

## **TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary**

**January 23, 2018**

### 1. Roll call, approval of minutes and overview:

Chair, Maria Friedman, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order in Albuquerque, New Mexico on January 23, 2018, at 1 pm Central. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 5 members present.

Maria reviewed the agenda for today's meeting:

- Mission
- PTPEC Activities
- Subcommittee Reports
- Acknowledgements
- SOP Review

Maria prepared a PowerPoint (PPT) to provide an overview on PTPEC activities since the last face-to-face meeting in Washington DC and to provide an update on FoPT Tables (see Attachment D).

### 2. Subcommittee Reports

See Attachment D for slides related to each subcommittee report below.

Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee: Jennifer Best (Chair, Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee) provided an update by phone. The EPA statisticians have reviewed the PT Data received:

- Total of 33,647 results received
- In total, 8,379 coliform results were identified as 9221 and 20,164 were identified as 9223, representing a combined 85% of the whole dataset.
- Due to large number of different method names, some results were unable to be identified as either method.
- The 9221 DW failure rate was **22%** while 9223 failure rate was **4.9%**

- Examination of the 9221 DW failure subset found that 54% of the results submitted were within the expected 2SD range for the approved method, but outside of the 2SD range for the combined study (multiple well and multiple tube)
- This indicates that a significant cause of the high 9221 failure rate is combined methods scoring.
- The failure rate for 9221 NPW was 4.9% while 9223 NPW failure rate was 2.6%
- Standardization of method names would be helpful
- Over 1,000 different names used in the 33,000 results in the database.
- A standardized list of codes with a “non-standard” option available for labs running non-standard method or desiring blind method reporting recommended
- Lack of consistency amongst PTPs in reporting of SDs as logs. Consistent reporting would have made analyses easier.
- Future committees should consider this in any PTP requests
- No consistency in reporting technology. Not reported or if reported, terminology may vary.
- The committee will meet and review all this information and next steps will be determined.
- Deb Waller, NJ, provided the following comment: “MPN and Multiple Well are listed on the same line in the 40CFR Part 136.3 Tables 1A and 1H for E. coli and Enterococci. Given the PT issues, these two technologies need to be on two separate lines. MPN testing using 3 dilutions of 5 tubes each is a different technology from the Quanti-tray testing so it should be an easy fix. I do recognize that Colilert is also available in a ten tube format but I always thought that was relative to drinking water presence-absence testing more than enumerated testing. Jen was correct, for the RTCR, 40CFR Part 141.74 and for LT2 E. coli testing. It looks like only wastewater needs to be addressed so that lab can fairly be assessed on their PT performance in the future.”

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee – See PPT slides in Attachment D.

SOP Subcommittee – See PPT slides in Attachment D.

FoPT Table Format Subcommittee – See PPT slides in Attachment D. Craig met with the WETT Expert Committee and they have a plan to move forward. The subcommittee expects to be done with all FoPT table updates (CAS numbers additions and aligning codes with LAMS) by March 15, 2018.

### 3. Acknowledgements

See PPT in Attachment D. Maria thanked all the committee members and subcommittee chairs for all their hard work.

#### 4. SOP Review

First, Ilona provided an update from a brief meeting with interested parties that occurred during lunch to discuss the Combined Evaluation Procedure (SOP 7-101) and how it fits in with the new TNI Organization structure. The recognition committee mentioned in the Provisional version of SOP 7-101 (Combined Evaluation SOP) will be referred to as the Recognition Committee (RC) instead of the TNI NGAB Recognition Committee (TNRC) to avoid confusion. The recognition committee will be called the TNRC once all three recognitions are rolled into the combined evaluation, but this round only includes the NEFAP and PTP recognitions. Language will be updated and a version of this SOP with editorial changes will be sent to the Policy Committee to make it easier for them to complete their review of SOP 7-101.

Maria pulled up a copy of SOP 4-104 (PTPA Evaluation SOP) so the committee and meeting attendees could review it and determine what needs to be deleted or changed with the implementation of the combined evaluation procedure (SOP 7-101).

There were some general comments that there appears to be a lot of language in the SOP straight out of the TNI Standard. Should this language be repeated in the SOP or just referenced? The overwhelming thought was that it should be referenced, but the SOP Subcommittee should review the language to make sure there is not something in addition that should be kept.

The checklist is currently included as part of the SOP. The checklist will be a stand alone document and does not need to be attached to the SOP.

Maria marked up SOP 4-104 as the group reviewed it. These comments are expected to provide guidance to the SOP Subcommittee as they review this SOP and determine whether it is still needed and, if so, what should be included in it.

Title: Would need to be updated if kept.

Sections 1-4 – Would need updates and references to SOP 7-101.

Section 5 – Information should be already covered in SOP 7-101.

Section 6 – Information covered in SOP 7-101.

Section 7 – Information covered in SOP 7-101 and the PTPA Evaluation Checklist.

- 7.1 – SOP 7-101
- 7.2 – SOP 7-101
- 7.3 – SOP 7-101
- 7.4 – SOP 7-101

- 7.5 – SOP 7-101
- 7.6 – SOP 7-101
- 7.7 - SOP 7-101. This section could be expanded to discuss recognition procedures – vote on recommendation from RC, how certificates are issued, etc.
- 7. 8 – SOP 7-101
- 7.9 – This language needs to be reviewed by SOP Subcommittee. Are these responsibilities already in the Standard? Is this a repeat of information or is there new information that needs to be kept in this SOP?
- 7.10 – Is this also language from the Standard and it does not need to be repeated in the SOP?

Section 8 through 12 – Information covered in SOP 7-101.

Maria will provide a copy of this SOP with the comments to the PTP SOP Subcommittee for them to consider when doing their review.

#### 5. New Business.

- None.

#### 6. Action Items

The action items can be found in Attachment B. Attachment C includes a listing of reminders. Updates are added as notes in the table.

#### 7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 2/15/18 at 1pm Eastern by teleconference. *(Update: Meeting rescheduled to 2/22/18 at 1pm Eastern.)*

Maria adjourned the meeting at 3pm Central.

## Attachment A

### Participants

#### TNI

#### Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

<b>Members</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Maria Friedman (2020) <b>Present</b>	AB	California Water Board	<a href="mailto:Maria.Friedman@waterboards.ca.gov">Maria.Friedman@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator <b>Present</b>		TNI	<a href="mailto:tauntoni@msn.com">tauntoni@msn.com</a>
Eric Smith (2019) <b>Absent</b>	Lab	ALS Environmental	<a href="mailto:eric.smith@alsglobal.com">eric.smith@alsglobal.com</a>
Carl Kircher (2021*) <b>Absent</b>	AB	Florida Department of Health	<a href="mailto:Carl.Kircher@flhealth.gov">Carl.Kircher@flhealth.gov</a>
Andy Valkenburg (2021*) <b>Present</b>	LAB	Energy Laboratories	<a href="mailto:avalkenburg@energylab.com">avalkenburg@energylab.com</a>
Jennifer Duhon (2019*) <b>Present</b>	Other	Millipore Sigma	<a href="mailto:jennifer.duhon@sial.com">jennifer.duhon@sial.com</a>
Matt Sica (2020) <b>Absent</b>	AB	ANAB, ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board	<a href="mailto:msica@anab.org">msica@anab.org</a>
Dixie Marlin (2018*) <b>Present</b>	Other	Marlin Quality Management, LLC	<a href="mailto:marlinquality@gmail.com">marlinquality@gmail.com</a>
Gil Dichter (2018*) <b>Absent</b>	Other	IDEXX Water	<a href="mailto:gil-dichter@idexx.com">gil-dichter@idexx.com</a>
Patrick Garrity (2019*) <b>Absent</b>	AB	Kentucky DEP	<a href="mailto:patrick.garrity@ky.gov">patrick.garrity@ky.gov</a>
Michella Karapondo (2019*) <b>Absent</b>	Other	USEPA	<a href="mailto:karapondo.michella@epa.gov">karapondo.michella@epa.gov</a>
Fred Anderson (2020*) <b>Present</b>	Other	Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC	<a href="mailto:Fred@advancedqc.com">Fred@advancedqc.com</a>
Jennifer Mullins (2020*) <b>Absent</b>	Lab	Upper Occoquan Service Authority	<a href="mailto:jennifer.mullins@uosa.org">jennifer.mullins@uosa.org</a>
Scott Haas (2020*) <b>Absent</b>	FSMO	Environmental Testing, Inc.	<a href="mailto:shaas@etilab.com">shaas@etilab.com</a>

## Attachment B

### Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Date Added</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
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. 4/20/17: Ilona will look back in minutes to find the original issue and send to Maria.
295	Moved from Backburner: PTPA Evaluation Checklist needs to be updated prior to next round of evaluations. (Originally discussed 8/6/13)	Shawn Ilona		New Date: 3/31/18	In Progress (will use 2009 TNI Standards and current SSAS Standards)
349	Review LAMS/FoPT Table Differences document. Provide comments by email and next meeting.	ALL	4/20/17	4/25/17	In Progress WET is still being reviewed. Update 1/23/18: Subcommittee expects to have updated FoPT tables with CAS #'s and LAMS changes by 3/15/18.
352	Moved from Backburner (originally discussed 2/20/14) : When new limits are established for the FoPTs, what is considered to be a statistically significant change to the old rates? At	All	2/20/14	TBD (see #350)  <i>350: Prepare formal request to SOP Subcommittee regarding</i>	In Progress – Update of SOP 4-101

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Date Added</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
	<p>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>			<i>updating FoPT tables and applicable backburner items just moved to the Action Items table (#352, 353)</i>	
353	<p>Discuss possible procedural changes to how limits are updated. Maria talk to SOP Subcommittee. (Need to look at PT database implications.)</p>	All		TBD	In Progress – Update of SOP 4-101
358	<p>Send request to SOP subcommittee to consider what happens when ARA's are rescinded. There is no formal process.</p>	Maria	6-29-17	7/19/17	Maria will resend to Gil and this item will be closed.
361	<p>Analyte Code changes needed in LAMS. (TKN)</p>	Maria Dan Hickman	7/20/17	9/30/17	Still need to look into TKN issue.
363	<p>Discuss procedural change in how changes are made to LAMS. Consider notifying PTPEC before relevant changes are made and provide a summary of changes at some frequency.</p>			1/31/17	Will talk to IT about getting this in an SOP. 12/21/17: Maria will follow-up on this.
368	<p>Forward Jerry's question to Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. (Analyte code change for the non-polar extractable materials.)</p>	Maria	8/24/17	9/1/17	Maria will resend to Carl.

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Date Added</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
373	Carl will notify the PTPEC when Bob and Keith complete their comparison table to the Radiochemistry FoPT work the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee has already prepared.	Carl	12-21-17	3-31-18	
375	Prepare Annual Report from PTPEC and distribute to Committee members for review and discussion at next meeting.	Maria	12/21/17	1/11/18	Complete
376	Add logo to FoPT tables if it is missing.	Maria	1/18/18	TBD	
377	Update NPW and SCM table with formatting agreements discussed 1/18/18. Send to NELAP AC.	Maria	1/18/18	TBD	
378	Send notes on SOP 4-104 to the PTP SOP Subcommittee.	Maria	1/23/18	2/1/18	



**Attachment C**

**Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Executive Committee**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Meeting Reference</b>	<b>Comments</b>
7	Add the Field PT Subcommittee to the limit update SOP during its next update.	3/4/10	In Progress
11	Evaluate how labs are accredited for analytes that co-elute.	5-19-11	
13	Charter needs to be updated in November.	Ongoing 2017	
18	Shawn noted that PTPEC should have some specific measurements. This should be passed along to the PTP SOP Subcommittee. Nicole noted that we need to determine which items to measure.	6-29-17	



## Agenda

- Review of PTPEC Mission / Purpose
- Review of PTPEC Activities
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2

## Mission

The purpose of the Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) is to establish and maintain certain elements of a national PT Program to support TNI's Accreditation Programs and other TNI activities. Those elements include:

- Fields of Proficiency Testing (FoPT), consisting of analytes, concentrations, matrices, and acceptance limits, that are appropriate for the scope of environmental monitoring performed in the United States
- A listing of PT Provider Accreditors (PTPAs) that are TNI recognized
- A listing of organizations that are accredited by TNI's recognized PTPAs as competent to provide PT samples to laboratories

3

## PTPEC Meetings

- Conference calls the third Thursday of the month from 1:00-2:30 Eastern
- Face-to-Face with attendee participation at annual Environmental Measurement Symposium and Forum on Environmental Accreditation Conferences

4


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5


## Review of PTPEC Activities August 2017 – January 2018

6




### PTPEC Activities

- Collected data for review of Analyte Request Application (ARA) re. Most Probable Number (MPN) in Non-Potable Water (NPW) and Drinking Water (DW) FoPT Tables
- Complaint Received
  - Complaint suggested that breakdown of 4,4'-DDT to 4,4'-DDD contributed to a PT failure
  - PTPEC appointed a complaint subcommittee to investigate
  - PT Study data for 4,4'-DDD, 4,4'-DDE, and 4,4'-DDT collected




7




### PTPEC Activities

- Approved SOP 7-101, Combined NEFAP/PTPEC SOP for the Evaluation of PTPAs
- Completed TNI PT Database: provides secure and confidential means to receive PT data without manual processing
  - Used for first time to collect data for investigation into 4,4'-DDT complaint




8




### PTPEC Activities: FoPT Table Updates

- Non-Potable Water (NPW) and Solid and Chemical Materials (SCM) FoPT Tables
  - Changed footnote regarding PCBs to clarify that PCBs are collectively one FoPT, and since only one Aroclor is spiked, acceptable results should be based on the correct identification and quantitation of the PCB that was spiked
  - Disposition: Pending review by NELAP AC




9



### PTPEC Activities: FoPT Table Updates

- Drinking Water (DW) FoPT Table
  - Removed footnote regarding laboratory requirements to be accredited for Total Trihalomethanes or Total Haloacetic Acids
  - Added footnote requiring that Volatile Organic Compounds must contain all three Xylene isomers
  - Changed footnote regarding Cyanide to clarify that the Cyanide FoPT is intended for all forms of Cyanide
  - Disposition: Pending review by NELAP AC



10




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11




### Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee

- Reviewing DW Radiochemistry FoPT Table
- Working with Radiochemistry Expert Committee regarding alternate approach to updating FoPTs




12




### Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee

- PT data for MPN being reviewed by EPA statisticians to facilitate review of Analyte Request Application for MPN




13




### FoPT Table Format Subcommittee

- Reviewing consistency between LAMS and FoPT tables and presenting our proposed changes to the FoPT table
- Currently working with Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee to obtain guidance on aligning WETT FoPT table with LAMS




14



### SOP Subcommittee

SOP Title	SOP #	Status
Recommendation and Calculation of Acceptance Limits for Chemical, Radiochemical, and Microbiological Components of Proficiency Tests	4-101	Being combined with 4-107
TNI PT Program Complaint, Appeal, and Dispute Resolution Procedure	4-102	Reviewed by Policy; minor changes requested
Evaluating PT Provider Accreditors	4-104	Being updated in accordance with SOP 7-101
PT Program Executive Committee Voting Process	4-105	In Review by Policy
FoPT Table Management	4-107	Being combined with 4-101




15



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16




### 2018 PTPEC Membership

- Maria Friedman, Chair – California ELAP
- Dixie Marlin, Vice-Chair – Marlin Quality Management, LLC
- Fred Anderson – Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC
- Gil Dichter – IDEXX Water
- Jennifer Duhon – MilliporeSigma
- Patrick Garrity – Kentucky DEP
- Scott Haas – Environmental Testing, Inc.
- Michella Karapondo – US EPA
- Dr. Carl Kircher – Florida Dept. of Health
- Jennifer Mullins – Upper Occoquan Service Authority
- Matt Sica – ANAB, ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board
- Eric Smith – ALS Environmental
- Dr. Andy Valkenburg – Energy Laboratories, Inc.




17




### Subcommittee Chairs

- Chemistry FoPT: Dr. Carl Kircher – Florida Dept. of Health
- FoPT Table Format: Craig Huff – ERA
- Microbiology FoPT: Jennifer Best – EPA
- SOP: Gil Dichter – IDEXX Water




18



## Outgoing PTPEC Members

- Nicole Cairns – New York State DOH
- Susan Jackson – South Carolina DHEC



19



## TNI Support

- Program Administrator: Ilona Taunton
- IT Administrator: William Daystrom
- LAMS Administrator: Dan Hickman



20




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21



## SOP Review



22