Chuck and Carl and DRAFT response for SIR #95.	Eric	1/21/10	
94	Send out electronic vote on DW FoPT Table and cover letter.	Ilona	2/18/10	Complete. Vote was cancelled due to issues with the table.
95	Send e-mail to Jerry, Aaren and Dan Hickman regarding analyte code issue.	Eric	2/18/10	
96	Form subcommittee to work on procedures to add new analytes.	Eric	2/18/10	
97	Make a recommendation to address evaluation of “less than” (<) reporting. Distribute to Board for consideration.	Carl	2/18/10	
98	Prepare list of concerns on concentrations in DRAFT DW FoPT table.	Michella	3/4/10	
99	Update DRAFT DW FoPT table with missing language to footnote and addition of note about EDB and DBCP.	Eric	2/19/10	

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
100	Send e-mail to IT Committee regarding concerns about changing and retiring analyte codes.	Eric	3/4/10	
101	Follow-up on e-mail to NELAP Board regarding SIR #72.	Eric	3/4/10	
102	Highlight analytes that are listed more than one time in FoPT tables.	Curtis	3/4/10	



**Attachment C**

**Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Board**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Meeting Reference</b>	<b>Comments</b>
3	Send A2LA a formal request to ask PT Providers if PT data can be shared with the Board. Needs to be done before 8/09.	1/14/09	
5	Update PTPA Review SOP.	n/a	
6	DW Table Micro Total Coliform Rule Request	10/15/09	9 out of 10 vs. 10 out of 10