

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

**February 20, 2020**

## 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 on February 20, 2020 by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 10 members present. Associate Members and guests present: Nicole Cairns, Reggie Morgan, Tim Miller, Mike Blades, Craig Huff, Jennifer Best and Sennett Kim.

The January meeting minutes were distributed by email for review. A motion was made by Shawn to accept the January 23, 2020 minutes with the following updates: delete Rob Knake as present and correct Michella's name in Chair Update. The motion was seconded by Fred and unanimously approved.

The February 4, 2020 will be reviewed during the March meeting along with today's meeting.

Maria confirmed that meeting participants received the agenda and supporting materials sent February 20, 2020.

## 2. Chair Update

- MPN – multiple tube/multiple well. The NELAP AC felt the PTPEC is not doing enough to inform people about the change to the FoPT tables. Maria talked to Kristin Brown (Chair, NELAP AC) and she is now OK with what is being done. David Caldwell asked that it be explicit if a lab runs both tube and well. Maria thinks this can be included in the announcement. Dan Hickman is still looking at the codes.
- PCB's ARA still needs to be discussed.
- The Committee approved 4 SOPs last month. Craig asked about a statement regarding LAMS and updating tables. Eric noted that this was added.
- Andy has questions about the data received for his Subcommittee. His concerns were included in the January minutes. Craig and Shawn offered to help. Andy plans to meet with the Subcommittee next week. He will add Shawn to the invite list.
- WET – Still need to meet with Laura Phillips – Rami, Carl and Maria. This still needs to happen. Maria will arrange this meeting.

### 3. FoPT Tables

Maria sent a number of FoPT tables with the agenda.

Radiochemistry still needs to be finalized. The Committee is waiting to vote on these new limits until after the procedure for calculating the Radiochemistry limits are added to SOP 4-101. The language has already been forwarded to the SOP Subcommittee.

Maria would like to entertain a new implementation date for the DW FoPT table discussed previously. She would prefer September instead of July.

It was decided previously that the updates to the NPW table could be voted on before the PCB issue is resolved.

Eric asked if a quarterly start would be better for PT Providers? It made no difference to the PT Provider's on the call.

A motion was made by Shawn to approve the NPW FoPT table distributed by Maria by email today. The motion was seconded by Fred.

Roll Call Vote:

Eric - For

Carl - For

Andy - For

Patrick - For

Michella - For

Fred - For

Jennifer Bordwell - For

Shawn - For

Maria - For

Scott – added his vote at the end of the meeting. - For

10 approval votes were received (2/3) and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Eric to set an effective date for the NPW FoPT table of October 1, 2020. The motion was seconded by Shawn.

Roll Call Vote:

Eric - For

Carl - For

Andy. - For

Patrick - For

Michella - For

Fred - For

Jennifer Bordwell - For

Shawn - For  
Maria - For  
Scott – added his vote at the end of the meeting. - For

10 approval votes were received (2/3) and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Eric to set a new effective date for the DW FoPT table of October 1, 2020. The motion was seconded by Shawn.

Roll Call Vote:

Eric - For  
Carl - For  
Andy. - For  
Patrick - For  
Michella - For  
Fred - For  
Jennifer Bordwell - For  
Shawn - For  
Maria - For  
Scott – added his vote at the end of the meeting. - For

10 approval votes were received (2/3) and the motion passed.

#### 4. ARA for Radiochemistry – Submitted by Carl Kircher (Attachment D)

Carl submitted an ARA to develop NPW FoPT limits for Radiochemistry (Attachment D). He is suggesting that because lots of labs use DW methods to analyze NPW, the limits could be based on data available for DW PTs.

Shawn asked if the PT Providers can provide NPW PTs. Craig is not using a waste water matrix for their PTs. Craig asked if there are any other isotopes that need to be considered. Carl noted this ARA if approved would expand what they currently regulate for NPW.

Carl expanded on the details of how the NPW limits could be calculated. He suggested changes to PTRLs. Craig would like to look at actual data.

Iлона commented that the Committee is getting ahead of itself. The Committee does not need to know how it will be addressed ... it just need to decide whether to proceed with the ARA. She also thinks that Bob Shannon and Keith McCroan from the Radiochemistry Expert Committee should be involved. Use of the old table is only one option and Bob mentioned the procedure they proposed for DW could be used for NPW too.

Maria reviewed the checklist for reviewing ARAs.

All items in the checklist were addressed.

Carl made a motion to proceed with the ARA. Shawn seconded the motion and there was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### 5. Subcommittee Reports:

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee: Maria will forward the Pennsylvania ARA for further work by the Subcommittee.

Carl provided feedback to Sheri Heldstab (Chair, SSAS Expert Committee) on their equivalent limit setting SOP. He forwarded a copy of the feedback to Eric, so it can be considered in updating PTPEC SOP 4-101 (Setting FoPT Limits).

Eric raised the concern that the SOP Subcommittee is still waiting for more feedback from the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee on SOP 4-101. There were a number of unanswered questions. Maria noted that questions were not answered because they are case by case questions.

The SOP Subcommittee sent the current DRAFT of SOP 4-101 to Maria. They need feedback from the PTPEC to see if the additional questions need to be answered and they are asking the PTPEC to do an initial review of the SOP. They have addressed everything they can up to this point.

Eric is aware that more technical language needs to be added to the SOP. He thinks technical language should be added by the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee and not the SOP Subcommittee. The SOP Subcommittee should only review the language provided by the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee.

Shawn commented that the SSAS SOP is really organized. It is a better SOP than the original PTPEC SOP 4-101. The flow is better.

Carl agreed to take the SSAS SOP as a starting point and modify it to work for the PTPEC. He will add the necessary information from SOP 4-101 into the SSAS SOP.

Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee: No update needed. Dan Hickman is working on codes.

Jennifer noted that there is an issue with less than reporting. Kristin Brown was given a write up and Shawn and Ilona asked to get a copy.

Greater than or less than items are in the Standard. Nicole thinks the Standard said the FoPT tables supersede the Standard. Nicole Cairns (Chair, PT Expert Committee) found Volume 3 Section 5.9.2.2. This may help, but she is not sure.

Maria noted that any change to the table would require an ARA.

FoPT Table Update Subcommittee: No update needed.

Breakdown Analyte Subcommittee: See note under Chair Update (Section 2).

## 6. Nominations for PTPEC Chair

Maria is rotating off the committee after 6 years of service. The Committee needs to elect a new Chair.

Carl nominated Shawn Kassner for the Chair of the PTPEC.

A motion was made by Scott and seconded by Eric to elect Shawn Kassner as Chair of the PTPEC. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

Ilona noted that we will need to elect a new Vice-Chair in the next few months.

Committee membership will be looked at next month.

## 7. New Business.

Ilona noted that Radiochemistry may have a similar PT issues as what we just went through with Microbiology. They will provide the information as they put the details together.

## 8. Action Items

The action items can be found in Attachment B. Maria reviewed the action items with the Committee and comments are in the action item table.

## 9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be by teleconference on March 19, 2020 at 1pm Eastern.  
*(Addition: The meeting was rescheduled for March 26, 2020.)*

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42pm Eastern (Motion – Carl Second – Andy Unanimously approved.)

**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) (Chair)  <b>Present</b>	AB	California Water Board	Maria.Friedman@waterboards.ca.gov
Dixie Marlin (2021) (Vice-Chair)  <b>Absent</b>	Other	Marlin Quality Management, LLC	marlinquality@gmail.com
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator  <b>Present</b>		TNI	tauntoni@msn.com
Eric Smith (2020)  <b>Present</b>	Lab	ALS Environmental	eric.smith@alsglobal.com
Carl Kircher (2021*)  <b>Present</b>	AB	Florida Department of Health	Carl.Kircher@flhealth.gov
Andy Valkenburg (2021*)  <b>Present</b>	LAB	Energy Laboratories	avalkenburg@energylab.com
Jennifer Duhon (2022)  <b>Absent</b>	Other	Millipore Sigma	jennifer.duhon@sial.com
Matt Sica (2020)  <b>Absent</b>	AB	ANAB, ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board	msica@anab.org
Patrick Garrity (2022)  <b>Present</b>	AB	Kentucky DEP	patrick.garrity@ky.gov
Michella Karapondo (2022)  <b>Present</b>	Other	USEPA	karapondo.michella@epa.gov
Fred Anderson (2020*)  <b>Present</b>	Other	Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC	Fred@advancedqc.com
Jennifer Bordwell (2020*)  <b>Present</b>	Lab	Upper Occoquan Service Authority	jennifer.bordwell@uosa.org
Scott Haas (2020*)  <b>Present at 2pm Eastern</b>	FSMO	Environmental Testing, Inc.	shaas@etilab.com
Rachel Ellis (2022*)  <b>Absent</b>	AB	New Jersey DEP	rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov
Shawn Kassner (2023*)  <b>Present</b>	Lab	Pace	shawn.kassner@pacelabs.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: 5/31/19	In Progress (will use 2016 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: 4/30/19	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. 3/21/19: Stacie asked if the group should be working on this while ELAB is working through this. 2/20/20- ONGOING - Waiting for WET.
352	Moved from Backburner (originally discussed 2/20/14) : When new limits are established for the FoPTs, what is considered to be a	All	2/20/14	TBD (see #350)  <del>350: Prepare format request to</del>	In Progress – Update of SOP 4-101  6/21/18: Gil noted that this SOP will

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Date Added</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
	<p>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>			<i>SOP Subcommittee regarding updating FoPT tables and applicable backburner items just moved to the Action Items table (#352, 353)</i>	<p>be worked on again at the next meeting. An expected completion date will be given at July meeting.</p>
361	Analyte Code changes needed in LAMS. (TKN)	Maria Dan Hickman	7/20/17	9/30/17	<p>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. 2/20/20 – Maria will report next meeting.</p>
363	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.			1/31/17	<p>Will talk to IT about getting this in an SOP. 12/21/17: Maria will follow-up on this. 3/20/18: Maria will check this week. 6/21/18 – still being worked on. 2/28/19 – Maria will follow-up. 2/20/19 – Maria will take care of.</p>



	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Date Added</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
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. (April PTPEC meeting.) 2/20/20- Maria working with Dan Hickman on this.
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
389	Present recommended LAMS updates to Dan Hickman.	Maria	5/17/18	5/20/18	FoPT format subcommittee provided recommendations. In Progress. Maria sent him tables this month (2/20/20)
397	Discuss Vol 3 and 4 implementation with NELAP AC.	Maria	10/18/18	11/15/18	In progress.  COMPLETE
400	Follow-up on subcommittee reports from WET and the FoPT Table Format Subcommittee.	Maria	11/15/18	12/18/18	In Progress – combine with 349.

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Date Added</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
410	Review SOPs 4-102 and 7-101 to make sure there are no conflicts in the appeals process.	Eric	2/28/19	TBD	In Progress  COMPLETE
412	Maria will talk to Craig about holding off on more work on the WET FoPT Table until ELAB provides guidance.	Maria	3/21/19	4/17/19	N/A  CLOSE
415	Send formal request to Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee to work on footnote issue raised by Shawn regarding Footnotes 5 and 6.	Maria	3/21/19	4/17/19	COMPLETE
417	Discuss ARA data issue with the NELAP AC.	Maria	4/18/19	5/16/19	COMPLETE
418	Discuss Analyte Code issue with Bill from New Hampshire.	Maria	4/18/19	5/16/19	CLOSED Maria responded to Bill, but never heard back.
419	Prepare list of items needed in SOPs to accomplish Volume 3 and 4.	Maria, Shawn	5/16/19	TBD	COMPLETE
420	Let Jerry know about possible EPA issue with FoPT tables.	Ilona	5/16/19	6/19/19	COMPLETE
421	Send message to Committee to review information on data points vs participants and provide comment by email.	Maria	6/20/19	6/27/19	COMPLETE

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Date Added</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
422	Send Isomer ARA data to Carl so Chem FoPT Subcommittee can begin work on this.	Maria	6/20/19	7/17/19	2/20/20 -Pending  Needs to still be sent to Subcommittee.
423	Prepare DRAFT equivalency letter to compare 2009 and 2016 to post on website for PT Provider customers.	Maria	7-18-19	TBD	COMPLETE
424	Complete vote on SOP 4-102.	Maria/Ilona	7-18-19	8-7-19	COMPLETE
425	Vote on SOP 4-107 by email.	Maria/Ilona	7-18-19	8-7-19	COMPLETE
426	Get total number of accredited labs from Jerry.	Ilona	8-7-19	9/18/19	COMPLETE
427	Prepare DRAFT of Worksheet 11 for September meeting review.	Maria	8-7-19	9/16/19	COMPLETE
428	Send Worksheet 11 out for final committee review.	Maria	9-19-19	9/27/19	COMPLETE
429	PT Provider Memo – send comments to Maria and ideas for updated language.	All	9-19-19	9/26/19	COMPLETE
430	Review FoPT Tables and website to be consistent with website.	TBD	10/31/19	TBD	2/20/20 - Pending
431	Discuss with IT Committee the need for LAMS updates to be communicated to the PTPEC.	Maria	10/31/19	11/20/19	2/20/20 – Maria will talk to Dan Hickman.

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Date Added</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
432	DW FoPT Table – Lines 17-26 need to be reviewed with LAMS Administrator. PTPEC is going to use what was originally in the table instead of what is currently in LAMS.	Maria	10/31/19	11/20/19	2/20/20 – Pending. Maria will talk to Dan.
433	Send final version of SOPs 4-102, 4-105, 4-107 and 4-108 to Ilona for finalization and distribution to the Policy Committee.	Maria	1/23/20	2/19/20	2/20/20 – Maria will still do this.
434	Prepare final voting copy of DW and NPW FoPT tables and send to Committee for email vote.	Maria	1/23/20	2/19/20	N/A – Did at February meeting instead.

**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 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	



**TNI Fields of Proficiency Testing (FoPT) Analyte Request Application**

SUBMISSION DATE: December 19, 2019

**SECTION I – REQUESTOR/ORGANIZATION INFORMATION**

Requestor: Carl C. Kircher  
Organization: Florida Department of Health, Environmental Laboratory Certification Program  
Address: 1217 N. Pearl Street  
City: Jacksonville State: Florida Zip: 32202  
Telephone: 904-791-1574 Facsimile: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: carl.kircher@flhealth.gov

**SECTION II – Sponsor (if applicable)**

**Required for applications submitted by individuals or on behalf of laboratories or Proficiency Testing Providers**

Sponsor Accreditation Body: \_\_\_\_\_  
Official Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Facsimile: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note here if reference to any additional AB sponsors is being provided.**

**Additional sponsors?** No   
Yes  Other Sponsor ABs: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, provide contact information on additional AB sponsors as an attachment to the application.

**Section III – Analyte Request**

Instructions: If requesting addition of a new FoPT table or analyte(s) to an existing FoPT table, please complete section IIIA. If requesting removal of a FoPT table or analyte(s) from an existing FoPT table, please complete section IIIB. Requests for additions and removals cannot be submitted on the same application; separate applications are required.

**Section IIIA – Addition of New FoPT Table or Analyte(s)**

FoPT table and/or analyte(s) to be added (please specify program and matrix for new FoPT table):

Non-Potable Water matrix Radiochemistry Fields of Proficiency Testing: Gross Alpha, Gross Beta, Radium-226, Radium-228, Total Alpha Radium, Tritium, Strontium-89, Strontium-90, Uranium (mass), Uranium (radiological), Barium-133, Cesium-134, Cesium-137, Cobalt-60, Zinc-65, Iodine-131  
(NEW TABLE) \*\* Currently, the PT product available is for these radionuclides in the Drinking Water matrix.

For analyte(s) additions only, FoPT table(s) on which the analyte(s) should be added (if more than one analyte, clearly annotate which analytes to add to which existing FoPT tables):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for adding the FoPT table and/or analyte(s) (attach additional pages if necessary):

Currently no Fields of Proficiency Testing exist for Radiochemistry analytes in the Non-Potable Water matrix. Many TNI accredited laboratories that perform radiochemistry testing for these analytes in the Drinking Water matrix also perform these analytes in the Non-Potable Water matrix, and with the same test methods as promulgated by EPA for the Safe Drinking Water Act. The current FoPT table for DW is proposed for revision based on US EPA data quality objectives, so the existing FoPT table is being proposed as this FoPT Table for non-potable water. These table criteria were formulated and approved based on the PT Program's existing SOP for establishing applicable analyte activity ranges and PT acceptance criteria. US EPA Clean Water Act regulations also list Gross Alpha, Gross Beta, Radium-226, and Total Alpha Radium in 40 CFR Part 136.3, Table 1E.  
The proposed FoPT Table is attached with this request. Please note that Footnote 1 is changed to +/- 3 SD in order to set the acceptance criteria. The PTRLs are adjusted accordingly.

Do any TNI approved PT Providers currently offer the analyte(s) in a PT product?

No  Yes  Unknown

If yes, attach a list of PT products currently available (specify each PT Provider, PT Provider's product name, and PT Provider's catalog reference).

The following documentation must also be provided as attachments to this application when requesting addition of new analyte(s):

- 1) Proposed spiking concentration range and initial acceptance criteria.
- 2) Information on technical feasibility – this must include one or more method validation study showing that the analyte(s) can be measured throughout the proposed concentration range by at least one published method.

**Section IIIB – Removal of FoPT Table or Analyte(s)**

FoPT table and/or analyte(s) to be removed:

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For analyte removals only, FoPT table(s) from which the analyte(s) should be removed (if more than one analyte, clearly annotate which analytes to remove from which FoPT tables):

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Reason(s) for removing the FoPT table and/or analyte(s) (attach additional pages if necessary):

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The following documentation must also be provided as attachments to this application when requesting removal of analyte(s):

- 1) Copies of any supporting documents that were referenced above in the reason(s) provided for removing the analyte(s).

**Section IV – Submittal of Application**

All applications (including attachments) must be submitted electronically via email to the PT Program Executive Committee Chairperson. No paper copies will be accepted.

Please complete the application and provide the supporting documentation as instructed. Incomplete applications will delay the review process and may be returned to the requestor.

***For PTPEC use only***

Date ARA Received:	
Date ARA Review Initiated:	
Date ARA Review Completed:	
Date Requestor notified of PTPEC’s decision to pursue or dismiss the request:	
If pursued, Date Request submitted to FoPT Subcommittee:	
Date Request Completed:	