

## **TNI PT Program Executive Committee**

### **Meeting Summary Virtual Conference January 28, 2021**

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

Chair, Shawn Kassner, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order at 3:45pm Eastern on January 28, 2021 by teleconference/Webex. There were 7 voting members present: Shawn Kassner, Andy Valkenburg, Dixie Marlin, Jennifer Bordwell, Michella Karapondo, Rachel Ellis and Scott Haas. Associate members present included: Stacie Crandall, Amy DeMarco, Craig Huff, Jennifer Best, Justin Brown, Nicole Cairns, Reggie Morgan, Sennett Kim and Tim Miller.

Shawn shared the December 2020 minutes. A motion was made by Michella to approve the December 17, 2020 minutes, but there was no second. The Committee will wait until their regular February meeting to approve the minutes.

There were 41 participants that joined the meeting.

#### 2. Joint WET, PT Expert and PTPEC Special Session

The purpose of the joint session was to try to address the WET Committee's concerns about improving data comparability for WET PT samples.

The group came to the following conclusions after reviewing Attachment A and B from the January 25, 2021 joint session minutes:

- Send standardized requirements to the PT Expert Committee for addition to Volume 1, Module 1.
- The WET FoPT Subcommittee needs to be developed and work on this and send recommendations to the PTPEC.
- The WET Expert Committee needs to add items 3-6 to Volume 1, Module 7 for just good quality control purposes.
- Use slide 8 of Rami's presentation to help EPA understand the number of possible permutations if permits are used.

Though the issue is not yet solved, we are taking steps forward to solve it.

### 3. Year in Review

Shawn prepared a presentation to summarize Committee activities in 2020 – see Attachment A.

Comments/Questions:

- A non-NELAP AB can sponsor PFAS ARA for NPW and SCM.
- The Committee will be looking into adding an Air & Emissions FoPT Table. Shawn asked if there is a need for indoor air monitoring too?
- It was suggested that someone from New Hampshire be added to the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee to participate in the PFAS discussions. There was agreement and Brian LaMarsh volunteered to do this.
- A question was asked about PTPA evaluations in 2021. Ilona noted that she expects evaluations to begin in Fall/Winter.

### 4. FoPT Tables

Nicole Cairns sent edits for the PTRL footnotes:

7) TNI Proficiency Testing Reporting Limit (PTRL) is a statistically derived value that represents the lowest acceptable concentration for an analyte in a proficiency test sample, if the analyte is spiked into the proficiency test sample.

TNI PTRLs are also used by PT Providers to set the assigned value for unspiked analytes. For all analytes with an assigned value equal to <PTRL, the PT Provider must verify that the PT sample does not contain the analyte at a concentration greater than or equal to one-half (1/2) of the PTRL.

It is recognized that in some cases (especially for analytes that typically exhibit low recovery) the PTRL may be below the laboratory's limit of quantitation. However, the laboratory should use a method that is sensitive enough to detect concentrations at the PTRL shown.

Nicole Cairns noted some changes to color coding too.

It was noticed that the last sentence has a “should”. Is this by design? Nicole noted that some labs have methods where LOQs are going to be above PTRLs. Stacie asked if that is something a lab should work out with their AB? Shawn agreed they should work with their ABs. Shawn doesn't think something can be added to the table to deal with this.

Scott thinks the last sentence is misleading. It is confusing. He had to work with PT Providers. He doesn't have suggested new language.

Dixie also has an issue with the last sentence. If accredited for 6010 methods and they have an ICP-MS method – what's to stop them from reporting from the ICP-MS.

Nicole Cairns suggested dropping the third paragraph. Scott, Dixie and Andy agreed. It is in the Standard and in the PTRL Guidance document. People should be directed there. The third paragraph will be dropped.

## 5. Subcommittees

Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee: Nothing to report.

PTP SOP Subcommittee: They are continuing to move forward with SOP 4-101 – FoPT limit determination procedures.

WET FoPT Subcommittee: Resurrecting this Subcommittee.

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee: This Subcommittee needs to meet, but they also need data to review before they can meet.

## 6. Where do we start?

What should be PTPEC's priorities?

- Ilona forwarded a message about Air. Shawn would like to come up with a list of agencies that might be interested in air programs. Who would be interested in it if TNI develops it. Sheri Heldstab would like to have a theoretical conversation with Shawn before any ABs are approached. Shawn will contact Sheri.
- Dan Hickman - Have you addressed issues with analyte codes for Uranium, Oil & Grease, and TPH? Shawn will set-up a call with Dan. Maybe start discussion during networking session.
- It was suggested that the SOP for calculating FoPTs needs to be done soon so the Committee can look at PFAS. Shawn will plan to put a Workgroup together of people from the PTP SOP Subcommittee and the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee so final details to complete the SOP can be worked through.
- Start looking for a sponsor for more PFAS FoPTs. Minnesota and New Jersey may be good options with a need.

Next Meeting:

Review and vote on Minutes

Start talking about expansion of FoPT tables for PFAS

Discuss expanding program with an Air and Emissions FoPT table.

Developing workgroup for FoPT SOP update

Finish edit of tables. – Fix color coding and cleaning up language and deleting paragraph.

Dan and Shawn will talk.

Contact Lynn Bradley and Kristin Brown about sponsorship for Air and PFAS.

## 7. Next Meeting

The next PTPEC meeting will be February 18, 2021 at 1pm Eastern.

Adjourned at 4:52pm Eastern.