

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

April 16, 2015

1. Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chair, Maria Friedman, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order on April 16, 2015, at 1:04 PM Eastern. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 8 Executive Committee members present. Associate Members present: Carl Kircher, Patsy Root, Craig Huff, David Kilhefner, Jennifer Best and Jeff Lowry.

Maria reviewed the handouts everyone should have received for today's meeting.

The March 19, 2015 minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Nicole to approve the March 19, 2015 minutes as sent by email. Joe seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

2. Chair Update

Gil Dichter

Gil has volunteered to be a member of the SOP Subcommittee and to chair this Subcommittee. There were some reservations expressed about having a non-PTPEC member chairing this Committee. Gil would like to become a member of the PTPEC and has submitted an application.

3. Old Business

2,2'-oxybis (1-chloropropane) Analyte Name Correction

LAMS was updated on March 25th and now this Committee needs to look at changing the FoPT tables. Maria asked Carl if the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee can look at making this change. Carl asked that this be added to the next Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee agenda. Maria confirmed that changes to the tables still require notifications to PT Providers and ABs. She will check with Jerry to see when everyone was notified of the LAMS changes and then the Committee can determine the effective date of the change in the tables.

Analyte Request Application (ARA)

Maria asked everyone to open the file with input from Aaren Alger:

From my perspective, I think the 2nd and 3rd requests seem obvious and not at all controversial. However, I have some concerns for the first request. Specifically:

1. Why would "sample volume" have anything to do with the performance of the test? Either the method works or it doesn't. Using this logic seems to tell me that one method might perform better than another and the labs that are using the poor-performing method don't like that they are failing PTs. Maybe the method shouldn't be used or the lab shouldn't be accredited if they can't pass the PTs with the same precision and accuracy as the other method.

2. What are the actual statistics in pass/fail per method?

3. Is it possible that the organism used by the PT Provider has something to do with the pass/fail rate? We noticed last year that at least one lab couldn't pass a fecal coliform PT in NPW if their life depended on it. All QC was fine, all methodology was fine, but when they switched Providers they passed with flying colors.

4. The Colilert media can be used to test in multiple tube technologies and quanti-trays come in different sizes and use different statistical tables when determining the final result. Have these differences also been considered?

Maria asked the Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee to review Aaren's questions and prepare some responses to share with the PTPEC. Carl asked if Aaren's perspective is from the NELAP AC. Maria responded this is Aaren's opinion. It will be another few weeks before the NELAP AC will meet. Jennifer would like to talk about this in the subcommittee and prepare a response. The subcommittee should work through this because people on the Subcommittee are knowledgeable about the method.

Maria would like to hold this ARA until the PTPEC receives a response from the Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee. There was agreement from the rest of the PTPEC.

Maria thinks it is OK to forward the requests from Carl and Jeff to the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee.

A motion was made by Andy to send the ARA for PCBs in Oil to the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Dixie and unanimously approved.

Carl accepted the task and Ilona will add this to the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee Action items.

A motion was made by Dixie to send the ARA for 8011 to the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Ron and it was unanimously approved.

Carl accepted the task and Ilona will add this to the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee Action items.

Maria confirmed that Carl and Jeff have been notified on the status of their ARAs through today's conversation and the motions to pass along the ARAs to the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. They both confirmed.

4. Subcommittee Updates

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee:

The Subcommittee is now working on BNAs in Solid Waste. It will continue to work through the analytes on the SW FoPT table and then begin looking at the ARAs.

WET FoPT Subcommittee:

Maria needs to follow-up with this Subcommittee. Joe Pardue noted that the new WET Chemistry Expert Committee had their first meeting yesterday.

SOP Subcommittee:

Gil Dichter is still interested in chairing this committee. Maria encouraged other PTPEC members to join this Subcommittee and to nominate themselves for Chair.

FoPT Format Subcommittee:

They are still focusing on the Drinking Water FoPT table. They have also been working on the question of the value of adding the methods to the table.

Craig Huff (Subcommittee Chair) sent the following summary to Maria:

In our subcommittee call on Fri. 4/6, we had discussed examples supporting providing analytical technologies/methods on the DW FoPT table. An example of why providing technology adds value is demonstrated with EDB/DBCP/TCP-- In this case the concentration ranges associated with these analytes on the DW FoPT table may not be appropriate for GC/MS technology (524.3) but better suited to GC/ECD technology (551.1/504.1) based on published method sensitivity alone. (see table below).

	Published MDL's in ug/L (using fortification method)					
	524.3	504.1	551.1	DW FoPT Range (ug/L)		PTRL (ug/L)
<i>1,2 Dibromoethane (EDB)</i>	<i>0.025</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>0.008</i>	<i>0.05</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0.03</i>
<i>1,2 Dibromo-3-Chloropropane (DBCP)</i>	<i>0.10</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>0.009</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0.06</i>
<i>1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP)</i>	<i>0.10</i>	<i>0.02</i>	<i>0.008</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>0.12</i>

Naphthalene is an example for why methods should be added. Naphthalene can be analyzed as a volatile by 524.2 or as a semivolatile by 525.2. Both are GC/MS methods, but in the DW FoPT table, naphthalene is listed under volatiles and the concentration range and acceptance criteria are based on volatile analyses.

Maria summarized the history behind the issue of adding methods to the FoPT tables.

Craig sees value in Technology, but in regards to adding Methods, he thinks it depends on what they will mean to people using the tables.

Maria asked if this response is acceptable to include in Maria's response to Cathy Westerman (VA).

Jeff asked if the PTPEC has anything in writing requesting that this be done. Eric emphasized what Ilona previously noted – the Subcommittee was formed in response to concerns from the NELAP AC to add Methods to the tables. Eric noted if they now are asking why this is being done – the PTPEC needs to meet with the NELAP AC to determine what is actually being requested. Michella confirmed this same understanding. Craig asked for clarification on this issue.

Nicole reminded everyone that the NELAP AC stated that our tables do not match what is currently in the standard. This is what the initial issue was. Jeff reminded everyone that TNI already has lists of Technologies and Methods and does not think all the methods need to be listed on the tables. Ron noted there is a problem with DW because there really aren't any Technologies – the actual Method must be used.

Michella asked where the list of technologies could be found and Craig responded it is on the TNI website. Carl recently reviewed this and volunteered to send it to Michella.

Michella also noted that the current tables are fine with EPA's DW program. It would be fine with EPA if it was not changed at all. Jeff again noted that a simple reference to the TNI database with the Technologies and Method Codes should be sufficient. All PTs require a method code.

Maria will request that this topic be discussed at an upcoming NELAP AC meeting. Maria will also send a copy of Craig's response. Maria will confirm that it needs to be methods on the DW table and Technologies on the other FoPT tables. Maria will send the request for Committee comment before it is sent to the NELAP AC. Eric and Craig will send Maria some ideas on what should be in Maria's request to the NELAP AC. She would like to receive these within the next week.

6. New Business

- None.

7. Action Items

- See Attachment B.

8. Next Meeting

The next PTPEC teleconference will be held on 5-21-2015 at 1:00pm EDT.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2 pm EST. Susan motioned, Nicole seconded. Unanimously approved.

Attachment A

Participants

TNI

Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
Maria Friedman (2014) - Present	TestAmerica	949-260-3201 maria.friedman@testamericainc.com
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Present	TNI	828-712-9242 tauntoni@msn.com
Eric Smith (2010) Present	ALS Environmental	904-394-4415 eric.smith@alsglobal.com
Justin Brown (2011) Absent	Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc.	847-875-2271 jbrown@emt.com
Susan Butts (2012) Present	South Carolina DHEC	(803)896-0978 buttsse@dhec.sc.gov
Patrick Brumfield (2012) Absent	Sigma-Aldrich RTC	(307) 721-5488 Pat.Brumfield@sial.com
Nicole Cairns (2012) Present	NY State DOH	(518) 473-0323 nicole.cairns@health.ny.gov
Joe Pardue (2011) Present	Pro2Serve, Inc.	423-337-3121 joe_pardue@charter.net
Dr. Andy Valkenburg_(2011) Present	Energy Laboratories, Inc.	406-869-6254 avalkenburg@energylab.com
Ron Houck Present	PA DEP	rhouck@pa.gov
Matt Sica Absent	ANAB, ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board	msica@anab.org
Dixie Marlin (2015) Present	Environmental Science Corporation	DMarlin@esclabsciences.com

Attachment B

Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
185	Send updated DW table with Footnote 15 to NELAP AC for approval.	Stacie	4/1/12	Stacie submitted this. Need to confirm approval.
214	Update Tin, Total Xylene and Total Cyanide on FoPT tables and submit for approval.	Carl Stacie	Next Meeting	In Progress
233	Review complaint process.	Maria Ilona	5/14/14	In Progress
246	Rewrite request to the Chemistry FoPT subcommittee and send to Ilona for distribution.	Maria	10/6/14	
249	Meet with PTPAs to discuss issues surrounding receiving data for FoPT Limit Updates and complaints. Determine if issue exists and whether subcommittee is needed to address this issue.	Maria	11/13/14	In progress.
251	Follow-up with Rami to provide support to solve footnote issue on WET FoPT Table.	Maria	10/30/14	Still in Progress
253	Check with EPA attorney on requirement that Vinyl Chloride cannot be “0”.	Michella	12/15/14	
254	Review PT SOP comments by the Policy Committee and add to agenda as appropriate.	Maria Ilona	12/15/14	Waiting for comments.
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.
260	Amend FoPT Table Format Subcommittee Scope and distribute for review.	Maria	12/12/14	

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
263	Look into new website design and see if there is an FAQ section that the committee can use to summarize some of their processes – complaint, addition/deletion of analyses to FoPT tables, etc. Talk to IT Committee.	Maria	12/12/14	
264	Update Complaint SOP to reflect Standard requirement that PTPA be contacted.	TBD	TBD	
268	Prepare DRAFT example template to request exceptions to running PTs.	Jeff Lowry Shawn Kassner	3/19/15	Next meeting- 4/16/15
269	Prepare DRAFT response to SIRs after meeting with NELAP AC.	Maria	TBD	
270	Share DMR QA letter with WET FoPT Subcommittee and see if footnote is still needed.	Maria	3/19/15	Shared – waiting for response.
271	Provide list of replicates and volumes from WET Subcommittee to PT Providers.	Maria	3/19/15	
274	Notify NELAP AC about analyte requests.	Maria	3/19/15	Next meeting – 4/16/15
275	Submit letter explaining need to include NPW with MPN analyte request.	Carl	3/19/15	
276	Check with Jerry on effective date for LAMS change.	Maria	5-21-15	
277	Respond to Aaren's questions.	Micro FoPT Subcommittee	6-18-15	
278	Prepare request for NELAP AC to address the need for Technologies/ Methods on the FoPT tables. Send Draft to PTPEC before distribution	Maria, Craig, Eric	5-21-15	

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
	to NELAP AC.			

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	
11	Evaluate how labs are accredited for analytes that co-elute.	5-19-11	
12	PTPA Evaluation Checklist needs to be updated prior to next round of evaluations.	8-6-13	
13	Charter needs to be updated in November.	Ongoing	
14	<p>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.</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> <p>3/20/14: Eric noted that there are some logistics with doing a 6 month review. This may need to be a separate committee so it does not hamper the progress of the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee.</p>	2/20/14	
15	Correct FoPT tables for 2,2'-oxybis(1-chloropropane) once LAMS is updated. It could take 3-6 months.	2-3-15	