

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

February 4, 2020

1. Roll call:

Chair, Maria Friedman, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order at 3:30pm Pacific on February 4, 2020 by in Newport Beach, CA. The committee members in attendance included: Michella Karaondo, Andy Valkenburg, Fred Anderson, Shawn Kassner and Maria Friedman.

2. Overview

Maria shared the presentation slides in Attachment A.

A concern has been received that not all the PT Providers are following the instructions sent by the PTPEC regarding implementation dates. The Committee will need to follow-up on this. Maria will prepare a DRAFT clarification letter to PT Providers. This will be reviewed during the February teleconference.

There are PT Providers that are still scoring results to 2009 after January 31, 2020. The memos sent previously are clear (April and October 2020).

Update on Analyte Request Applications (ARA):

ARA – MPN (Multiple Tube and Multiple Well (DW and NPW))

- The NELAP AC has requested a different implementation process.

ARA – Qualitative PCBs

- Still under review.

ARA – Isomer Group PTs

- Still under review.

ARA – WET

- Dan Hickman will be able to provide an update later.
- William needs more definitive instructions of what kind of data they want.

ARA – FL Request Creation of new FoPT Table for Radiochemistry analytes in NPW

- Will be reviewed during February teleconference.

Additional Discussion on Subcommittee Updates:

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee: Shawn raised the following concern by email on 2/7/19 that still needs to be completely addressed:

In reviewing data from the PTOB database I have found that the TNI PTPs are interpreting the Solid and Chem Materials FoPT table differently. Given how the table footnotes read there is no right or wrong way to calculate limits. I have attached the most recent version of the table and highlighted the sections that I will refer to.

The issue stems from the table's use of fixed percentage criteria. The footnotes 5 and 6 refer to the rules where acceptance limits cannot be tighter than 90% and 110%. The footnotes state an exception of "...except where fixed limits are used." Fixed limits are used in conjunction with the study mean for Metals analytes applied to the study mean, for volatiles (medium and low level) fixed acceptance criteria are applied to assigned values. The acceptance criteria for the volatile analytes are also labeled "...fixed acceptance limits" where the metals analytes are not labeled as such.

What I have observed has to do with the acceptance criteria calculated for metals. We have one PTP who is applying footnotes 5 and 6 to the metals analytes as these are fixed criteria applied to the study mean, just as they would the volatile analytes. I can see that interpretation.

The other PTPs are applying the footnotes to just the volatile analytes, but not applying them to the metals analytes. Their concerns are that the acceptance criteria for metals could potentially calculate to negative limits and it did not make sense for them to do apply those. I can see that interpretation.

My belief is that the footnotes 5 and 6 need to be more explicit as what when these rules are applied, if the intention is for these rules to be applied to all analytes with fixed criteria than the metals analytes need to have the same labels as the volatiles analytes. If the rules are not meant to be applied to the volatiles than the footnotes need to reflect this intention. As I am part of the subcommittee, I will help provide information and assistance into editing the footnotes.

The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee reviewed this information, but wanted to check in with Shawn before responding to the PTPEC. Carl's message was sent to the wrong email address.

Analyte Breakdown Subcommittee: The person who submitted the complaint that led to this subcommittee has been updated. The Subcommittee is thinking a guidance document may be required. They still need data.

Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee: Scope is complete – just need to finish conversation with NELAP AC.

FoPT Table Format Subcommittee: Continuing work with WET Expert Committee to resolve FoPT Table issues.

FoPT Tables

DW and NPW FoPT Tables are pending. The effective date of the DW table may need to be changed. It might be better to make the DW and NPW effective dates the same.

Jennifer Best will work with Dan Hickman on codes for the Microbiology updates.

The Radiochemistry FoPT table is pending. The limits have been reviewed and accepted by the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. It is on hold for final PTPEC approval until after SOP 4-101 (Limit SOP) is updated. The procedure to calculate them has completely changed and this needs to be updated in the SOP.

The NPW limits will continue to be looked at moving forward – see ARA section.

Membership

Maria thanked each of the PTPEC Members. There are opportunities for membership – complete an application on the TNI website.

3. New Business

- Dan Hickman provided an update:

Oil and Grease – He's not sure where to go.

6142 and 6143 are the recommend codes by Dan. We are using 1853. This is a bigger issue for the ABs. We could continue to use the codes we are using and update the description, but the correct codes are actually 6142 and 6143. IR vs Gravimetric. The method available now is 1664B. Freon hasn't been used for quite some time.

PT providers are segregating results from the IR verses Gravimetric.

Dan will provide more detail - number of labs accredited to the analytes. At the very least we need to update the names in the FoPT tables. ABs are going to have to make updates to their databases.

WET – The way the table is set-up it requires Dan to have multiple method codes – every dilution option changes the method. Test conditions vs methods.

Two problems – PT and accreditation. This works for accreditation:
Method 1000 Fat head minnow chronic toxicity Put the rest into footnotes instead of creating more method numbers for different dilutions/temperatures.

The temperature changed and Dan had to change a bunch of codes.

They are only doing this for PT – not for what they are getting accredited for.

Rami liked these ideas this morning.

Laura Phillips will be talking to Carl and Rami about how the original acceptance criteria was developed.

- Andy asked about corrective actions and internal audits. Ilona is working on the final report format for all TNI Committees.

There is no ongoing database at this time. This is in the 2016 Standard.

4. Action Items

Action items will be reviewed during the February teleconference meeting.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be by teleconference on February 20, 2020 at 1pm Eastern.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01pm Pacific

Attachment A: Meeting Presentation



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Agenda

- Review of PTPEC Mission / Purpose
- Review of PTPEC Activities
- Review of PTPEC Plans
- Committee Business
 - Subcommittee Reports
 - Review of NPW, DW, and Radiochemistry DW FoPT Tables
 - Review of Radiochemistry NPW ARA
- Acknowledgments
- Public Comments

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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

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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

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Review of PTPEC Activities September 2019 – January 2020

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2019 PTPEC Activities FoPT Table Updates

Drinking Water (DW) FoPT Table

- Added CAS Numbers for all applicable analytes
- Reviewed/Updated analyte names for consistency with LAMS
 - Effective date: July 1, 2020

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Attachment A: Meeting Presentation




2019 PTPEC Activities FoPT Table Updates

Non-Potable Water (NPW) FoPT Table


- Added CAS Numbers for all applicable analytes.
- Reviewed/Updated analyte names for consistency with LAMS
 - Effective date TBD

Radiochemistry in Drinking Water FoPT Table

- Updated acceptance criteria for most FoPTs
 - Effective date TBD




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2019 PTPEC Activities 2016 TNI Standard Implementation

- Discussed implementation of Volume 3 with PT Providers, PT Provider Accreditors, and members of NELAP AC
- PT Providers will be assessed to 2016 TNI Standard no later than 1-31-2021
- Regardless of PT Provider assessment date, all PT Providers are using 2016 TNI Standard rules for PT result evaluation as of 1-31-2020




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2019 PTPEC Activities 2016 TNI Standard Implementation


- Approved footnote to be included by PT Providers in PT Reports issued on or after 1-31-2020
 - *This report is scored by the criteria in the TNI V3 2016 standard instead of by the criteria in the TNI V3 2009 standard to which the Proficiency Testing Provider is accredited. This is a planned change and is endorsed by the TNI Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee for transition to the TNI V3 2016 standard.*
- Footnote to be included until PT Provider is accredited to 2016 TNI Standard




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Memos to PTPs/PTPAs and PT Stakeholders, 4-28-2019




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2019 PTPEC Activities Analyte Request Applications (ARAs)

ARA received from US EPA requesting segregation of Coliform Most Probable Number (MPN) analytes for Multiple-Tube and Multiple-Well in DW and NPW FoPT Tables

- Subcommittee recommended approving ARA
- PTPEC approved recommendation; NELAP AC ratified
- Further discussion needed to determine best way to inform PT stakeholders about upcoming changes
- Status: Effective Date TBD




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2019 PTPEC Activities Analyte Request Applications (ARAs)


ARA received from NJ DEP requesting addition of qualitative PCB analysis to NPW and SCM FoPT tables

- Subcommittee appointed to investigate the issue
- Numerous discussions held involving PTPEC, members of NELAP Accreditation Council, and PT Providers
- Status: Under Review



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Attachment A: Meeting Presentation




2019 PTPEC Activities Analyte Request Applications (ARAs)

ARA received from PA DEP in response to DoD ELAP memo regarding isomer group PTs

- Request to add individual compound isomers when current FoPT Table lists a “total”
- Example: Add m+p-Xylene and o-Xylene to DW and SCM tables
- Status: Assigned to FoPT Subcommittee; Subcommittee discussed and needs more information to proceed; Need to identify AB sponsor




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2019 PTPEC Activities Analyte Request Applications (ARAs)

ARA received from TNI Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Expert Committee

- Request to collect and evaluate historical PT data for WET testing
- Status: WET Expert Committee to create request for PT data to be submitted to TNI, then evaluate and make recommendations for FoPT updates to PTPEC




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2019 PTPEC Activities Analyte Request Applications (ARAs)

ARA received from FL DEP requesting creation of new FoPT Table for radiochemistry analytes in NPW

- Currently no NPW table for radiochemistry analytes, although many labs accredited for radiochemistry in DW also analyze NPW
- Current DW FoPT limits for radiochemistry undergoing revision based on US EPA data quality objectives
- ARA proposes to use existing DW radiochemistry FoPT table as basis for new NPW table
- Status: To Be Reviewed



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2019 PTPEC Activities Standard Operating Procedures


- SOPs Approved
 - 4-102 Dispute Resolution
 - 4-105 PTPEC Voting Process
 - 4-107 FoPT Table Management
 - 4-108 Conflicts of Interest




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Review of PTPEC Plans for 2020




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2020 PTPEC Plans

- Complete Qualitative PCB ARA
- Complete Isomer Groups ARA
- Complete Radiochemistry in NPW ARA
- Publish updates to DW and NPW FoPT Tables for Coliform-MPN ARA




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Attachment A: Meeting Presentation




2020 PTPEC Plans

- Create/publish guidance/technical solution to the dilemma of analyte breakdown in PT samples
- Update Radiochemistry and WETT FoPT Tables for technical criteria and format
- Address questions raised about SCM FoPT Table acceptance limit footnotes 5 and 6




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2020 PTPEC Plans

- Update SOPs:
 - PT Acceptance Limit Calculations
 - Others to support Volumes 3 and 4 of the 2016 TNI Standard
- Begin evaluation of PTPAs
- Internal Audit Corrective Action
- Update Program Charter




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Committee Business




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Subcommittee Reports




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Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee

- Assigned to investigate potential misinterpretation of Footnotes 5 and 6 regarding fixed limits in SCM FoPT Table




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Analyte Breakdown

- Formed to investigate issue of potential degradation of analyte breakdown (e.g. 4,4'-DDT into 4,4'-DDD) affecting a lab's PT score
- Received historical PT data requested from PT Providers; identifying whether data is sufficient to evaluate degradation issue; may require additional data




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Attachment A: Meeting Presentation




Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee

- Work on current scope complete: ARA for Most Probable Number FoPTs




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FoPT Table Format Subcommittee

- Currently working with Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee to obtain guidance on aligning WETT FoPT table with LAMS




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SOP Subcommittee


SOP Title	SOP #	Status
Recommendation and Calculation of Acceptance Limits for Chemical, Radiochemical, and Microbiological Components of Proficiency Tests	4-101	Under review
TNI PT Program Complaint, Appeal, and Dispute Resolution Procedure	4-102	Sent to Policy Committee
PT Program Executive Committee Voting Process	4-105	Sent to Policy Committee
FoPT Table Management	4-107	Sent to Policy Committee
PTPEC Procedure for Addressing Conflicts of Interest	4-108	Sent to Policy Committee




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DW and NPW FoPT Tables




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Radiochemistry DW FoPT Table



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Radiochemistry NPW ARA



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Attachment A: Meeting Presentation



Acknowledgments



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2020 PTPEC Membership

- Maria Friedman, Chair – California ELAP
- Fred Anderson – Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC
- Jennifer Duhon – MilliporeSigma
- Rachel Ellis – New Jersey DEP
- Patrick Garrity – Kentucky DEP
- Scott Haas – Environmental Testing, Inc.
- Michella Karaondo – US EPA
- Shawn Kassner – Pace Analytical Services
- Dr. Carl Kircher – Florida Department of Health
- Dixie Marlin – Marlin Quality Management, LLC
- Jennifer Mullins – Upper Occoquan Service Authority
- Matt Sica – ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB)
- Eric Smith – ALS Environmental
- Dr. Andy Valkenburg – QASE Inc. / Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc.




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Subcommittee Chairs

- Analyte Breakdown: Dr. Andy Valkenburg
- Chemistry FoPT: Dr. Carl Kircher
- FoPT Table Format: Craig Huff
- Microbiology FoPT: Jennifer Best
- SOP: Eric Smith




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TNI Support


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



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Public Comments and Questions



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