

TNI PT Board Meeting Summary April 15, 2010

1) Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chairman Eric Smith called the TNI PT Board meeting to order on April 15, 2010, at 1:05 PM EST. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 6 Board members present during voting. Associate members Aruna Kaveeshwar, Jeff Lowry and Randy Querry were also present.

The minutes from the March 18, 2010 were reviewed. Michella motioned that the minutes be approved with the editorial changes Eric e-mailed on 4-14-10. The motion was seconded by Curtis and was unanimously approved.

2) NPW FoPT Table

No comments were received by e-mail on this table. There were no analytes on the Experimental NPW FoPT table that have not been recommended for transfer to the accreditation table.

Steve pointed out that there were a number of analytes that did not pass SOP criteria. Carl noted that the reason for adding them is outlined in the cover letter (Attachment B). A number of the nitro compounds did not have enough data and there were other problems meeting SOP criteria. The alternative would be to drop some of these PTs. Eric commented that additional information might be helpful to the Board.

Steve provided the following summary table after reviewing the NPW FoPT table recommendation. The Board decided to focus on the analytes where there are two or more check marks. Ilona will provide Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee minutes and Eric will send out the graphs for these analytes.

		Number of Results	Std. Dev. vs. AV > 0.75	Mean vs. AV > 0.9
1	Color		✓	
2	Volatile residue		✓	
3	Total organic halides		✓	
4	Endrin ketone		✓	
5	Azinphos methyl	✓	✓	
6	Diazinon	✓	✓	
7	Malathion	✓	✓	

8	Parathion	✓		
9	Methyl Parathion	✓		
10	Ethion	✓		
11	4-Am-26-DNT	✓	✓	
12	2-Am-46-DNT	✓		
13	HMX	✓	✓	
14	Nitrobenzene (low level)	✓	✓	
15	2-Nitrotoluene	✓	✓	
16	3-Nitrotoluene	✓	✓	
17	4-Nitrotoluene	✓		
18	13-Dinitrobenzene	✓	✓	
19	24-Dinitrotoluene (low level)	✓	✓	
20	26-Dinitrotoluene (low level)	✓	✓	
21	Tetryl	✓	✓	✓
22	Disulfoton	✓	✓	
23	Chloropyrifos	✓	✓	
24	RDX	✓		
25	135-Trinitrobenzene	✓	✓	
26	246-Trinitrotoluene	✓	✓	
27	Anthracene (low level)		✓	
28	Benz(a)anthracene (low level)		✓	
29	Dibenz(ah)anthracene		✓	

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3) Letter to IT Committee

The IT Committee is developing a procedure for adding and changing analyte codes. An SOP will be developed. It does not appear that a letter to the IT Committee is necessary at this time.

4) SIR #72 & S&CM FoPT Table's Non-Polar Extractable Material Parameter

Eric has not heard back from the NELAP Board. This relates to SIR #72. Steve does not recall that this was discussed at a NELAP Board meeting and his recollection is that this PT is needed for certification purposes.

Steve will follow-up on this at a future NELAP Board Meeting and report back to the PT Board.

5) PT Board SOPs - 4-101, 4-102, 4-103, 4-105 and 4-106

The format and numbering of the PT Board SOPs were updated. Eric e-mailed these SOPs to the Board for review and comment. Carl motioned to accept all the updated

SOPs except for PT 4-006 (PT Caucus) and Curtis seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken:

Eric – Yes
Gary – Absent
Amy – Yes
Steve – Yes
Svetlana – Absent
Michella – Yes
Carl – Yes
Stacie – Absent
Matt – Absent
Curtis – Yes

The motion and request to vote will be distributed to the absent Board members prior to the next meeting.

Eric asked if SOP 4-006 (PT Caucus) needs to be retired. There was general agreement since the meeting format at the two annual meetings provide what the PT caucus formally provided.

Curtis moved that the PT Caucus SOP (4-006) be retired. The motion was seconded by Carl. It was unanimously approved by the members on the call.

6) South Carolina Analyte Addition Request

South Carolina requested that low level EDB and DBCP (8011) be added to the NPW table. Eric commented that we will need to consider this at a later date. This will be forwarded to the Chemistry FoPT subcommittee back burner list. Carl commented that there is not enough data at this time to prepare these limits. Eric noted that perhaps 504 data could be used.

7) Question Raised by Subcommittee Member Regarding SCM Table

Eric received the following question from Jeff Lowry:

As I was updating the SCM FoPT table today after the conference call, I noticed 15 analytes that presently have acceptance limits set at study mean plus or minus 3 stdev. These are presently SCM accreditation analytes. Therefore, I would suggest that the TNI PT Board ask the TNI NELAP Board if these analytes are a priority along with the experimental analytes. If so, then evaluation by the TNI FoPT Subcommittee should include these analytes with the experimental analytes. If not then any experimental analyte without sufficient data could be moved to the

accreditation table in the same manner that these 15 were moved in 2007 per our present SOP.

Does the PT Board want these 15 analytes evaluated when the experimental analytes are examined? Or should this wait until after the Experimental Analytes have been moved over and approved? Carl would prefer to look at the 15 analytes in addition to the experimental analytes. Eric and Curtis agreed.

The Board members on the call agreed they should be looked at and Eric will provide an e-mail to the Chem FoPT subcommittee letting them know to review them.

8) PTPA Evaluation SOP (4-104)

The DRAFT SOP has been distributed. Board members should review the SOP and provide comments for discussion at the May meeting.

9) ACLASS and A2LA Assessments

ACLASS has applied to be a PTPA and the Board has an A2LA assessment that will need to be started by fall.

Eric asked if Carl could lead the ACLASS audit and if Gary could lead the A2LA audit? Eric asked if Amy and Steve would be available to help. Texas doesn't want out of state travel. Carl noted that he could use vacation time as long as TNI can reimburse the travel. Amy would like to participate, but will need to confirm with her company. Amy will help with ACLASS. We still need another Board volunteer for A2LA. This will be addressed in May.

We need to start scheduling these assessments. Carl will contact ACLASS and begin the applicant process.

10) PT Provider Audit Checklist

The checklist was provided by e-mail to the PT Board last Monday. A2LA needs to get this information to the PT Providers in May.

Randy asked if it is OK to forward the DRAFT checklist. Ilona asked how this relates to the transition plan mentioned in the Action Table. Curtis suggested that an additional meeting could be set-up to discuss this.

Eric's thoughts were that A2LA could provide information on the use of the checklist in a cover letter that would be provided with the checklist. Curtis

suggested that perhaps the checklist could be footnoted as to which items are required after July 2011. A2LA will look for objective evidence after July 2011 to show that the PT Provider is now in compliance.

It should be noted that the PT Board gave A2LA the go ahead to distribute the checklist with the footnotes and distribute it to the PT Board at the same time. A cover letter will note that the checklist has not been approved by the PT Board and any changes will be provided after the PT Board meeting on May 20th. The PT Board will review and e-mail comments amongst the group and then it will be reviewed with the intent to vote on the checklist at the May 20th meeting.

11) A2LA Question Regarding the Use of the PT Database

A2LA contacted the PT Providers to ask about providing the PT Board with data from the database. The e-mail requested that comment be provided to A2LA by April 30th. This will be discussed at the May 20th meeting.

8) New Items

- None.

9) Open Action Items

See Attachment C.

10) Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PT Board will be Thursday, May 20, 2010, at 1:00pm EST.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 EST. (Motion: Steve Second: Curtis Unanimously approved.)

Attachment A

**Participants
TNI
Proficiency Testing Board**

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

Attachment B

Cover Letter – Update NPW FoPT Table

Dear PT Board Members:

The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee is pleased to present for your approval the attached Table for Non-Potable Water (NPW) matrix proficiency test (PT) samples for the NELAP Program. This Table principally fulfills the review of available PT data and moving all the experimental NPW FoPT's to this Table. The Table also adds some FoPT's for analytes that are analyzed as both Volatile Organics and Extractable Organics, and for analytes that are on the FoPT Tables for other matrices but not yet addressed in the NPW Table. The Table is color-coded to denote the additions made, revisions made, and the transitioned experimental analytes. As per the directive from the PT Board, most of the current accreditation FoPT's have not yet been considered to determine whether changes are needed; these analytes will be considered after the Experimental SCM FoPT's are reviewed and moved to that respective FoPT accreditation table.

This Table was approved unanimously by the Subcommittee Members in attendance at our teleconference on February 23, 2010. Since it is March now and the Table should be ratified by the NELAP Board, we have a proposed effective date of October 1, 2010 for this Table.

We invite your attention to the groupings of analytes in carefully described Headers and to the Footnotes at the bottom of the Table. The Subcommittee attempted to list the analytes in the groupings where defensible laboratory data on PT analysis exist. For example, Naphthalene and 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene had satisfactory PT data to support listing in both the Purge-and-Trap Volatile Organics group and in the Base-Neutral Extractable Organics group. However, the available PT data did not support a recommendation for adding Hexachloroethane and Hexachlorocyclopentadiene to the Purge-and-Trap Volatile Organics group, even though many accredited laboratories analyze these analytes by Volatile Organics and Extractable Organics test methods. Similarly, our review of PT data did not support adding Hexachlorobenzene to the Organochlorine Pesticides list. Dinoseb (2-sec-Butyl-4,6-dinitrophenol) is often analyzed as an Acid Extractable analyte, but the available PT data did not support adding this analyte to the FoPT Table under this grouping. Thus, this analyte remains listed only in the Herbicides group. Conversely, the available PT data could not support recommending 4-Nitrophenol as a FoPT in the Herbicides group, and this analyte remains only in the Acid Extractables group. However, the Subcommittee can recommend Pentachlorophenol as both an Acid Extractable FoPT and a Herbicides FoPT. The NELAP Board should consider this analysis when respective Accrediting Bodies advise their pending and accredited laboratories on the proficiency test samples required for obtaining and maintaining NELAP accreditation for these analytes.

The Table also recommends FoPTs at two concentration ranges for the polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, to accommodate laboratory analyses by HPLC and GC/MS selected ion monitoring mode, which are usually more sensitive than the GC/FID and GC/MS full scan methods. Nitrobenzene, 2,4-Dinitrotoluene, and 2,6-Dinitrotoluene are also listed with the Nitroaromatics and Nitramines FoPTs, to accommodate PT analyses of these analytes with the other Explosives.

The Footnotes are key to providing clarification on the use of PTs in several critical areas. In particular, the FoPT listings for O&G (HEM) and TPH (SGT-HEM) are not to be confused with the FoPT listings for DRO and GRO, and visa versa. The Subcommittee has addressed a previous issue on Turbidity PTs by including in the footnotes that the PT acceptance limits are derived based on Formazin in the formulation. The Volatile Residue FoPT is meant to be applied to a whole-sample basis (i.e., Volatile Total Residue) and is not meant to be applicable to Volatile Suspended Solids only.

The Subcommittee members did recommend inclusion of FoPT's into the Table despite non-fulfillment of all the criteria in the current SOP for establishing acceptance limits. This first grouping of analytes did not meet current NELAC Standards for having at least 20 laboratory participants for at least 10 PT studies analysed to establish the acceptance limits. However, the FoPT's are being presented to the PT Board

because there are not as many laboratory participants in these environmental analyses so as to obtain 20 participants, these FoPT's are in categories where only 60% of the analytes would be spiked in nonzero amounts, and the available PT data are only within the last 2 years when the Experimental FoPT's were first posted at NELAC. These analytes are Azinphos Methyl, Diazinon, Malathion, Parathion, Methyl Parathion, Ethion, 4-Am-26-DNT, 2-Am-46-DNT, HMX, Nitrobenzene (low-level), 2-Nitrotoluene, 3-Nitrotoluene, 4-Nitrotoluene, 13-Dinitrobenzene, 24-Dinitrotoluene (low-level), 26-Dinitrotoluene (low-level), Tetryl, Disulfoton, Chlorpyrifos, RDX, 135-Trinitrobenzene, and 246-Trinitrotoluene.

The next grouping of analytes failed the SOP criteria of, for recommending regression equations as acceptance criteria, the correlation coefficient of standard deviation vs. Assigned Value greater than 0.75. Implementation of the SOP procedures to exclude outliers and data points greater than 2 (then 1) standard errors from the regression equation did improve the correlation coefficient in just about all cases but not enough to meet the SOP criterion. Nevertheless, the Subcommittee is recommending these FoPTs to be consistent with acceptance limits currently listed for other Inorganic, Extractable Organics, and Pesticides analytes. These analytes are Color, Volatile Residue, Total Organic Halides, Endrin Ketone, Azinphos Methyl, Diazinon, Malathion, Anthracene (low-level), Benz(a)anthracene (low-level), Dibenz(ah)anthracene, 4-Am-26-DNT, HMX, Nitrobenzene (low-level), 2-Nitrotoluene, 3-Nitrotoluene, 13-Dinitrobenzene, 24-Dinitrotoluene (low-level), 26-Dinitrotoluene (low-level), Tetryl, Disulfoton, Chlorpyrifos, 135-Trinitrobenzene, and 246-Trinitrotoluene.

In addition, Tetryl also failed the SOP criteria for the correlation coefficient of Mean versus Assigned Value greater than 0.90. This analyte does have analytical stability issues, but the Subcommittee is recommending this FoPT so as to complete the target analyte list of Nitroaromatics and Nitramines analytes typically analyzed by EPA 8330.

Please feel free to contact me by e-mail or telephone at 904-791-1574 if you have any questions about the proposed NPW FoPT Table.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Kircher
CoChair, Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee

Attachment C

Action Items – TNI PT Board

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
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.	Remove
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	Complete
97	Make a recommendation to address evaluation of “less than” (<) reporting. Distribute to Board for consideration.	Carl	2/18/10	Next call’s agenda. New item for May.
100	Send e-mail to IT Committee regarding concerns about changing and retiring analyte codes.	Eric	3/18/10	Remove
101	Follow-up on e-mail to NELAP Board regarding SIR #72.	Eric	3/18/10	Closed
102	Highlight analytes that are listed more than one time in FoPT tables.	Curtis	3/18/10	NPW Table
103	Request vote on DW FoPT Table from missing Board members.	Ilona	3/4/10	Complete
104	Forward approved DW FoPT Table to the NELAP Board for approval.	Eric	Before next meeting.	Complete
105	Update PTPA Assessment SOP.	Carl	June 2010	Complete
106	Prepare list of IT Committee recommendations.	Eric	Before next meeting.	Remove
107	Follow-up on PT Provider Assessment	Eric	Before next	Complete

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
	Checklist from A2LA.		meeting.	
108	Prepare PT Board SOPs for an e-mail vote.	Eric	4-15-10	Complete
109	Prepare request to PT Providers for use of A2LA database information.	Eric Randy	3-25-10	Complete
110	Distribute crosswalk between the 2003 Standard and Volume 3 and 4.	Carl	3-25-10	Complete
111	Prepare transition plan for PT Provider evaluations.	Randy		Complete
112	Distribute PT Provider Evaluation checklist to PT Board.	Randy	4-15-10	Complete
113	Review and comment on NPW FoPT Table by e-mail.	All	4-15-10	Complete
114	Review SOW to see if an update is needed to provide data from the database.	Randy	5-20-10	
115	Distribute graphs and Chem FoPT subcommittee minutes for NPW analytes in question (see Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee minutes on TNI website.)	Eric Ilona	5/1/10	
116	Distribute SOP voting request to absent PT Board members.	Ilona	5/19/10	
117	Bring up S&CM FoPT Table's Non-Polar Extractable Material Parameter issue with NELAP Board.	Steve	5/17/10	
118	Review and comment on PT Provider Audit Checklist. Prepare to vote on May 20, 2010.	All	5/19/10	
119	Contact ACLASS to begin evaluation process.	Carl	5/1/10	

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
120	Provide e-mail to Chem FoPT Subcommittee regarding 15 SCM Analytes and South Carolina request.	Eric	5/1/10	
121	Review PTPA Evaluation SOP. Prepare to comment on 5/20/10.	All	5/19/10	

Attachment D

Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Board

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
6	DW Table Micro Total Coliform Rule Request	10/15/09	9 out of 10 vs. 10 out of 10
7	Add the Field PT Subcommittee to the limit update SOP during its next update.	3/4/10	