

TNI PT Board Meeting Summary April 16, 2009

1. Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chairman Eric Smith called the TNI PT Board to order on April 16, 2009, at 1:00 PM EST. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A. Associate members, Randy Querry, Chuck Wibby, RaeAnn Haynes, and Jeff Lowry, were also present. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM EST.

Minutes from the March 19, 2009 were distributed to PT Board members for review and comment. These minutes will be reviewed for approval at the May 21st meeting.

2. Status of WET FoPT Tables

The WET FOPT table was approved by the NELAP Board. The effective date was April 1, 2009.

3. A2LA Audit Status

Gary sent notification to the PT Board on 3/25/09. He went through a web based demo to confirm that the needed elements of the database were in place. A demo was used because there was not enough data currently in the system. The database did appear to have all the required elements.

Eric recommended to the Board that the database corrective action item be closed. The only remaining open corrective action item is the requested SOP. Randy forwarded a copy of the SOP to PT Board members and Eric asked that everyone review it for discussion at the next meeting on May 21st.

The discussion then turned toward how to close out and finalize the audit process. The PT Board will provide a letter of recommendation to the TNI Board after the PT Board votes to approve A2LA. Eric will check with Jerry on how to notify A2LA that all audit findings are closed and approved.

4. A2LA Scope of Work

Meeting participants should have a copy of the Scope of Work available to them. Eric distributed it on March 16, 2009 via e-mail.

Eric had two comments:

1. In Section 2.2 it talks about responsibilities to assess PT providers. In the Scope of Work the new TNI standard is referenced, but no mention of the 2003 Standard

is made. Could this be a problem? Randy would prefer to work with the TNI Standard and prepare the applications and checklists to conform with the TNI Standard.

Language could be changed to something like: “currently recognized accreditation standard (e.g. Chapter 2 of 2003 NELAC Standard or TNI Standard).” Randy will work on this language and forward to Eric for PT Board review.

Gary asked if we need to identify any of the exceptions in the SOW. We have the issue of whether the PTPA needs to provide PT samples and we have given A2LA an exception. We could add some language that exceptions need to be documented, but not detail it in the SOW. This gives greater flexibility as we move between the two standards. Eric will propose some additional language to Randy and Randy can finalize some draft language as he works on the other changes to the SOW.

2. Section 3.5 – Suspension/Revocation of PT provider status. There is no mention that the PT Board needs be notified if a PT provider’s accreditation is suspended or revoked. Randy agreed that this addition can be made. Eric will draft some wording for this and provide it to Randy for inclusion.

5. Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee Questions

1. Use of 3 standard deviations instead of 2 standard deviations for addition of experimental analytes to the DW FoPT tables:

- Chuck commented that the 2003 Standard is very specific on how analytes must be treated to add them to the tables. Appendix C – 2. We may not have enough data to determine fixed limits.

- Steve commented that ABs consider the 2003 standard to be in place until the TNI standard is officially adopted, so the 2003 Standard should be followed in setting up these limits.

- Some on the call commented that they would like to waive the 10% rule for the lower limit.

- The subcommittee will only move the analytes where there is enough data and then list the rest for the PT Board and ask what to do with them.

The discussion continued:

Eric: Maybe we don’t move the experimental analytes now or we only move the ones where there is enough data and then keep the others on a list to consider after the TNI standard is approved. Labs are not required to run the analytes on the “list”.

RaeAnn: Leave Experimental Tables in place for those analytes where there is not enough data to move them.

Jeff: If we go this route ... we should not focus on the Experimental analytes first. We should just go through tables in order.

Eric: Is this just an issue for DW? Can we go ahead and move the Potable Waters and Solids to the FoPT tables and remove the Experimental Analyte tables for these?

RaeAnn: Remembers moving analytes off the FoPT tables and on to the Experimental tables where there were problem analytes (example: dimethylphenol) when the table was last updated.

Board Members:

After hearing discussion, what approach should we be taking on this?

Gary: Need to come up with a mechanism to make sure labs don't fail on these problem analytes if they are added to the tables.

Eric: The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee should go ahead and crunch the numbers and supply the Board with a list of analytes that don't have enough data.

We need to approach the TNI Board and see if there is any type of TIA process that can be exercised on the 2003 Standard. Eric will draft some language and talk to Jerry.

Conclusion:

Chem FoPT subcommittee should crunch numbers and provide the PT Board with a list of analytes where there is not enough data. The PT Board will pursue the examination of options to make changes to the 2003 NELAC Standard. The PT Board needs to take this information and make a final decision.

Additional Discussion:

If NELAP Board had implemented the Experimental Analyte tables the way they were intended to be used, we wouldn't have a problem now. Some states feel that they need to make decisions based on the results of experimental analytes, but this was never intended.

There needs to be a policy in place to add analytes to the FoPT tables. This does not exist. Do we have to have some sort of intermediate table?

There is no policy that requires labs to run the Experimental Analytes so some states have not required labs to run them. This is why Texas doesn't require them. Chuck is working on language for Action Item #17 and the first item states something along the lines of a requirement that labs run all analytes on the tables that are posted on the website.

Eric commented that maybe the original decision needs to be reviewed.

Gary: We need to move anything with sufficient data to the regular tables. Do we then have time to address what to do with the other analytes?

Michella: Maybe it would be appropriate to set a time frame for how long things can be on the Experimental tables.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PT Board will be Thursday, May 21, 2009, at 1pm 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) Present	TestAmerica	615-726-0177 x1238 eric.smith@testamericainc.com
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Present	TNI	828-712-9242 tauntoni@msn.com
Gary Dechant Present	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 Absent	Florida DOH	904-791-1574 carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us
Stacie Metzler Absent	HRSD	757-460-4217 smetzler@hrsd.com
Matt Sica Present	State of Maine	207-287-1929 matthew.sica@maine.gov
Curtis Wood Absent	Environmental Resource Associates	303-431-8454 cwood@eraqc.com

Attachment B

Action Items – TNI PT Board

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
8.	Gather additional names for newly formed Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee.	Carl	On-going until membership is about 14.	
10.	Let the new Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee know that information is available from NY regarding extraction/prep methods and PT results.	Carl	When Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee is formed.	
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.	
31	Update PTPA Review SOP.	Gary	Discussion: 4/16/09	
37	Receive final copy of the SOP discussed in #5 of the A2LA Review.	Gary	3/19/09	4/16/09
40	Prepare formal acceptance of A2LA's responses to review when corrective actions are approved.	Gary	After review of database. Expected by 4/16/09.	
41	Forward final Limits SOP (TNI #4-001) to Policy Committee for finalization.	Eric	After PT Board resolves issues presented by Chem FoPT subcommittee.	
42	Submit modified footnote based on the micro discussion during the 3/19/09 meeting.	Eric	Before tables are finalized.	
44	Review A2LA SOP distributed by Randy prior to the 4/16/09 meeting. Be prepared for discussion at next meeting.	All	5/21/09	

45	Update language in A2LA Statement of Work based on 4/16/09 comments. Distribute for final review before May 21 st meeting.	Randy Eric	5/20/09	
46	Contact Jerry Parr: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore possibilities of making changes to the 2003 NELAC Standard requirements. - Procedures to notify A2LA of conclusion of audit. 	Eric	5/21/09	

Attachment E

Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Board

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
2	Finalize the SOP for Evaluating Updated Limits. The Board will work on an update based on the Experimental PT decision. If this update is not completed by 3/09, go ahead and finalize the version the Board voted on electronically.	1/14/09	
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	
4			
5			