

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

November 15, 2018

1. Roll call, approval of minutes and overview:

Chair, Maria Friedman, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order at 1:02pm Eastern by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 8 members present. Associate members present: Stephen Arpie, Jennifer Best, Mike Blades, Tim Miller and Keith Ward. Guest: Jerry Parr

A motion was made by Scott to accept the minutes from the 10/18/18 meeting as written with the correction of the date in the header. The motion was seconded by Eric. Vote: For - Patrick, Scott, Carl, Eric, Jennifer M, Maria, Andy and Fred Against – None Abstain – None. The motion passed and the minutes have been approved.

2. Updates

- FoPT Tables. The format changes have now been made to the FoPT tables. The NELAP AC is still reviewing the Drinking Water FoPT table, so this table has not yet been posted with the new format. The NELAP AC is expected to review the table in early December.

- Complaint – DDT Breakdown Issue. The complainant followed up to find out what the committee is doing. Maria would like to start working on this issue. She asked Carl if the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee can take a look at this. Eric asked which meeting this was last discussed – Ilona said most discussions were done in late December and final language to the complaint was developed in March and April.

Carl did not think there should be breakdown if the instruments are working properly. Ilona will research the minutes and send a summary of the discussion to the committee for discussion in December.

- Combined Evaluation SOP. Ilona is working on adding the language discussed during the small meeting with Jerry and Alfredo. She will send the language to Stacie and Shawn for finalization in the Combination Evaluation SOP Subcommittee and then it will be sent to each Executive Committee for review and vote. The SOP should be available for the next meeting.

3. Implementation of Volume 3 and 4 of the PT Standard

Jerry Parr joined the meeting to discuss the TNI Board of Director's (BoD) position on implementation of the 2016 Standard by the PT Providers.

Maria shared the TNI BoD statement:

On 11-14-2018, the TNI Board of Directors discussed issues related to the implementation of the 2016 TNI Standard Volumes 3 and 4. As a result, the Board approved the following statement:

TNI's Proficiency Test (PT) program is one of the key components of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation program and TNI requires PT providers to evaluate laboratory performance based on the current applicable standard in rule from each Accreditation Body. TNI recognizes that this requirement may cause the PT providers to implement different evaluation criteria based on which version of a standard is effective in a particular state. TNI also recognizes that the PT providers may not have been evaluated by a PT Provider Accreditor (PTPA) to the most recent applicable standard. Nonetheless, it is critical that PT Providers evaluate a laboratory's PT performance using the relevant standard and that PTPAs allow PT Providers to implement new requirements when appropriate.

Two take-aways from this:

- 1) PTPs will be expected to evaluate laboratory PT performance using the relevant standard (i.e., the standard in use by the relevant AB).*
- 2) PTPAs will be expected to allow PTPs to implement new requirements when appropriate.*

Jerry was surprised that the PT Providers were concerned about having to work with different implementation dates. He was also surprised that the PTPA wanted the AB assessed before they OK the PT Provider to use the 2016 TNI Lab Standard.

The TNI BoD spent 30 minutes discussing these issues and Jerry discussed this with Lynn Bradley who commented that the PTPEC needs to develop a Policy.

Keith Ward commented that he preferred to see one implementation date and to have the NELAP ABs calculate any changes they need in PT results based on the Standard effective in their state. Jerry responded that the ABs do not have this ability.

Mike Blades from ERA commented that his company can accommodate the state when they are going to adopt the Standard. There are still people on 2003. It's what they have been doing from the beginning. Not everyone has been on the same Standard at the same time.

NY is not happy about it, but they accept PT scoring through secondary accreditation that might be different than what they require of their primary labs. For their primary labs they currently follow 2003. Steve Arpie was under the impression that NY does not report differently depending on the state the lab is from. Jerry confirmed that NY only provides PTs to their primary labs, so they would only be scoring by 2003.

Jerry commented that the NELAP ABs have never been on the same standard – they give a blind eye to some of the differences ... but they still recognize the secondary accreditation.

Eric can appreciate concerns about having to use multiple reporting requirements, but labs generally work to the most difficult requirements and then choose to apply it to all their work. It is too difficult working on multiple standards. The PT portion of 2009 is less stringent.

Jerry will discuss the possibility of having all PT Providers using the 2016 Standard with the NELAP AC.

Carl asked if the PTPEC still needs to adopt Volume 3 and 4. These volumes were already adopted by the PTPEC. The Committee is now working on implementation.

Keith expressed the concern that his certificate states he is accredited to the 2009 Standard. Eric suggested that a note could be added to the PT reports that explains a transition period. Reported to 2009 but with 2016 calculations?

Nicole commented that the new lab Standard requires that it obtain PTs from a PT Provider accredited to the 2016 Standard.

Moving to the 2016 Standard before a State requires it may put additional burden on the labs sooner than required. Some states may be further away. This would be adding a requirement to labs that might not normally have to do it yet. Eric doesn't think this is issue for most labs, it really only affects larger labs with organics.

It was commented that a lot of Secondary States still request that the lab send the PT results to them too.

The conversation seemed to drift toward how PTPA's should be running their certification program. Ilona commented that we need to be careful how much we talk about how the PTPA's do their business. This may step over some lines.

A disclaimer could be something along the lines of: PT Provider accredited to the 2009 TNI Environmental Laboratory Standard, but PT Provider reports results per Section xxx of the 2016 TNI Environmental Standard. Jerry will discuss this with the NELAP AC too.

Tim commented that having different states with different reporting requirements could cause problems for the lab. They may have to run multiple PTs using different Standard requirements.

Jerry commented that the earliest anything will change is April 2019. He will discuss the options discussed today with the NELAP AC and provide an update before the next PTPEC meeting. Jerry excused himself from the call.

4. Subcommittee Reports

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee – The Radiochemistry Committee is ready to meet to discuss alternate methods to develop Radiochemistry FoPTs. Carl's schedule is busy right now and a meeting will likely be planned for January or February.

SOP Subcommittee – Eric will hold the next meeting on Friday the 14th of December. He has gone back through committee minute and talked to Nicole to figure out the status of the committee, the SOPs they have been working on and where the committee is headed. Ilona commented that the subcommittee needs to look at Volume 4 to make sure it has all the procedures required in this updated Standard. A number of topics have been removed from the 2016 Standard with the intent that the PTPEC put SOPs together to cover the missing items. Maria decided that this is something the full Committee can do while the subcommittee continues work on the limit SOP. Eric commented that perhaps the subcommittee may reconsider combining the limit and the FoPT table handling SOPs.

FoPT Table Format Subcommittee – Maria will check in on the status of the WETT. She will follow-up with Craig.

Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee – The Committee agreed to break apart the MPN methods. Jennifer Best and Maria still need to talk offline about some of the questions Jennifer raised at the last meeting. Jennifer was not available to provide an update today.

5. New Business.

- Ilona reminded the committee that the need to look at membership. A number of people are rotating off, but most have the option for a second term. This will be looked at during the December meeting.

6 Action Items

The action items can be found in Attachment B. The action items will be reviewed at the next meeting.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 12/20/18 by teleconference at 1pm Eastern.

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

Maria adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm Eastern. (Motion: Eric Second: Scott Unanimously approved.)

Attachment A

Participants TNI

Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Rep	Affiliation	Contact Information
Maria Friedman (2020) (Chair) Present	AB	California Water Board	Maria.Friedman@waterboards.ca.gov
Dixie Marlin (2018*) (Vice-Chair) Absent	Other	Marlin Quality Management, LLC	marlinquality@gmail.com
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Present		TNI	tauntoni@msn.com
Eric Smith (2019) Present	Lab	ALS Environmental	eric.smith@alsglobal.com
Carl Kircher (2021*) Present	AB	Florida Department of Health	Carl.Kircher@flhealth.gov
Andy Valkenburg (2021*) Present: Added at 2:05 (voted For on minutes)	LAB	Energy Laboratories	avalkenburg@energylab.com
Jennifer Duhon (2019*) Absent	Other	Millipore Sigma	jennifer.duhon@sial.com
Matt Sica (2020) Absent	AB	ANAB, ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board	msica@anab.org
Patrick Garrity (2019*) Present	AB	Kentucky DEP	patrick.garrity@ky.gov
Michella Karapondo (2019*) Absent	Other	USEPA	karapondo.michella@epa.gov
Fred Anderson (2020*) Present – Joined 2:23 (voted For on minutes)	Other	Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC	Fred@advancedqc.com
Jennifer Mullins (2020*) Present	Lab	Upper Occoquan Service Authority	jennifer.mullins@uosa.org
Scott Haas (2020*) Present	FSMO	Environmental Testing, Inc.	shaas@etilab.com

Attachment B

Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
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: 8/31/18	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 2/28/18 – For WET? June 2018 for all tables. New target date: 7/15/18	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. 2/22/19: Still in progress. 6/21/18: Still working with Rami.
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 what point is it appropriate to question new limits? This lends to the TSS discussion a few months ago. Patrick commented that it would make sense to look at	All	2/20/14	TBD (see #350) <i>350: Prepare formal request to SOP Subcommittee regarding updating FoPT tables and applicable backburner items just</i>	In Progress – Update of SOP 4-101 6/21/18: Gil noted that this SOP will be worked on again at the next meeting. An expected completion date will be given at July meeting.

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
	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.			<i>moved to the Action Items table (#352, 353)</i>	
353	Discuss possible procedural changes to how limits are updated. Maria talk to SOP Subcommittee. (Need to look at PT database implications.)	All		TBD	In Progress – Update of SOP 4-101 Maria will send a copy to close this item. 10/18/18: Maria will resend to Eric and Ilona.
358	Send request to SOP subcommittee to consider what happens when ARA's are rescinded. There is no formal process.	Maria	6-29-17	7/19/17	Maria will resend to Gil and this item will be closed. 3/15/18: Still in progress. 10/18/18: Resend to Eric to close out.
361	Analyte Code changes needed in LAMS. (TKN)	Maria Dan Hickman	7/20/17	9/30/17	Still need to look into TKN issue. 2/22/18 – Maria will confirm. 10/18/18: Maria still needs to confirm. She just got something.
363	Discuss procedural change in how changes are made to LAMS. Consider notifying			1/31/17	Will talk to IT about getting this in an SOP.

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
	PTPEC before relevant changes are made and provide a summary of changes at some frequency.				12/21/17: Maria will follow-up on this. 3/20/18: Maria will check this week. 6/21/18 – still being worked on.
368	Forward Jerry's question to Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. (Analyte code change for the non-polar extractable materials.)	Maria	8/24/17	9/1/17	Maria will resend to Carl. 6/21/18 – Maria will send to Ilona. 10/18/18: Maria will send Dan's new info. 11/15/18 – Ilona received the info and needs to review it.
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	In Progress
384	Meet with Dan Hickman to get Analyte Codes and then prepare final DRAFT of Micro DW and WW tables. Send to Jennifer for review.	Maria	4/19/18	5/15/18	Still in Progress
385	Send Micro DW and WW tables to PTPEC for review and vote at next meeting.	Maria	4/19/18	5/15/18	Still in Progress
389	Present recommended LAMS updates to Dan	Maria	5/17/18	5/20/18	Agenda item for November.

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
	Hickman.				
393	Send reminder to NELAP AC to vote on DW table update sent last March.	Maria	9/20/18	10/18/18	Complete
395	Let Shawn Kassner and Ilona know whether to use 2009 or 2016 Standard for combined evaluation checklist.	PTPEC	9/20/18	10/31/18	
396	Jennifer to talk to Keith Ward and Maria regarding FoPT tables. She will also look at completing a new vote on the Microbiology FoPT table in it final form.	Jennifer Best Keith Ward Maria	10/18/18	11/15/18	In Progress
397	Discuss Vol 3 and 4 implementation with NELAP AC.	Maria	10/18/18	11/15/18	Add to December Agenda
398	Pull previous discussions on DBT breakdown and send to committee.	Ilona	11/15/18	12/18/18	
399	Discuss 2016 Standard Implementation options with NELAP AC.	Jerry Parr	11/15/18	12/18/18	
400	Follow-up on subcommittee reports from WET and the FoPT Table Format Subcommittee.	Maria	11/15/18	12/18/18	

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	In Progress
11	Evaluate how labs are accredited for analytes that co-elute.	5-19-11	
13	Charter needs to be reviewed/updated in November.	Ongoing	
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	