Radiochemistry Expert Committee (REC)
Meeting Summary

January 21, 2015

1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Bob Shannon, Chair, called the meeting to order by teleconference at 1pm EST on January 21, 2015. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 8 members present. Associate members: Ariana Mankerian, Joe Pardue, Carl Kircher, Ron Houck, and Terry Romanko.

Minutes for the September 24, 2015 were distributed and approved by email:
A motion was made by Dave on 1/12/15 to approve the September 24, 2014 minutes. The motion was seconded by Nile. Vote: 8 – For (Bob, David, Marty, Vas, Keith, Larry, Tom and Carolyn) 0 – Against, 0 – Abstain, 2 – Missed voting. The motion passed and the minutes will be posted.

Associate members need to let Bob and Ilona know they own a copy of ISO 17025 so they can be included in distributions of the draft working standard updates.

2. Committee Charter

Bob distributed the charter by email and then reviewed the changes on Webex.

Comments:
- Vas did not like the comment about "public input" in the Mission. It was changed to: … based on input from stakeholder groups and public: …
- Ariana commented that "stakeholder groups and public" should be used consistently between the Mission and Goals sections. She also asked if Goal #2 should include relevance to other TNI modules. This is covered in Goal #6.
- Bob looked at membership and confirmed that members up for renewal were willing to renew as included in the Draft Charter. There was agreement.

Dave made a motion to accept the Charter (Attachment D) as modified. The motion was seconded by Tom and unanimously approved.

Bob will send it to the CSDP Executive Committee.

3. Notes from RRMC Presentation

Dave Fauth brought these comments from the RRMC presentation. Bob started to respond to the questions with the bold text.

Does a simple transfer of samples to new containers fall into the category of preparation batch?

Does the transfer affect the outcome of the test?

Bob pulled up a copy of the MWDS and looked at the definition of Batch, Preparation. The issue is the term "affects".

Bob asked if anyone thought the standard needs to change to address this first question. The Committee did not think so.

What defines terms like method variance, technical equivalency, comparing methods, and alternate test protocol?

These are not used in the standard.

Have we over-specified the number of samples needed for DOC of the analyst?

No – this comes from Quality Systems Expert Committee – it is standard across TNI (i.e., for the most part not in our control).

How should we validate modeling methods (for calibration)?

There is no prescribed method as long as you comply with section 1.7.1.2.d)

Need to state the time period for LSC performance checks.

This is not an issue as the requirements are specified in the document? Normalization is required as specified by manufacturer – and checks are required daily.

Comparing result to CSU: Is there better criteria? ANSI validation standard specifies critical level.

This will be discussed in Crystal City, VA at the face-to-face. The language is difficult and will take time to look at. ***(See Mike Arndt comment)***

Should we expect a project engineer to understand LSC test source characteristics?

Yes. If not, then they need to seek help from someone who does.

What is the purpose of the LCS?

This is stated in 1.7.2.3.

Solid Source control samples are not geometry independent

This comment was unclear. Dave wasn't sure what this is. It will be discarded.

1.7.3: Using greater than 5x blank concentration criteria is too much as there are too many ways we could have problems that are not investigated

This is another one to think about and discuss in Crystal City, VA.

Reporting criteria of method sensitivity should be a customer requirement

It is the lab's job to provide an unambiguous report. Beyond that, if the client needs more, detailed information, they must request this of the lab.

There are more details in the new standard, than what has been in there previously. Ron commented that the lab needs to know what the customers needs are.

The Standard allows the lab flexibility to meet client requirements – the requirements can supersede the Standard.

How is validation handled to address a customer specification limit to zero activity?

It depends on precisely what the customer needs. There are a number of ways that could be used. (e.g., ASTM, EPA, MARLAP). The standard allows labs flexibility to adapt the validation to the needs of the project.

This could be a possible tools topic that is addressed in training.

No one saw things in this list that they thought necessarily needed to be addressed in the Standard. There are two that will be looked at more closely in Crystal City.

4. Tom's Comments

Tom carefully reviewed the standard and looked for any inconsistencies. Bob has incorporated many of his findings in the Standard because many were editorial.

- Footnotes. Bob asked if there was a standard format for these. Ilona commented that she could not find anything, but she will follow-up with Jan. It will be corrected if it needs to be different.
- Uncertainty was made consistent like what was done with activities. Now "Uncertainty, Counting", "Uncertainty, Expanded", etc.
- Batch, Radiation measurement (RMB): Carolyn noted that examples are listed and it should not be assumed it is all inclusive.

- 1.5.2: Tom suggested that e) be moved to 1.5.1. No one had a problem with this. It is now 1.5.1 d).
- The language under 1.5.1 g) is redundant with 1.5.1 d) and was deleted: ~~The laboratory shall record the quality system matrix used in the initial method validation and retain all supporting documentation for the initial study in a readily retrievable format for the lifetime of the method. The laboratory shall record the quality system matrix used in the initial method validation and retain all supporting documentation for the initial study in a readily retrievable forat for the lifetime of the method.~~
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- 1.7.1.2 e) iii): Tom commented that the last sentence is not needed since analysis cannot start until an acceptable calibration is obtained. This is a holdover from methods that include calibrations in the sample run – which is not done for radiochemistry. It was deleted.

5. New Business

- Bob commented that he participated in a meeting with EPA's Office of Water, drinking water staff. They are looking at making some significant updates to methods. They are looking at rewriting some of the 900 methods and deleting some, and are also looking for good methods that can be approved using the expedited method rule. He will have more information in Crystal City.

6. Action Items

A summary of action items can be found in Attachment B.

7. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be a face-to-face in Crystal City, VA on February 3, 2015 at 8am – 12 pm and 1-4 pm.

Ilona will be setting up a conference call for people to call-in on. She will need a list of who to invite to call-in. She will also set-up a Webex in the morning.

A summary of action items and backburner/reminder items can be found in Attachment B and C.

The meeting was adjourned 2:04 pm EST.

Attachment A
Participants
Radiochemistry Expert Committee

Members	Affiliation		Contact Information	
			Phone	Email
Bob Shannon (Chair) **Present**	QRS, LLC Grand Marais, MN	Other	218-387-1100	BobShannon@boreal.org
Tom Semkow (Vice Chair) **Present**	Wadsworth Center, NY State DOH Albany, NY	AB	518-474-6071	tms15@health.state.ny.us
Sreenivas (Vas) Komanduri **Present**	State of NJ Department of Environmental Protection Trenton, NJ	AB	609-984-0855	Sreenivas.Komanduri@dep.state.nj.us
Marty Johnson **Absent**	US Army Aviation and Missile Command Nuclear Counting Redstone Arsenal, AL	Lab	865-712-0275	Mjohnson@tSC-tn.com
Dave Fauth **Present**	Consultant Aiken, SC	Other	803-649-5268	dj1fauth@bellsouth.net
Carolyn Wong **Present**	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Livermore, CA	Lab	925-422-0398	wong65@llnl.gov
Keith McCroan **Present**	US EPA ORIA NAREL, Montgomery AL	Lab	334-270-3418	mccroan.keith@epa.gov
Nile Ludtke **Present**	Dade-Moeller and Associates Oak Ridge, TN	Other	865-481-6050	nile.luedtke@moellerinc.com
Larry Penfold **Present**	Test America Laboratories, Inc; Arvada, CO	Lab	303-736-0119	larry.penfold@testamericainc.com
Richard Sheibley **Absent**	Sheibley Consulting, LLC	Other (Former AB)	651-485-1875	RHSHEIB111@yahoo.com
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) **Present**	The NELAC Institute	n/a	828-712-9242	Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org

Attachment B

Action Items – REC

	Action Item	Who	Target Completion	Completed
56	Work with Jan to clean-up MWDS for posting and send to TNI Web Administrator to post on website with Webinar Announcement.	Ilona	11-1-14	Complete
57	Send Charter to CSDP EC.	Bob	1/30/15	Complete

Attachment C – Back Burner / Reminders

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
1	Update charter in October 2015	n/a	Complete – 1/21/2015
2	Issue of noting modifications to methods.	1/16/13	
3	Look at batching when QC is looked at.	1/16/13	Complete
4	Look at need to reference year for any standard references– which version is being referenced. Is this necessary?	5/22/13	
5	Form subcommittee of experts in MS and other atom counting techniques to see that these techniques are adequately addressed in the radiochemistry module.	9/24/14	

Radiochemistry Expert Committee (REC)

2015 Charter (Revised: 1-21-15)

Mission:

To maintain the radiochemistry standard (TNI Volume 1, Module 6) based on input from stakeholder groups and public; to provide technical assistance on issues related to radiochemistry; and, to develop tools that facilitate the implementation of the standard.

Strategic Goals and Objectives:

1. Review and revise standards based on input from all stakeholder groups and public.
2. Review and revise a standard consistent with relevant national and international standards and guidelines where appropriate.
3. Improve the quality and consistency of environmental data by establishing standards for activities related to radiochemical testing.
4. Provide technical assistance such as responding to Standard Interpretation Requests (SIRs).
5. Provide technical assistance in developing tools to facilitate the implementation of the Standard, such as:
   - Develop Module 6 audit checklist
   - Develop training on new Module 6 for labs and auditors summer conference
   - Clarification of key Module 6 concepts (e.g., glossary or specific topics such as detection capability or validation life cycle)
6. Ensure continuity with TNI Volume 1 Modules.
7. Utilize existing and future TNI infrastructure and resources to accomplish mission.

Success Measures:

- Completion of Standard revision process by end of 2015.
- Improvement of the Standard:
  - → Increased clarity of the intent of the Standard
  - → Incorporation of advances in technology
- Prompt response to SIRs (responses issued within 2 meetings)

Key Milestones for 2015:

- Maintenance of balanced committee representation
- Completion of Modified Working Draft StandardCompletion of Voting Draft StandardCompletion of Interim Draft Standard
- Forwarding Interim Draft Standard to LASEC, NELAP EC and CSDP EC
- Development of white paper on differences with new version of Module 6
- Identification of needs and initiation of work on tools needed for labs and auditors

Considerations:

- Volunteer member organization with time constraints.

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- Limited funding.
- Committee must maintain a balance representation from among accreditation bodies, accredited laboratories and "others".

Available Resources:

- Volunteer committee members
- Existing national and international consensus-based standards
- EPA Cooperative Agreement
- TNI Website and other TNI support services (administrative, technical editing, etc.)
- Teleconference and web-based services
- Industry experts

Additional Resources Required:

- Travel funding

Anticipated Meeting Schedule:

- Monthly Committee Teleconferences (open to all Full and Associate Members)
- Additional committee teleconferences as needed
- Committee meetings (face-to-face) during semiannual TNI Forums (Winter and Summer)

Committee Membership

Proposed Members	Organization	Term Expires January	Representation	Subgroup
Bob Shannon, Chair	QRS, LLS	2016*	Other	
Tom Semkow, Vice Chair	Wadsworth Center, NY State DOH	2017	AB	
Sreenivas Komanduri	NJ Department of Environmental Protection	2016*	AB	
Marty Johnson	US Army Aviation and Missile Command	2016*	Lab	

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Proposed Members	Organization	Term Expires January	Representation	Subgroup
	Nuclear Counting			
Dave Fauth	Consultant	2018	Other	
Carolyn Wong	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	2017	Lab	
Keith McCroan	US EPA ORIA NAREL	2018	Lab	
Nile Ludtke	Dade-Moeller and Associates	2016*	Other	
Larry Penfold	TestAmerica Laboratories, Inc.	2018	Lab	
Richard Sheibley	Sheibley Consulting, LLC	2017	Other	
* - Renewable for 3 years.				

Balance:

- 4 Lab
- 4 Other
- 2 AB

Subcommittees:

- None

Program Administrator: Ilona Verrips Taunton

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