

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

January 22, 2015

1. Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chair, Maria Friedman, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order on January 22, 2015, at 1:04 PM Eastern. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 6 Executive Committee members present. Associates Present: Craig Huff, Rob Knake, Carl Kircher, Gil Dichter, Shawn Kassner and Dixie Marlin.

Maria noted that she invited Gil to attend the meeting today. He an expert in Microbiology and Maria is hoping he may want to join the committee in the future to assist with the microbiology issues raised last month by Carl Kircher.

Maria reviewed the handouts everyone should have received for today's meeting.

Maria asked that everyone review the December 18, 2014 minutes. Andy noted that he would like the information he sent by email to be included in the minutes. This will be added as an attachment. Ilona will update the minutes and they will be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting in Crystal City.

2. Membership Update

Stacie Metzler's term has expired on the committee. Maria thanked Stacie for all the work she helped the committee with over the last 6 years.

Michella still needs to get a letter requesting that her term continue since the EPA would like her to continue in the role and the committee would like an EPA representative. Maria asked that this be received by the next meeting or Michella will not be able to vote until the letter is received. The letter should be addressed to TNI and/or Maria.

Andy, Joe and Justin's membership on the committee still needs to be formally voted on. All three were contacted in January 2014 and all agreed to continue with another 3 year term to expire in 2017. The 2014 Charter was voted on, but the year of their expiration was not updated.

A motion was made by Nicole to renew the membership for Andy, Joe and Justin to 2017. The motion was seconded by Andy.

Vote:

Nicole – For

Ron – For

Michella – For
Andy – For
Maria – For

The vote will be completed by email.

(Addition: The vote was completed on 1/30/15:

Stacie - For (1/30)

Eric - For (1/30)

Justin - For (1/30)

Susan - For (1/30)

Patrick - For (1/30)

Joe P - For (1/30)

Matt - For (1/30)

The motion passed.)

A motion was made by Andy to renew the terms for Nicole, Susan and Pat to 2018. The motion was seconded by Michella.

Vote:

Maria – For

Nicole – For

Ron – For

Michella – For

Andy – For

The vote will be completed by email.

(Addition: The vote was completed on 1/30/15:

Stacie - For (1/30)

Eric - For (1/30)

Justin - For (1/30)

Susan - For (1/30)

Patrick - For (1/30)

Joe P - For (1/30)

Matt - For (1/30)

The motion passed.)

Dixie Marlin's information was distributed by email as a candidate for membership on the PTPEC. Maria reminded everyone to review the information and vote by email. The email was already distributed.

(Addition: A motion was made by Nicole to add Dixie Marlin to the PTPEC. The motion was seconded by Andy.

Vote:

Nicole – For (1/30)

Andy – For (1/30)

Maria – For (1/30)

Stacie - For (1/30)

Eric - For (1/30)

Justin - For (1/30)

Susan – For (1/30)

Patrick - For (1/30)

Joe P - For (1/30)

Matt - For (1/30)

Missing Votes: Ron, Michella

The motion passed.

The Chair of the committee needs to be selected every January. Maria asked if there were any nominations for Chair. Nicole motioned that Maria remain as Chair of the committee. The motion was seconded by Michella.

Vote:

Maria – For

Nicole – For

Ron – For

Michella – For

Andy – For

This vote will be completed by email.

(Addition: The vote was completed on 1/30/15:

Stacie - For (1/30)

Eric - For (1/30)

Justin - For (1/30)

Susan - For (1/30)

Patrick - For (1/30)

Joe P - For (1/30)

Matt - For (1/30)

The motion passed.)

3. Chair Update

DMR-QA Letter (Action Item #256)

Maria did write the letter to the DMR-QA representatives. An example can be found in Attachment D. Dixie was thanked for putting contact information together.

Complaints (Action Item # 244, 258, 259)

Maria sent responses to two complainants based on the discussion last month.

1) UV-254 –

Maria sent a response (1/16/15) notifying the complainant that they should contact the PTPA when they cannot resolve an issue on FoPT limits with their PT Provider.

2) Preparation Method Complaint –

Maria sent a letter (1/13/15) notifying the complainant that the TNI Standard does not provide for preparation method to be considered when Fields of Proficiency Testing (FoPTs) are established by TNI, nor does it require PT Providers to collect data on preparation method used by the participating laboratories. Thus it is currently not possible for PT Providers to evaluate results on the basis of the preparation method used by the laboratory. She also encouraged the complainant to voice out their concern and participate in the TNI PT Expert Committee discussions on PT standard development.

3) TDS & TSS Complaint-

This complaint is still open. Maria will continue to work with Carl (Chair of the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee) to resolve this issue – see 12/18/14 minutes for last response from Carl. It was left with Maria checking into SOP requirements.

Complaint #17 from the Policy Committee:

Description of Issue	I have an issue with DMR-QA recoveries for TDS & TSS at a range of 90%-110%. I don't believe that tight range is reasonable for laboratories to maintain when you are representing non-drinking water matrixes.
Description of Actions	Our accreditation client informed us that we missed TDS on our DMR-QA34. Our TDS result was at an 88% recovery. Obviously, we will be re-analyzing our missed parameters at a monetary cost and, more importantly, at potentially the cost of an important client (again, at a recovery of 88%). I initially discussed this issue with our accreditation client (PT Provider) and they also expressed their disapproval of your recovery range for TDS & TSS.

Description of Remedy Sought	PT Provider recommended I express my issue with TNI. A wider range of recoveries is REASONABLE for these parameters and needs to be addressed asap.
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4) Complaint Procedure

Ilona noted that our Complaint SOP states that complaints related to FoPT tables should come to the PTPEC, but this may be confusing with what is written in the Standard:

2009 TNI Standard is V1M1, Section 7.1:

7.1 The laboratory shall submit questions about PT samples or performance evaluations made by the PTP to the PTP. If the PTP is not able or is unwilling to resolve the question to the satisfaction of the laboratory, the laboratory shall refer those questions to the PTP's PTPA.

V2M2 Section 9.1:

9.1 The Primary AB shall submit questions about PT samples or performance evaluations made by the PTP to the PTP. If the PTP is unable or unwilling to resolve the questions, the Primary AB shall refer those questions to the PTP's PTPA.

The implication is that if someone contacts a PT Provider about PT limits and the PT Provider cannot resolve it, the PTPA must then be contacted. If the PTPA cannot resolve it, then it would come to the PTPEC. If this is correct, the SOP should be updated to reflect this process.

Action Items

- Action Item #254: Alfredo from the Policy Committee was supposed to send a review of the PTPEC SOPs that were submitted, but Maria has not seen anything yet. She will follow-up with him by phone.
- Action Item #255: Maria received an email from Jerry regarding the EPA Lab ID issues discussed at the last meeting and this has been sorted out by EPA and is no longer an issue. Michella agreed. Brian Krause will be sending a letter regarding the new procedure and Michella will also be sending a letter.
- Action Item #257: Maria prepared a request, but will wait to send it until the subcommittee has a chair. Maria asked about the membership of this committee – there are 4 members and after the FoPT SOP is complete – the committee will grow to develop the SOPs to replace the language being taken out of Volume 4. Maria asked if one of these future members may want to chair the subcommittee – but the thought was that they would not until they actually got started with the work. Putting a notice on the TNI website would not be appropriate because the Chair would need to be very familiar with the process and procedures. A request for a chair will be

distributed to committee members, associates and Shawn Kassner (to distribute as appropriate to PT Expert members).

- Action Item #252: Maria has continued to try to contact Aaren, but has not been able to reach her. She will discuss the issue with her in VA.
- Action Item #262: Maria confirmed that the TNI Board of Directors has changed this to 4 years.

PTPA Meeting (Action Item #249)

Maria and Ilona met with the PTPAs to discuss potential issues with collecting PT data for FoPT tables directly from the PTPAs.

The main concerns raised dealt with confidentiality. It was decided that a meeting should be set-up with PT Providers to confirm their concerns. An example letter of what is needed and an Excel spreadsheet template will be sent to the PT Providers as preparation for this meeting.

Ilona contacted Carl for examples and he sent information. Ilona will take the information and prepare the Excel template.

Andy asked if preparation methods could be added to the template. Ilona noted that this information is not currently being collected by everyone. Shawn commented that Ilona should prepare the Excel template and then find out what PT Providers collect so the PTPEC can decide what they want to collect.

Ilona commented that developing the template to collect additional data to make changes to what is currently collected is outside of the scope of the discussion currently happening with the PTPAs. This task is probably something the FoPT Table Update Subcommittee would be involved in. At this point, the goal is to continue to collect what we are collecting, but to do it more efficiently so current data can be used to update FoPT tables and handle concerns raised about PTs. There was agreement that these should be handled separately and the FoPT Table Update Subcommittee will likely handle the addition of items that will be asked to be collected.

Compound Naming and Identification Inconsistency - (2,2'-oxybis (1-chloropropane) vs. bis (2-chloroisopropyl) ether

Maria will follow-up with the IT Committee before the Virginia meeting.

4. Standard Interpretation Requests

The information for consideration sent from the LASEC is included in Attachment E. Maria commented that these concerns are based on the 2003 standard.

Discussion:

Andy thought feedback from PT Providers would be helpful. He thinks the PT Provider should be able to help the lab choose the correct PT.

Shawn noted that there are analytes that are listed in both semi-volatile and volatile. Labs are being told to run it regardless of the concentration range of the PT or whether the PT is appropriate for that analysis or not. This is not a consistent issue between all ABs. The FoPT Table Update Subcommittee could help with this. Shawn thinks getting all the technologies for the FoPT tables on the tables will help PT Providers give ABs guidance. Listing methods on the table would solve it, but historically the NELAP AC has not wanted this. The DW FoPT table will have methods.

Nicole noted that the PTPEC could also provide instructions on the use of the FoPT tables. This would be a simpler route. Shawn supported this idea, but noted that it would have to be done working closely with the NELAP AC. Iona and Craig commented that historically there have been states that would not support this effort because they feel the PTs should be run by multiple methods if an analyte is needed for accreditation. (Shawn had to leave the call and Joe P. joined.)

Based on today's feedback, Maria will prepare a Draft response that she will send to everyone for comment. Things she will take into consideration include the new standard and that additional PTs are now available. She will also consider Nicole's suggestion.

5. Scope for SOP Format Update Subcommittee

Maria provided an update to the Scope by email (Attachment F) based on the decision last month:

Nicole motioned that methods will be included in the format update to the DW table and not the NPW or SCM table. The motion was seconded by Michella and unanimously approved by the members present on the call.

Discussion:

Craig asked whether only EPA approved methods should be used on the DW FoPT table. Michella noted that some people do get credit for non-approved methods in DW. There are also state specific methods. For example, there is not one for perchlorate. Michella noted that this is a topic at the Crystal City meeting.

Maria asked that everything be included in the table update and then it can be clarified after the meeting in Crystal City. Nicole also commented that all the methods can be on the table and then states will pick which are acceptable.

Maria asked why we are only considering DW. Nicole said only DW is requiring that it be by method as per regulation. The NPW and solids don't have the same requirement. Technology is not applicable to DW, but it is to the other matrices.

Maria pointed out that the Standard uses "Technology/Method". She asked if the slash means "or". Carl commented that each state can decide whether to use Technology or Method and Florida has chosen Technology. They chose Method for DW. Carl also noted that some of the acceptance criteria is set by the DW program.

Carl also noted that he knows the prominent methods that were used to determine the acceptance limits on the FoPT tables. This would be of interest to Craig's committee.

Carl also commented that some of the issues raised could be solved by petitioning to add additional analytes at different concentrations.

Andy commented on Goal #2 that people are aware of analyte codes. There are issues where there are multiple analyte codes and it would be great to be able to report multiple codes. He thinks adding the CAS number would be redundant because it is already on the analyte code tables.

Nicole thinks not all labs are as familiar with the analyte code table and CAS numbers should be included. Craig reminded everyone that there will be instances where there is no CAS number.

Andy also noted that states have different codes and you can't always use the same form when reporting data to different states.

This part of the scope will not be broadened at this time.

Nicole made a motion to accept the Scope as amended in Attachment F. The motion was seconded by Andy.

Vote:

Maria – For

Nicole – For

Ron – For

Michella – For

Andy – For

This vote will be completed by email.

(Addition: The vote was completed on 1/30/15:

Stacie - For (1/30)

Eric - For (1/30)

Justin - For (1/30)

Susan - For (1/30)

Patrick - For (1/30)

Joe P - For (1/30)

Matt - For (1/30)

The motion passed.)

6. Subcommittee Updates

FOPT Table Format Subcommittee

The committee is continuing to work on the DW FoPT table. They have a DRAFT the committee is working on. Today's clarification is helpful.

WET Testing FoPT Subcommittee

Maria has no further comments. She is still trying to reach Aaren.

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee:

Carl provided an update. The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee is continuing to review SCM analytes. There are 4 analytes left in the current group being reviewed and more data is being worked up to move on to the next grouping.

SOP Subcommittee

This committee was discussed above.

7. New Business

- Michella let the committee know they have the application to add MPN to the DW FoPT Table.
- Michella said EPA had a question come to them about PCB PTs. EPA realizes there is not an appropriate FoPT for method 525.3. She asked that the PTPEC consider this on a future agenda. She will send a request to the committee so all are aware of the issue. Labs are being awarded interim accreditation until this worked out.
- Maria reminded everyone about the face-to-face meeting in Crystal City, VA on February 3, 2015, Tuesday, 8am-12pm.

8. Action Items

- See Attachment B.
- Complaints are still being addressed.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in Crystal City on February 3rd at 8am.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34pm EST. Nicole motioned, Andy seconded. Unanimously approved.

Attachment A

Participants TNI

Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
Stacie Metzler (2009) Absent	HRSD	757-460-4217 smetzler@hrsd.com
Maria Friedman (2014) - Present	TestAmerica	949-260-3201 maria.friedman@testamericainc.com
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Present	TNI	828-712-9242 tauntoni@msn.com
Eric Smith (2010) Absent	ALS Environmental	904-394-4415 eric.smith@alsglobal.com
Justin Brown (2011) Absent	Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc.	847-875-2271 jbrown@emt.com
Susan Butts (2012) Absent	South Carolina DHEC	(803)896-0978 buttsse@dhec.sc.gov
Patrick Brumfield (2012) Absent	Sigma-Aldrich RTC	(307) 721-5488 Pat.Brumfield@sial.com
Michella Karapondo (2011) Present	USEPA	513-569-7141 karapondo.michella@epa.gov
Nicole Cairns (2012) Present	NY State DOH	(518) 473-0323 nicole.cairns@health.ny.gov
Joe Pardue (2011) Present at 2pm ET	Pro2Serve, Inc.	423-337-3121 joe_pardue@charter.net
Dr. Andy Valkenburg_(2011) Present	Energy Laboratories, Inc.	406-869-6254 avalkenburg@energylab.com
Ron Houck Present	PA DEP	rhouck@pa.gov
Matt Sica Absent	ANAB, ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board	msica@anab.org

Attachment B

Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
185	Send updated DW table with Footnote 15 to NELAP AC for approval.	Stacie	4/1/12	Stacie submitted this. Need to confirm approval.
214	Update Tin, Total Xylene and Total Cyanide on FoPT tables and submit for approval.	Carl Stacie	Next Meeting	In Progress
233	Review complaint process.	Maria Ilona	5/14/14	In Progress
244	Draft response to complainant for 3051A complaint and distribute to committee for review.	Maria	9/11/14	Complete
246	Rewrite request to the Chemistry FoPT subcommittee and send to Ilona for distribution.	Maria	10/6/14	
249	Meet with PTPAs to discuss issues surrounding receiving data for FoPT Limit Updates and complaints. Determine if issue exists and whether subcommittee is needed to address this issue.	Maria	11/13/14	In progress.
251	Follow-up with Rami to provide support to solve footnote issue on WET FoPT Table.	Maria	10/30/14	Still in Progress
252	Set-up meeting with Aaren (NELAP AC) to discuss approving the WET FoPT Table as is.	Maria	12/5/14	Maria has tried to contact her by phone and email. Will talk to her in Crystal City.
253	Check with EPA attorney on requirement that Vinyl Chloride cannot be “0”.	Michella	12/15/14	
254	Review PT SOP comments by the Policy Committee and add to agenda	Maria Ilona	12/15/14	12/18 & 1/22: Maria did not

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
	as appropriate.			receive anything yet.
255	Get back to Michella regarding Lab IDs.	Maria	12/15/14	Complete
256	Letter to DMR Coordinators	Maria	12/12/14	Complete
257	Email to SOP Subcommittee regarding clarification on how limit updates due to issues should be addressed.	Maria	12/12/14	Maria prepared it, but is waiting for a chair for this subcommittee.
258	Send letter to complainant regarding prep method complaint.	Maria	12/12/14	Complete
259	Prepare response to Policy Committee and Complainant on UV-254 complaint.	Maria	12/12/14	Complete
260	Amend FoPT Table Format Subcommittee Scope and distribute for review.	Maria	12/12/14	
261	Bring naming and ID inconsistency issue to the IT Committee.	Maria	12/12/14	
262	Look into schedule for next PTPA evaluations and confirm TNI Board extended evaluations to 4 years.	Maria	12/12/14	Complete
263	Look into new website design and see if there is an FAQ section that the committee can use to summarize some of their processes – complaint, addition/deletion of analyses to FoPT tables, etc. Talk to IT Committee.	Maria	12/12/14	
264	Update Complaint SOP to reflect Standard requirement that PTPA be contacted.	TBD	TBD	
265	Send out request for a volunteer to Chair the SOP Update		2/1/15	

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
	Subcommittee.			
266	Compound Naming and Identification issue will be brought to ELAB/Patsy Root.	Maria	2/6/15	
267	Prepare Excel Template and letter to send to PT Providers to facilitate discussion at PT Provider meeting.	Ilona	1/25/15	

Attachment C

Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
7	Add the Field PT Subcommittee to the limit update SOP during its next update.	3/4/10	
11	Evaluate how labs are accredited for analytes that co-elute.	5-19-11	
12	PTPA Evaluation Checklist needs to be updated prior to next round of evaluations.	8-6-13	
13	Charter needs to be updated in November.	Ongoing	
14	<p>When new limits are established for the FoPTs, what is considered to be a statistically significant change to the old rates? At what point is it appropriate to question new limits? This lends to the TSS discussion a few months ago.</p> <p>Patrick commented that it would make sense to look at changes to pass/fail rates 6 months after new limits are effective. This possible addition to procedures should be evaluated when updating the limit acceptance SOP.</p> <p>3/20/14: Eric noted that there are some logistics with doing a 6 month review. This may need to be a separate committee so it does not hamper the progress of the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee.</p>	2/20/14	

Attachment D: Example Letter to DMR-QA Coordinators

Dear DMR-QA State Coordinator:

My name is Maria Friedman, and I am the chair of the PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) of The NELAC Institute (TNI). As you know, TNI operates a nationwide PT program. Our Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Testing FoPT Table Subcommittee recently presented to the PTPEC the following question, and upon the recommendation of the EPA's Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board, our committee is reaching out to DMR State Coordinators to seek your opinion. Please consider this question:

Many laboratories that perform WET testing have clients in multiple states, and therefore perform some of the WET methods in multiple ways. We would appreciate your opinion on the following question: Should WET PT tests be performed 1) according to the client's permit; or 2) using one standard way so that all tests (by all participating laboratories) are performed the same way?

A consequence of option #1 is that a laboratory may have to perform 3-7 additional WET PT studies for that method. Option #2 would provide greater comparability among laboratory PT results, but would not capture the variety of techniques or approaches being used by the laboratory, as required by their various permits.

We would appreciate your input on or before February 6, 2015, if possible.

On behalf of TNI's PTPEC, thank you in advance for your insight and assistance as we work to improve TNI's PT Program.

Sincerely,

Maria Friedman
Chair, TNI Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee
Quality Assurance Manager, TestAmerica Laboratories, Inc.
maria.friedman@testamericainc.com
(949) 307-0949 - cell phone
(949) 260-3201 - office (direct line)

Attachment E: SIRs Received from LASEC for Discussion

Please provide revised response to SIR #26 (that encompasses SIR #80 below, if possible.) At least one AB is prepared to vote “veto” if necessary, but since the current interpretation has too many “against” votes and will never be approved, that seems like just unnecessary work. See the AC’s comments below:

This is an old question that remains unresolved, but the present answer is heading in the wrong direction, since the group headers in PT tables are technology-related, and there is nothing in the standard about technology-specific PTs. At least one AB tries to use the headers but finds that it’s not a straightforward process; there is not a 1:1 correlation between the PT samples (method-analyte) and the analyte-technology categorization of the group headers. Consensus of the AC is that, if the PT folks want technology-specific PTs, then the standard must be rewritten accordingly. Based on a years ago ruling by Barbara Burmeister of Wisconsin (then on the PT Board), the “group headers” have no meaning, and that continues to be the practice of all ABs.

SIR	26
Section	2003: Chapter 2
Request	<p>I have been recently inspected by the State of Florida DOH. The inspection was very well done and along NELAC standards.</p> <p>The auditor indicated that if we were certified for compound 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene for 8260 we would be required to perform the PT if 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene was offered for any group. It is not currently in the 8260/624 volatile grouping as offered by WIBBY or NIS. It is however listed in the base neutral grouping. We were advised that we would have to perform the volatile analysis using the base neutral sample. We are not currently certified for 8270.</p> <p>If we put this base neutral PT on the volatile instrument we would ruin the column with the very first PT.</p> <p>I emailed Steve Arms the program director at the State of Florida and got a similar response.</p> <p>This is just an example of one parameter there are others that fall into this issue Thank you for your time.</p>
Committee Comments	<p>12/19/2008</p> <p>Website: 2/5/2009</p> <p>Pulled off website to re-evaluate wording. Response will be developed after a similar SIR that is being reviewed is approved.</p>
Response	<p>(Proficiency Testing Program EC Board / NELAP AC, DATE)</p> <p>In the absence of a written policy from the previous NELAC PT Board regarding proper interpretation of the FOPT table analyte analysis requirements, the TNI PT Board cannot comment on what may or may not have been the intent of the NELAC PT Board in this regard. Without previous PT Board policy, interpretation to date of analyte analysis requirements for the FOPT tables has been left to an AB’s (Accrediting Body’s) discretion.</p> <p>The TNI PT Board believes that there has been a general lack of clarity within the community on how the FOPT tables should be interpreted. The TNI PT Board consensus is that group headers in those FOPT tables must hold significance, and group headers must be utilized to classify when an organic analyte is required to be processed and analyzed using extractable and/or purgeable</p>

technologies. The TNI PT Board is currently working to add this clarification to the FOPT tables.

Until such time as the revised FOPT tables become available, the requirement for a PT by the AB must take into consideration current FOPT table group headers and whether TNI approved PT providers offer that analyte in their routinely offered products for volatile analysis. It must not be required by an AB that a PT product specifically designed and packaged by a PT vendor for extraction (semivolatile) methods be analyzed by purgeable (volatile) analysis. If volatile analysis of an analyte listed under a FOPT Base/Neutral grouping is required by an AB, the analyte must be readily available (from at least the majority of TNI approved PT providers) in PT vendor products that have been designed and marketed to be used for volatile method analysis.

SIR #80

SIR	80
Section	Chapter 2; FoPT Table: List of Analytes that Require Proficiency Testing
Request	<p>We are currently accredited for method SW 846 8151, but we want to add Pentachlorophenol by 8151 to our scope. Pentachlorophenol is not listed as requiring PT with the other Herbicides that are analyzed by 8151 that are listed. Therefore, I interpret that as Pentachlorophenol by method 8151 does not require PT.</p> <p>Our Accrediting Body says otherwise. They contend that because Pentachlorophenol is listed under the Acid Extractables (Method 625 or 8270) that require PT, it also requires PT if we want to add it to our 8151 scope.</p> <p>Please advise. Thank you.</p>
Committee Comments	
Response	<p>(PT Executive Committee / NELAP Accreditation Committee, x-x-10)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 looking to address this by adding some clarification on this matter to the FOPT tables.</p>

This appears related to SIR #26 above. Please provide a comprehensive response addressing both SIRs if possible. See additional AC comments below:

<p>If the accreditation body of the laboratory has a regulation on which it has based its interpretation, the laboratory is obligated to comply with the regulation per NELAC 5.1.1 and NELAC 5.5.9.2.d.</p>
<p>This does really address the question at hand, do they need to do a PT for pentachlorophenol by 8151. I would say yes, even if they are certified for PCP by 8270 currently, and are certified for 8151, but it has not included PCP.</p>
<p>This response includes editorial comments that are not productive to the SIR process. This should be re-worded to be an SIR only</p>
<p>This is not a valuable answer to the question. This contains editorial comments and also promises a change or improvement that did not come in the most recent update of the FOPT tables. This is a Yes or No Question about a PT requirement. It is NOT the place for commentary about consistency.</p>
<p>(VA requires the PT and has several labs doing it for this method. It's never been questioned.)</p>
<p>Edits required</p>
<p>Missing a 'yes' or 'no' from the committee. The FoPTs are already defined as analyte+technology+matrix. Per the standard, I do not see where the 'category' headers have any relevance. For the response, the committee's planned actions also do not have relevance. These plans should be removed as they may or may not occur.</p>
<p>Needs to be rewritten</p>
<p>The conclusion is unclear. I think we need to take the Technology into account when making these kinds of "required PT" calls. NH takes the "headers" into account.</p>

Attachment F: Proposed Scope Update for FoPT Table Format Subcommittee

Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee Fields of Proficiency Testing (FoPT) Table Format Subcommittee (PTPEC – FoPT)

2015 Scope

(Revised: 01-20-2015)

DRAFT – Sent to PTPEC on 1-20-2015 for review and approval.

Mission:

The effort of this subcommittee will be to shall develop an universally accessible improved template for existing, approved FoPT tables to bring them more in into agreement with the FoPT definitions in the 2009 TNI Standard. This subcommittee has been initiated in response to feedback received by the PTPEC from Accreditation Bodies regarding PT Program evaluations.

Evaluating the practicality of the FoPT tables:

Goals and Objectives:

Goal #1: Develop an improved template for existing, approved FoPT tables:

FoPT tables are utilized as a matrix dependent analyte list to determine which analytes require PT. There are currently few analytical methods or technologies explicitly listed on the FoPT tables. Utilizing different analytical methods or technologies on the same analyte can yield different results, potentially falling outside the PT study acceptance ranges. The new FoPT table template will document the analytical method (Drinking Water FoPT Table only) or specific technology (Non-Potable Water and Solid and Chemical Materials FoPT tables) for which the acceptable ranges were intended. Additionally, the methods or technologies specified will be those utilized in sample analysis, not sample preparation.

Defining Goal #2: Define the analytes listed in the FoPT tables:

The FoPT tables currently state: the name of the analyte to be measured, the corresponding TNI code, and some (not all) analytes have the EPA code noted. This may lead to undue confusion for some analytes with multiple nomenclature possibilities to anyone not familiar with TNI coding. Thus, the new FoPT table template will include additional space for the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) Registry numbers to aid in specific chemical identification.

~~The purpose of this subcommittee is to clarify existing, approved FoPTs, not to define new FoPTs. Additionally, the methods or technologies specified will be those utilized in sample analysis, not sample preparation.~~

Considerations:

- Volunteer member organization with time constraints.
- Limited funding.

Available Resources:

- Volunteer committee members
- TNI Website and other TNI support services (administrative, technical editing, etc.)
- Teleconference and web-based services

- Industry experts

Additional Resources Required:

- Conference line availability for committee meeting

Anticipated Meeting Schedule:

- Monthly subcommittee teleconferences (open to all Members)
- Additional subcommittee teleconferences as needed

Program Administrator: Ilona Taunton