

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

**August 4, 2014**

### **1. Roll call and approval of minutes:**

Chair, Maria Friedman, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order on August 4, 2014, at 1 PM ET in Washington, DC. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 10 Executive Committee members present. Associate members on the phone: Rami Naddy (TRE Environmental Strategies) – Chair, WET FoPT Subcommittee.

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

The meeting minutes from July 24, 2014 were reviewed. A motion was made by Eric and seconded by Joe to approve the minutes. There was no additional discussion. Vote: 8 – For 0 – Against 0 – Abstain. The motion passed.

### **2. Chair Update**

- A volunteer has contacted Maria about being the chair of the FoPT Table Update Subcommittee. Ilona will help set-up a meeting for the committee to meet and elect a chair.

- WET FoPT Table. Maria reviewed the changes Rami made to the table and put it up on the screen for discussion.

Andy reminded everyone what the committee discussed regarding concentration ranges. He has continued to have discussions to understand why the PTs are set. He is still questioning whether it is really a quality control sample. An attendee asked what the alternative would be. Andy felt the concentrations should have different ranges.

The PT providers have modified the ranges. Jeff thinks the PTPEC should request data from labs and determine appropriate ranges. Joe would prefer to wait to approve the table until the ranges are defined. Eric disagreed and explained that the table submitted is an improvement and should be approved while these discussions about ranges continue.

Pat made a motion to accept the revised WET PT table as presented today. The motion was seconded by Justin. Vote: For – 9 Against – 0 Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

The WET FoPT table is approved by the PTPEC. The NELAP AC still needs to approve the table. Maria will prepare a letter to submit the table to the NELAP AC.

Jeff Lowry asked if they could get the info Rami originally put in the table. A letter will be sent to PT Providers to alert them of the approval of the table by the PTPEC.

- DW FoPT Table – Maria reviewed the changes made to the table:

- Amended cyanide name and analyte code.
- Added footnote 16. Similar to Footnote 11 in NPW FoPT table.
- In Footnote 15 – change Volatile Aromatics to Volatile Organic Compounds.

Maria believes there is further discussion needed on headers.

Nicole thinks Footnote 1 should be eliminated. It is no longer needed.

Nicole made a motion to remove Footnote 1 and 2 from the analyte – it is used on header. Also eliminate Footnote 1.

Attendee commented – could Footnote 1 be changed to wording in Footnote 16. This would make it a lot easier to implement because all footnote don't need to be renumbered.

There was no second received to the motion and it was removed from the table.

A motion was made by Nicole to remove the 1 and 2 next to the analyte header. The motion was seconded by Susan and unanimously approved.

Jeff and Nicole are in disagreement on how Footnote 1 applies to the regulated analytes. Maria will email Michella to see what EPAs understanding is.

### 3. Review of Action Items

Maria has requested more information about the complaint received from Jerry. The person has not responded so this will be closed out. Maria will contact Jerry.

Ilona will follow-up with Cheryl about AIHA Asbestos PTs. She will report on this at the next teleconference.

### 4. Subcommittee Updates

WET Subcommittee

See above.

#### Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee:

Carl Kircher provided an update. There are 9 subcommittee members.

The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee is continuing to review SCM analytes. The group is currently working on Metals. The next group will be General Inorganics.

Carl provided a review of the procedures the subcommittee follows in evaluating FoPTs. People are invited to attend any of the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee meetings to get a better idea of how limits are established.

#### FoPT Table Update Subcommittee

A meeting will be planned in the next few weeks.

#### SOP Subcommittee

They are still working on the FoPT Limit Update SOP. This SOP is being significantly updated. In many cases the issue with this SOP is a need for more documentation of what is actually done.

The committee hasn't met for a month, but will get started again late August.

The Field of Proficiency Management SOP has been completed. Using this SOP for the first time, there are some suggestions for changes that this subcommittee will address.

The PT Expert Committee has requested that the PTPEC prepare more SOPs to cover the items being pulled out of the standard.

### 5. New Business

#### - PTPA Updates

- A2LA. Kelley Black. (see slides in Attachment D).

The table shown in 2013 was redone and the results from 2013 and 2014 were compared. You don't want to see zero – there should be some failures. All results have improved.

- ACLASS - After Break, Matt gave a brief update. There were no significant changes to the program.

- Charter

The PTPEC Charter needs to be reviewed and updated. TNI is planning a strategic planning meeting in October and it would be good to have this updated by this meeting.

There was a discussion about looking for impact when limits and concentrations are updated. There was discussion that this is done when limits are updated down the road, but Matt and Ilona were thinking about something more immediate that PTPAs are monitoring. Are there changes that cause a statistically significant increase in failure rate?

Stacie asked if it would be helpful to do a Webinar for stakeholders to explain how PT limits are set.

Michella's membership date needs to be confirmed.

Work on the Charter will continue in the next meeting.

6. Comments

Jeff Lowry – PTRLs are at 10% of the lowest values. He commented that this may be an issue with Arochlors. He would like to suggest that the PTPEC have the Chem FoPT Subcommittee look at PTRLs – especially the Arochlors. The 10% does not work for the arochlors most of the time. This comment will be discussed at the next PTPEC meeting.

7. Action Items

- See Attachment B.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be August 21, 2014 by teleconference.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33pm EDT. Stacie motioned, Joe seconded. Unanimously approved.

## Attachment A

### Participants TNI

#### Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
Stacie Metzler (2009) <b>Present</b>	HRSD	757-460-4217 <a href="mailto:smetzler@hrsd.com">smetzler@hrsd.com</a>
Maria Friedman (2014) - <b>Present</b>	TestAmerica	949-260-3201 <a href="mailto:maria.friedman@testamericainc.com">maria.friedman@testamericainc.com</a>
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator <b>Present</b>	TNI	828-712-9242 <a href="mailto:tauntoni@msn.com">tauntoni@msn.com</a>
Eric Smith (2010) <b>Present</b>	ALS Environmental	904-394-4415 <a href="mailto:eric.smith@alsglobal.com">eric.smith@alsglobal.com</a>
Justin Brown (2011) <b>Present</b>	Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc.	847-875-2271 <a href="mailto:jbrown@emt.com">jbrown@emt.com</a>
Susan Butts (2012) <b>Present</b>	South Carolina DHEC	(803)896-0978 <a href="mailto:buttsse@dhec.sc.gov">buttsse@dhec.sc.gov</a>
Patrick Brumfield (2012) <b>Present</b>	Sigma-Aldrich RTC	(307) 721-5488 <a href="mailto:Pat.Brumfield@sial.com">Pat.Brumfield@sial.com</a>
Michella Karapondo (2011) <b>Absent</b>	USEPA	513-569-7141 <a href="mailto:karapondo.michella@epa.gov">karapondo.michella@epa.gov</a>
Nicole Cairns (2012) <b>Present</b>	NY State DOH	(518) 473-0323 <a href="mailto:nicole.cairns@health.ny.gov">nicole.cairns@health.ny.gov</a>
Joe Pardue (2011) <b>Present</b>	Pro2Serve, Inc.	423-337-3121 <a href="mailto:joe_pardue@charter.net">joe_pardue@charter.net</a>
Dr. Andy Valkenburg_(2011) <b>Present</b>	Energy Laboratories, Inc.	406-869-6254 <a href="mailto:avalkenburg@energylab.com">avalkenburg@energylab.com</a>
Ron Houck <b>Absent</b>	PA DEP	<a href="mailto:rhouck@pa.gov">rhouck@pa.gov</a>
Matt Sica <b>Present – After 3:30</b>	ACCLASS	<a href="mailto:msica@anab-aiclass.org">msica@anab-aiclass.org</a>

## Attachment B

### Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
185	Send updated DW table with Footnote 15 to NELAP AC for approval.	Stacie	4/1/12	Stacie submitted this. Need to confirm approval.
213	Update FoPT Subcommittee lists and give to Ilona for corrections on the website.	Stacie	Next Meeting	Complete
214	Update Tin, Total Xylene and Total Cyanide on FoPT tables and submit for approval.	Carl Stacie	Next Meeting	In Progress
217	Cyanide and Footnote 15 needs to be updated on the DW table. There is a question about analyte code. This needs to be researched and a proposed update made to the PTP EC to complete this action item.	Michella	Next Meeting	Complete
226	Send FoPT table with need for Cyanide update to Carl Kircher. Due back to PTPEC before next meeting.	Stacie	4/4/14	Complete
231	Meet to discuss how information is requested from PTPAs and how it relates to PT Providers.	Ilona Maria	4/15/14	
233	Review complaint process.	Maria Ilona	5/14/14	In Progress
238	Contact AIHA regarding Asbestos.	Ilona	7/16/14	
239	Send out voting information for 3 PT related motions that need to be closed with email votes.	Maria	7/1/14	Complete
240	Send Rami an example FoPT table posting.	Maria	7/1/14	Complete

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
241	Update WET FoPT table for review in DC.	Rami	8/1/14	

## 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	





## A2LA PTPA Update Report

Kelly Black  
Rob Knake



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

### A2LA PTPA Status

- 4 PTPs currently accredited
  - One PT Provider recently renewed
  - Three PT Providers scheduled for renewal assessments in 2014
- One complaint received in summer of 2014, investigated, but not yet fully closed.



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

### Database Status

- Continue to monitor every study for all analytes
- Any concerns regarding studies are
  - followed up on as needed basis, and
  - discussed during the onsite assessment process.
- Next:
  - A brief follow-up from prior presentations on acceptance rates, with a small new twist to consider....



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

### SOLIDS by analyte

Comparing Jan 2013 with Aug 2014 – 24 month window

Graphic of rejection rates by analyte for two year period preceding Jan 2013 and two year period preceding Aug 2014.



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

### WPCHEM by analyte

Comparing Jan 2013 with Aug 2014 – 24 month window

Graphic of rejection rates by analyte for two year period preceding Jan 2013 and two year period preceding Aug 2014.




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### WSCHEM by analyte

Comparing Jan 2013 with Aug 2014 – 24 month window


Graphic of rejection rates by analyte for two year period preceding Jan 2013 and two year period preceding Aug 2014.



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

### Unacceptable Rates for Spiked and Unspiked Samples (V3 6.3.3)


- For spiked analytes, approximately 3.6% of the samples are unacceptable.
- For un-spiked analytes, approximately 1.8% of the results are unacceptable.
- This difference is due, in part, to the current use of PTRLs in scoring. Perhaps worth looking at the difference between the acceptance rates pre/post TNI 2009 V3 when the use of the PTRL for grading changed? Also perhaps worth looking at the "expected" acceptance rate of 95% vs. observed rate?



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

### We Thank:

- Our customers: the A2LA accredited Proficiency Testing Providers
- Our assessors, the PTPEC, and the PTEC that support us in the continuous improvement of our accreditation program



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