

TNI PT Executive Committee Meeting Summary

May 17, 2012

1) Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chair, Stacie Metzler, called the TNI PT Executive Committee meeting to order on May 17, 2012, at 1:00PM EST. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 9 Executive Committee members present on the call. Additional people on the call included: Rob Knake, Randy Querry, and Geneva Bowman.

2) Complaint Resolution SOP : 4-102

Review SOP and Eric's comments e-mailed 4/26/12:

Title of SOP needs to include "Complaint".

1.1 Replace "PTP" with "PT Program" to distinguish between the Program and PT Providers that are often referred to as PTP.

1.1 should be removed from the numbering and made to be more generic. Then use the numbering below to add any clarification.

1.2 and 1.3 – Changes OK.

2.0 – Changes OK.

4.0 – Changes OK.

5.1.1 – Changes made to text to reflect discussion regarding above. Add a reference to the TNI Complaint SOP if the complaining party has an issue with submitting it to the PT Program Chair.

5.1.2 - Add something about acknowledging receipt of the complaint.

In agreement with other recommended changes made by Eric.

Will continue review of this SOP at next meeting.

3) FoPT Analyte Application

Eric noted that it has been completed and forwarded to Stacie. It has been finalized.

The EPA can submit an application without a sponsor.

4) New Business

- None.

5) Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PT Executive Committee will be the third Thursday in June.
(Note: June meeting canceled.)

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 EST.

Attachment A

Participants

TNI

Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
Stacie Metzler (2009) CHAIR Present	HRSD	757-460-4217 smetzler@hrsd.com
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Present	TNI	828-712-9242 tauntoni@msn.com
Eric Smith (2010) Absent	TestAmerica Laboratories, Inc.	615-726-0177 x1238 eric.smith@testamericainc.com
Justin Brown (2011) Present	Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc.	847-875-2271 jbrown@emt.com
Amy Doupe (2009) Present	Lancaster Laboratories, Inc.	717-656-2300 x1812 aldoupe@lancasterlabs.com
Steve Gibson (2011) Absent	Texas Comm. on Env. Quality	512-239-1518 jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us
Susan Butts (2012) Present	South Carolina DHEC	(803)896-0978 buttse@dhec.sc.gov
Patrick Brumfield (2012) Present	Sigma-Aldrich RTC	(307) 721-5488 Pat.Brumfield@sial.com
Michella Karapondo (2011) Present	USEPA	513-569-7141 karapondo.michella@epa.gov
Carl Kircher (2010) Absent	Florida DOH	904-791-1574 carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us
Nicole Cairns (2012) Present	NY State DOH	nlc02@health.state.ny.us
Joe Pardue (2011) Absent	Pro2Serve, Inc.	423-337-3121 joe_pardue@charter.net
Dr. Andy Valkenburg (2011) Present	Energy Laboratories, Inc.	avalkenburg@energylab.com 406-869-6254
Curtis Wood (2010) Present	Environmental Resource Associates	303-431-8454 cwood@eraqc.com

Attachment B

Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
165	Follow-up on need for NEFAP EC approval of the FSMO FoPT Table.	Eric	Next Meeting	
168	Update FoPT Management SOP, distribute to EC and then distribute to NEFAP EC and NELAP AC for comment.	Eric	Next Meeting	Received from NELAP AC. Need to follow-up with NEFAP.
169	Contact Chem FoPT Subcommittee to look at the PCB data again and make sure that it supports the limits TNI has set.	Eric	Next Meeting	Eric will touch base with Carl.
170	Ask NEFAP EC and NELAP AC if they are aware of any analytes that need to be added to the table.	Eric	8/16/11	Need to follow-up with NEFAP.
181	Supply Ilona with Scope information for PTPAs.	Eric	12/22/11	
183	Update Protozoa FoPT Table and distribute.	Carl	4/19/12	
184	Invite Carrie and Leah to next meeting.	Michella	4/19/12	Complete
185	Send updated DW table with Footnote 15 to NELAP AC for approval.	Stacie	4/1/12	
186	Follow-up with PT Expert Committee regarding “Assigned Value”.	Susan	4/19/12	
187	Review complaint #1 included in Attachment D before the next meeting.	All	4/19/12	
188	Review SOP 4-101 in preparation for review during the next conference call.	All	On-going	

Attachment C

Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
6	DW Table Micro Total Coliform Rule Request	10/15/09	9 out of 10 vs. 10 out of 10
7	Add the Field PT Subcommittee to the limit update SOP during its next update.	3/4/10	
8	Implement all policies and procedures necessary for operation and continual improvement of a national PT program – including FoPTs for various matrices, stakeholders and accreditation programs. (Need to update SOPs – including an appeals process) – Complete by 7/1/11.	10/21/10	From 2010 Strategic Plan Review
9	Implement a process to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the PT provider oversight program and the Fields of Proficiency Testing. Complete by 6/1/11.	10/21/10	From 2010 Strategic Plan Review
10	Define a process for addition or removal of analytes from FoPT tables. Complete by 7/1/11.	10/21/10	Complete
11	Evaluate how labs are accredited for analytes that co-elute.	5-19-11	
12			

Attachment D – Complaint #1

Description of Issue

Many of the State AB websites link directly to the A2LA website for the list of approved TNI PT Providers. This information is no longer correct since PT Providers can now (since January 2011) be accredited by 2 different PTPAs. This situation involves accreditation bodies in both NELAP states and non-NELAP states that use the TNI Standards. We feel that TNI is not actively or has not properly notified the states and that this situation is contributing to a restraint of trade with the state accreditation bodies defined above.

Description of Actions

1/2011 - ACLASS was approved as a TNI PTPA.
10/1/2011 – “PT PROVIDER” switched TNI PT Provider accreditation to ACLASS. Prior to this date “PT PROVIDER” was accredited by both A2LA and ACLASS. There was no lapse in accreditation during this period.
11/10/11 – became aware that North Carolina (NCDENR) had issued letters saying that “PT PROVIDER” was not an accredited provider. The NCDENR website links directly to the A2LA webpage which only shows the A2LA accredited PT Providers. “PT PROVIDER” requested that NCDENR retract the letter. NCDENR said that they would temporarily accept PT data and they would try to update their website. As of 2/16/12 the website still links to A2LA website only.
12/2/2011 - “PT PROVIDER” contacted state ABs to make sure that they were aware that ACLASS is an approved TNI PTPA and that “PT PROVIDER” is an approved TNI PTP.
12/8/11 – Received email from Minnesota (MNELAP) saying that we were not on their list of approved TNI PT Providers because their website directs laboratories only to the A2LA website. “PT PROVIDER” requested that they change this and were told that they are working on it. As of 2/16/12 the website still links to A2LA website only.
1/31/2012 – Issue was brought up in the TNI PT Executive Committee meeting. The issue did not seem to gain much traction and the consensus seemed to be that the issue should be handled by the TNI BOD.
2/15/12 – became aware that the South Carolina (SCDHEC) website directs laboratories to the A2LA website only for the list of approved TNI PT Providers. The South Carolina (SCDHEC) representative said that they were never notified of ACLASS being approved as a TNI PTPA until “PT PROVIDER” contacted them on 12/2/2011 and would change their website as soon as possible. As of 2/16/12 the website still links to A2LA website only.

Description of Remedy Sought

While we appreciate the memo issued 1/13/2012 on the TNI website regarding clarification of approved TNI PT Providers, we feel that this is not enough. We ask that TNI formally contact any NELAP State ABs or any non-NELAP State ABs that apply the TNI Standards and inform them that linking their website to only the A2LA website is misleading, outdated, incorrect and is currently restricting free trade. We additionally request that TNI inform the states that the only correct list of approved TNI PT Providers can be found on the TNI website and that any links should point to the TNI website.
