## TNI PT Executive Committee Meeting Summary

#### August 11, 2010

#### 1) Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chairman Eric Smith called the TNI PT Executive Committee meeting to order on August 11, 2010, at 3:30 PM EST in Washington, DC. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 9 Board members present at the meeting.

Minutes from the July 15th meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### 2) Overview of PT Executive Committee Activities

Eric gave a powerpoint presentation on the current activities of the PT Executive Committee (see Attachment B). Under the Fields of Proficiency Testing topic, Eric requested input on EPA's request for TNI to assume the Cryptosporidium PTs. He indicated that TNI needs to develop a response to this request. Questions and comments on this topic included:

- What are the approved methods for crypto? Are there plans for polymerase chain reaction? Should this be taken into consideration?
- What is the concentration range of these PTs? The letter from EPA said 50-200 cysts. In DW, they are looking for an absence of crypto. These are quantitative PTs for lab comparability.
- What type of statistical analysis does EPA need? Are they looking for viable organisms or just presence/absence?
- Is this an accreditation standard? If so, it could take some time to develop and should go hand in hand with FoPT development.
- EPA is currently providing PTs 3 times per year. They would be willing to discuss 2 times per year.
- What has been EPA's cost to run this program? It would be good to get feedback from their PT providers. EPA does not directly contract for PTs, but will make historical data available.
- This may be a good opportunity for the PT EC to document the process for accepting new PT programs.
- Small labs have anxiety about EPA transferring the process outside the agency. There will be increased costs. Labs have existing contracts based

on current costs. How can small lab stakeholders get involved in this process? The micro business is not like chemistry. It depends on the quality of PTs. EPA should do a cost estimate on privatizing this PT program.

- Are there any issues with the current PT vendors? No, some isolated issues, but nothing major.
- Is the program likely to grow if more PTs are available? Yes, more labs have indicated they want to be accredited. Currently, there are 57 labs accredited for Crypto, but there may be more. Crypto is just a monitoring requirement now.

Eric requested that questions and comments be e-mailed to him. He will compile this list and forward it to EPA to ask for clarification.

#### 3) Experimental PTs

The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee has been working on the evaluation of the experimental analytes and their possible movement to the Accreditation tables. The revised DW FoPT table was sent to the NELAP AC on July 27, 2010 for their review and adoption. The PT Executive Committee has received some feedback on the FoPT tables that are being worked on and reviewed some options for dealing with the issues communicated. Questions and comments included:

- Do the experimental PTs that were moved to the accreditation tables meet the requirements of Chapter 2? If not, then some ABs cannot adopt them. Steve Stubbs (Texas) commented that he looks at three criteria: 1. Is it in violation of his rules? 2) Is the PT needed? Is there a regulatory need? 3) If the acceptance range is too wide, it doesn't say anything about the lab's operation.
- Aaren: The NELAP AC wants the experimental tables to go away. Option 1 as presented to the NELAP AC by the PT EC is almost there, but the NELAP AC doesn't want the experimental tables retained. NELAP AC suggests that the experimentals that meet the current criteria can be moved and should be moved. The others should be dropped.
- Eric commented that the benefit of leaving the experimental on a table is to possibly receive more data so that limits could be generated. Steve Stubbs commented that if there is not enough data after 5 years, perhaps they are not needed.
- July 1, 20111, is a critical date. If the experimentals are not gone by then, labs will have to participate. The current standard does not require participation.
- Kirstin (PT Expert Committee Chair) commented that the PT Expert Committee did not issue a TIA regarding experimental PTs because they

- thought they were being eliminated and a TIA was unnecessary. They are now considering a TIA.
- TNI needs to consider the needs of non-AB states in eliminating or adding PTs.
- The AC would be willing to look at a list of analytes that don't meet the 2003 Standard Criteria and provide feedback regarding their deletion.
- Scott Hoatson: If experimental PTs continue to exist, they should be voluntary and they should not be scored.
- Consideration needs to be given as to how analytes will be added to the tables if the experimental tables are no longer an option.
- The PT EC will be working on an SOP for FoPT Table Management.

#### 4) A2LA

Dan Tholan from A2LA gave a presentation (see Attachment C).

A2LA has been populating the PT database the last year. They have worked with the PT providers when they have identified any issues.

#### 5) Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PT Executive Committee will be a conference call on Thursday, August 18, 2010, at 1:30pm EST.

Action Items are included in Attachment D and Attachment E includes a listing of reminders.

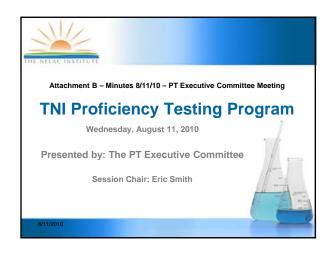
The meeting was adjourned at 5pm EST.

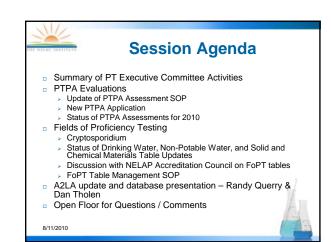
## **Attachment A**

## Participants TNI

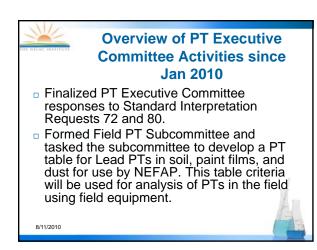
## **Proficiency Testing Executive Committee**

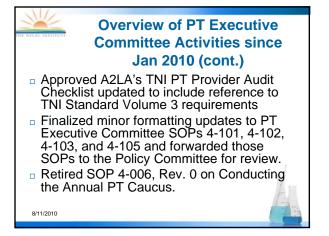
Members	Affiliation	Contact Information	
Eric Smith, Chair (2009) <b>Present</b>	TestAmerica	615-726-0177 x1238 eric.smith@testamericainc.com	
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Present	TNI	828-712-9242 tauntoni@msn.com	
Gary Dechant  Present	Analytical Quality Associates, Inc.	970-434-4875 gldechant@aol.com	
Amy Doupe  Present	Lancaster Laboratories, Inc.	717-656-2300 x1812 aldoupe@lancasterlabs.com	
Steve Gibson  Present	Texas Comm. on Env. Quality	512-239-1518 jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us	
Svetlana Isozamova  Absent	Accutest Laboratories – Southeast Division	407-425-6700 svetlani@accutest.com	
Michella Karapondo  Present	USEPA	513-569-7141 karapondo.michella@epa.gov	
Carl Kircher  Present	Florida DOH	904-791-1574 carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us	
Stacie Metzler  Present	HRSD	757-460-4217 smetzler@hrsd.com	
Matt Sica	State of Maine	207-287-1929 matthew.sica@maine.gov	
Present			
Curtis Wood	Environmental Resource Associates	303-431-8454 cwood@eraqc.com	
Present			















# Overview of PT Executive Committee Activities since Jan 2010 (cont.)

- Reviewed and approved an update to the Drinking Water FoPT table and forwarded the committee's recommendation to NELAP Accreditation Council for consideration.
- Currently reviewing updates to the Nonpotable Water FoPT table and Solid & Chemical Materials FoPT table proposed by the Chemistry FoPT table Subcommittee

8/11/2010



#### **PTPA Evaluations**

- Reviewed and finalized an update to the PT Executive Committee's SOP 4-104 on Evaluating PT Provider Accreditors
  - to reflect the requirements in Volume 3 (EL-V3-2009) and Volume 4 (EL-V4-2009) of the 2009 TNI Standard-Environmental Laboratory Sector and SSAS Standard modules.
  - revisions and clarifications made to both the application and assessment processes

8/11/2010



#### **PTPA Evaluations**

- Revised and finalized an update to the TNI PTPA Application Form
  - Removed application example from the PT SOP 4-104.
  - > Clarified application requirements.
  - > Improved document control features.
- TNI PTPA Application Form, Revision 1, Effective 7/15/10 will be posted on TNI website

8/11/2010



#### **PTPA Evaluations**

- Two PTPA evaluations are in progress for 2010 –
  - > New applicant, ACLASS
  - > Re-evaluation of A2LA
- Evaluation teams have been assembled for both assessments.
  - ACLASS Carl Kircher (lead) and Amy Doupe
  - A2LA Stacie Metzler (lead) and Kirstin McCracken

8/11/2010





## Fields of Proficiency Testing

- Cryptosporidium
  - In the Spring of 2010, the EPA sent a letter to the PT Executive Committee requesting a review of documents associated with an EPA evaluation of the technical feasibility of private vendors providing PT samples to laboratories approved to analyze raw drinking water samples for Cryptosporidium.
  - The EPA has asked the PT Executive Committee to coordinate a review of the EPA's current Cryptosporidium PT procedure and potential inclusion of Cryptosporidium as a new field of proficiency testing in Drinking Water for the TNI program.

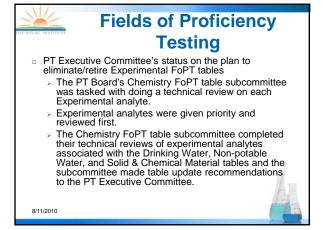
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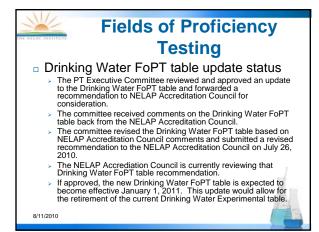
## Fields of Proficiency Testing

- Cryptosporidium (cont.)
  - PT Executive Committee review of EPA document
    - + Comments from Committee members
    - + Comments from the audience
  - > Developing a response to EPA's request
  - > Cryptosporidium PT and QA program meeting
    - Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 3 p.m. in the Concord room. An open session designed to allow PT providers, labs, and others to provide further input on this topic. Handouts of the EPA document will be available to attendees of that meeting.

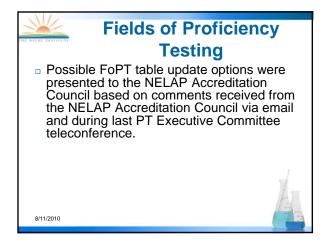
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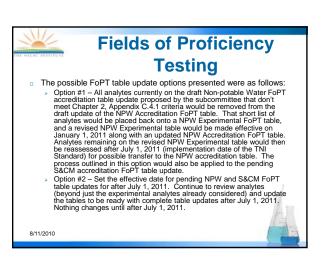














- The NELAP Accreditation Council has been invited to attend our session this afternoon to provide feedback on the possible options presented or to provide the PT Executive Committee with an alternative preferred option.
- At this time, the floor is open for any present NELAP Accreditation Council member to discuss any comments/questions on this topic with the PT Executive Committee.

8/11/2010







Attachment C - 8/11/2010- PT Executive Meeting

## A2LA TNI PT Oversight Program

#### The Forum on Laboratory Accreditation



Dan Tholen American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) August 11, 2010

American Association for Laboratory Accreditat

#### Overview

- One issue "assigned value"
- Oversight Activities
- Database Now Active, 4thQ09, 1stQ 10
  - 174 studies uploaded
  - Nearing sufficient data for comparisons
- Plans for 2010/2011



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#### **Assigned Value**

- Defined effectively the same in TNI Vol 3 and in ISO/IEC 17043
- Used differently for those analytes where
- Consensus mean is used as expected mean
- a b regression coefficients used to determine the expected mean
- Confusion in application of footnotes
- Confusion in application of some 17043

American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

#### **Oversight Reviews**

- 1st year: focused on getting successful uploads PTPs and then reviewing flags
  - Illegal units; non-TNI studies; additional poststudy results; idiosyncrasies of each PTP
  - Required active oversight from A2LA, including review of flags and formats
  - Required special encouragements (some providers)

American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

#### **Automatic Screens**

- All submitted studies are screened:
  - Analytes in proper groups, use proper units
  - Analytes in TNI range
  - Evaluation limits calculated per FoPT
  - Verification mean close to assigned value
  - Homogeneity within accepted limits

Stability within accepted limits

A mariagn Association for Laboratory Apprehitation

#### Initial activities

- Clean up formatting in reports before flags could be used
- Review individual approaches by PTPs
- · Error detection and correction
  - Incorrect assigned values for calculating limits
  - Failure to apply 10% and 110% limits

Incorrect FoPT coefficients

#### 1<sup>st</sup> year process improvements

- Revised some flag limits;
- Designed revisions to streamline input options, and interpretation of flags
- Reporting specific problems and other findings to the renewal assessment teams



American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

### PT Study – Ongoing Monitoring

- 174 Studies Uploaded, from all providers
- All parts of database working for nearly all providers, most of the time
- Some PTP input processes are stable, some not



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#### Oversight Analyses

- Database now (8/2010) has a practical minimum numbers of studies for extended analyses
  - Uniform concentration ranges (12-20 per PTP)
  - Unacceptable rates (3 per PTP, 50 for %tiles)
  - Recovery (6-12 per PTP, 50 overall)



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#### **Uniform Concentration**

- Look for sample concentrations to span range of PT testing
  - 12-20 samples per analyte per provider
  - 4 equal quartiles of concentration range
  - Chi-Square analyses (expect 3-5 samples per quartile)
    - · Conducted semi-annually



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## Unacceptable Rates

- For every analyte, for all PTPs, calculate distribution of unacceptable rates for all studies with n>50.
- Accumulate 3-5 consecutive studies for each analyte
- Calculate all-PTP distribution (not average)
- Flag unaccept = 0%, <5%tile or > 95%tile
  Conducted semi-annually

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## Unacceptable Rates

- For all analytes in a group, and all PTPs, calculate distribution of combined unacceptable rates for all studies.
- Calculate for all analyte groups
- Flag unaccept < 5%tile or > 95%tile
  - · Conducted semi-annually



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#### Recovery

- Regression of study mean vs. expected mean (assigned value or calculated)
- Flag slope  $\neq 1.0$  or intercept  $\neq 0.0$
- Data query to study recovery vs. expected and vs. all PTPs
  - · Conducted monthly



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## Imminent changes

- Changes soon (this week?):
- First set of revisions, to streamline data for analytes determined to be stable and analytes not tested for homogeneity
- · Modified flagging criteria
- Corrections for excluded analytes (BOD, COD, phenols, etc.)

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## 2010/2011 Changes

- Implement new FoPT Tables maintain multiple levels of tables, as PTPs implement new requirements.
- Change Experimental to Listed analytes
- Develop review analysis templates
- · Streamline flags



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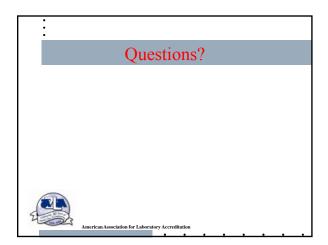
## PT Study Monitoring

- Will start planned monthly and semi-annual analysis reviews in Sept, 2010, when 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr results are uploaded
- Not enough data to update FoPT tables, but will have by next year at this time
  - Identify analytes with poorest agreement
     Identify opportunities for fixed limits

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Slide 17, 18 and 19 were examples of the data base. They were deleted because they included specific provider data.

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## **Attachment D**

## **Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee**

	Action Items – TNTTT Executive Committee					
	A T.	****	Expected	Actual		
	Action Item	Who	Completion	Completion		
17.	Work on language for new TNI policy	Chuck	Eric will	Looking for		
	based on NELAC Policy #16 and EPA	Eric will	follow-up	volunteer to		
	Criteria Document.	review and	with Chuck to	help Chuck.		
		determine if	determine a	_		
	Policy #16 deals with headers on the PT	this is still	date.			
	tables.	needed.				
97	Make a recommendation to address	Carl	2/18/10	Next call's		
,	evaluation of "less than" (<) reporting.	Eric will	Completion	agenda.		
	Distribute to Board for consideration.	review	next meeting.	agenda.		
	Distribute to Board for consideration.	Teview	next meeting.	New item for		
100	TT'-1-1'-141-4 (1-4	Carretia	C/15/10	May.		
102	Highlight analytes that are listed more	Curtis	6/15/10	Complete		
	than one time in FoPT tables.					
114	Designation COW/	D 1	£ 20.10	Dan di		
114	Review SOW to see if an update is	Randy	5-20-10	Per section		
	needed to provide data from the			2.7 they need		
	database.			written		
				permission		
	Dan – Once we explained what it was			from the PT		
	being used for, the providers did not			Providers.		
	have an issues. "n" issue was resolved.					
	Randy said he now has the approval and			Send		
	data is available.			language to		
				Eric.		
123	Update SOP to reflect changes	Eric	6/17/10	Complete		
	discussed on the call. Distribute for			r		
	electronic vote.					
	<b>3.331.331.3</b>					
124	Review questions from NELAP Board	All	6/21/10	Complete		
	and provide comment.	1 111	0,21,10	Compiete		
	and provide comment					
125	Distribute voting information on	Eric	7/15/10	Complete		
123	designating A2LA as a PTPA for SSAS.	Liic	7/13/10	Complete		
	designating 1121/1 as a 1 11 11 101 55/15.					
126	Summarize possible solutions for FoPT	Ilona	7/22/10	Complete		
120	table issues and distribute to	Hona	// <i>22</i> /10	Complete		
	subcommittee for comment.					
	Subcommute for comment.					
127	Propaga a mail to AC with antique (a) for	Eric	7/20/10	Complete		
127	Prepare e-mail to AC with option(s) for	Effe	7/30/10	Complete		
	moving forward with FoPT tables.					

Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
Re-establish WET PT Subcommittee.	PT Executive Committee	9/x/10	
Vote on revised DW FoPT Table.	All	7/30/10	Complete
Vote on finalization of the PTPA Application.	All	7/30/10	Complete
Prepare preliminary DC Agenda and distribute for comment.	Eric	7/30/10	Complete
	Re-establish WET PT Subcommittee.  Vote on revised DW FoPT Table.  Vote on finalization of the PTPA Application.  Prepare preliminary DC Agenda and	Re-establish WET PT Subcommittee.  PT Executive Committee  Vote on revised DW FoPT Table.  All  Vote on finalization of the PTPA Application.  Prepare preliminary DC Agenda and  Eric	Action ItemWhoCompletionRe-establish WET PT Subcommittee.PT Executive Committee9/x/10Vote on revised DW FoPT Table.All7/30/10Vote on finalization of the PTPA Application.All7/30/10Prepare preliminary DC Agenda andEric7/30/10

## **Attachment E**

## **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	