

**Radiochemistry Expert Committee (REC)  
Meeting Summary**

**November 20, 2013**

1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Bob Shannon, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1pm EST. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 8 members present. Associate members present: Terry Romanko, Virgene Mulligan, Ariana Mankerian, Bill Ray, and Carl Kircher.

The October 16, 2013 minutes sent by Bob on November 18th were reviewed. Bob included a change requested by Tom. Larry motioned to accept the minutes with the recommended change. The motion was seconded by Vas and unanimously approved.

Note: Tom commented on Section 3: He added specific language. Carolyn provided comments on the minutes. She was not requesting that the minutes be changed.

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. Webinar – Notification of Intent to Revise Standard

Bob provided the following update:

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed prior to this teleconference for people to see. Along the way there were a number of questions and discussion. While some of the questions were just clarification, two questions were of note in that we will need to make sure that they are on our radar screen:

- 1) Steve Arms (State of FL) expressed concern about referencing specific versions of documents (as opposed to “most recent version”). The example that he pointed to was the MARLAP. Practically, this should not be significant issue since there are not likely to be a revision of MARLAP in the near future. We will have to consider how to address this down the road since generically we should probably try to reference the latest and greatest versions of standards and this will cause some discomfort for Florida.
- 2) Carl Kircher (State of FL) asked if the standard would discuss method-specific requirements (e.g., does a method require chemical yield correction or not) and the applicability of requirements in the standard to specific methods. For example, he wanted to know whether chemical yield determinations were required for several specific EPA approved methods for drinking water. I stated that we will not attempt to address specific methods in the standard, rather it is

a quality systems standard which will establish performance criteria that can be used to evaluate methods accordingly. I have also spent some time since the webinar discussing his questions with him via email.

- 3) Carl brought attention to the Georgia Tech method and noted that it does state to spike it with Radium 226 and 228.
- 4) People asked about calibration checks for specific radionuclides by gamma spectrometry. Should the checks be done for those specific radionuclides? Or is a more generic check adequate? (Relates to 1.7.1.)

These issues will be looked at while the standard is being updated.

We also picked up a couple of new associates from the webinar: Carl Kircher and Ronald Houk.

### 3. Charter

The final version of the Charter sent to the Consensus Standards Development Program (CSDP) Executive Committee can be found in Attachment B.

A motion was made by Vas to approve the charter. The motion was seconded by Nile and unanimously approved.

### 4. Review of Field Activity Expert Committee (FAC) Standard

The standard was reviewed by Vas and comments were passed along to the CSDP. Ilona provided information about FAC and answered questions about the type of review being done by CSDP. Some of our comments may be passed along for the next standard update.

### 5. Radon Measurements

Vas asked if radon measurements need to be specifically addressed in the standard. It is the largest radiochemical test that touches individuals personally. In Volume 1 there is mention of personnel requirements for radon laboratories. Sodium Iodide detectors and how they relate to radon testing should be included in Module 6.

Ariana noted that there are already requirements being followed by this industry. They have their own standard and do not need TNI to include anything in the standard. There may be some opportunity to look at radon in water, but not air. Bill Ray was in agreement. Ariana offered to provide a copy of the EPA document with the radon protocols. She will send it to Bob and he will forward it to the committee for follow-up in a future meeting. If something were to be included in the standard, it would be very general.

### 6. Standard

Revised Text – End of 1.7.1 (Tom)

A number of people have not had an opportunity to review this document from Tom. Bob will delay this discussion to December when Tom will also be present. Bob added some comments that committee members should also review.

Revised Text – Section 1.7.2 (Carolyn and Marty)

Carolyn accepted all the changes from the last call, so the new document changes are recent and in response to comments from the last meeting. The document was sent by e-mail to all committee members.

The committee agreed with the changes to the text under 1.7.2.

The committee agreed with the changes to text in Section 1.7.2.1 h).

Larry: The unlabeled paragraph under f) should be prefaced with something like: If results are statistically different than zero then the laboratory shall evaluate results for method blanks ...

Carolyn noted that e) and f) refer to i), ii) and iii) under the new i).

Vas thinks that there is contradiction between e) and g). Carolyn commented that long term trend needs to be considered. Ariana expressed concern about using a term like “long term”. How is it defined?

Vas cautioned including numerous scenarios. The standard has corrective action procedures that the laboratory develops and follows. He would like to see g) eliminated. Larry commented that he would like to see some discussion on this topic. Bob noted that not all labs consider impact on uncertainty, so including something here better ensures labs take this into consideration.

Bob suggested some new text that will be included in the base document which will be distributed prior to the next conference call. There was discussion on what the term “significant” means. More review of this language is needed.

Carolyn asked everyone to look carefully at the new text in i) i).

Bob noted that some of the language changes where project specific measurement objectives are discussed could cause problems for labs that don't use these as frequently. It should be written with requirements and then an option can be added regarding project specific measurement objectives.

Bob noted that language regarding use of reference standards should be looked at when further updating this section. PT standards may not always be reliable.

Another topic to consider is that LCS's need to be NIST traceable, where available.

Section 1.7.2.2 g): New language was added by Carolyn and Marty. The committee was in agreement with the new language.

Bob asked if 1.7.2.2 h) is relevant to the question Carl raised about the Georgia Tech method. Vas commented that this should be in the method and not in the standard, so no language change is needed. Larry thought an LCS should be needed with the appropriate isotopes and this requirement could be a generic comment in the standard. Bob also thought it was needed in the standard because labs do develop their own methods. Terry felt the LCS concern is already addressed in the standard and 1.7.2.2 h) is an exception. He thinks a statement needs to be added along the lines of: If chemical separation is performed, then g) needs to be followed. The purpose of an LCS is to check the chemistry – not the daily calibration.

Carolyn suggested that some other options may be available if the exact isotope cannot be used for spiking – it needs to be bracketed.

Carolyn and Marty will continue work on this section and present changes at the next meeting.

## 7. Action Items

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

## 8. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 1pm EST. This is a change due to the holidays.

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

The meeting was adjourned and ended at 3:07 pm EST.

**Attachment A**  
**Participants**  
**Radiochemistry Expert Committee**

Members	Affiliation		Contact Information	
			Phone	Email
Bob Shannon (Chair) <b>Present</b>	QRS, LLC Grand Marais, MN	Other	218-387-1100	<a href="mailto:BobShannon@boreal.org">BobShannon@boreal.org</a>
Tom Semkow (Vice Chair) <b>Absent</b>	Wadsworth Center, NY State DOH Albany, NY	AB	518-474-6071	<a href="mailto:tms15@health.state.ny.us">tms15@health.state.ny.us</a>
Sreenivas (Vas) Komanduri  <b>Present</b>	State of NJ Department of Environmental Protection  Trenton, NJ	AB	609-984-0855	<a href="mailto:Sreenivas.Komanduri@dep.state.nj.us">Sreenivas.Komanduri@dep.state.nj.us</a>
Marty Johnson  <b>Present</b>	US Army Aviation and Missile Command Nuclear Counting  Redstone Arsenal, AL	Lab	865-712-0275	<a href="mailto:Mjohnson@tSC-tn.com">Mjohnson@tSC-tn.com</a>
Dave Fauth  <b>Present</b>	Consultant  Aiken, SC	Other	803-649-5268	<a href="mailto:dj1fauth@bellsouth.net">dj1fauth@bellsouth.net</a>
Carolyn Wong  <b>Present</b>	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory  Livermore, CA	Lab	925-422-0398	<a href="mailto:wong65@llnl.gov">wong65@llnl.gov</a>
Keith McCroan  <b>Absent</b>	US EPA ORIA NAREL,  Montgomery AL	Lab	334-270-3418	<a href="mailto:mccroan.keith@epa.gov">mccroan.keith@epa.gov</a>
Todd Hardt  <b>Absent</b>	Pro2Serve, Inc.  Oak Ridge, TN	Other	865-241-6780	<a href="mailto:HardtTL@oro.doe.gov">HardtTL@oro.doe.gov</a>
Nile Ludtke  <b>Present</b>	Dade-Moeller and Associates  Oak Ridge, TN	Other	865-481-6050	<a href="mailto:nile.luedtke@moellerinc.com">nile.luedtke@moellerinc.com</a>
Larry Penfold  <b>Present</b>	Test America Laboratories, Inc; Arvada, CO	Lab	303-736-0119	<a href="mailto:larry.penfold@testamericainc.com">larry.penfold@testamericainc.com</a>
Richard Sheibley  <b>Present</b>	Sheibley Consulting, LLC	Other (Former AB)	651-485-1875	<a href="mailto:RHSHEIB111@yahoo.com">RHSHEIB111@yahoo.com</a>
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) <b>Present</b>	The NELAC Institute	n/a	828-712-9242	<a href="mailto:Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org">Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org</a>

## Attachment B

### Radiochemistry Expert Committee (REC)

2014 Charter

(Revised: 11-20-13)

#### **Mission:**

To maintain the radiochemistry standard (TNI Volume 1, Module 6) based on public input; 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.
2. Improve the quality and consistency of environmental data by establishing standards for activities related to radiochemical testing.
3. Provide technical assistance such as responding to Standard Interpretation Requests (SIRs).
4. Provide technical assistance in developing tools to facilitate the implementation of the Standard.
5. Ensure continuity with TNI Volume 1 Modules.
6. Utilize existing and future TNI infrastructure and resources to accomplish mission.

#### **Success Measures:**

- Completion of Standard revision process by 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 2014:**

- Balanced Committee representation
- Completion of Working Draft Standard
- Completion of Interim Draft Standard
- Forwarding Interim Draft Standard to LASEC, NELAP EC and CSDP EC

#### **Considerations:**

- Volunteer member organization with time constraints.
- Limited funding.

#### **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**

<b>Proposed Members</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Term Expires January</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Subgroup</b>
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 Nuclear Counting	2016*	Lab	
Dave Fauth	Consultant	2015*	Other	
Carolyn Wong	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	2017	Lab	
Keith McCroan	US EPA ORIA NAREL	2015*	Lab	
Todd Hardt	Pro2Serve, Inc	2016*	Other	
Nile Ludtke	Dade-Moeller and Associates	2016*	Other	
Larry Penfold	TestAmerica Laboratories, Inc.	2015*	Lab	

Proposed Members	Organization	Term Expires January	Representation	Subgroup
Richard Sheibley	Sheibley Consulting, LLC	2017	Other	
* - Renewable for 3 years.				

**Balance:**

- 4 Lab
- 5 Other
- 2 AB

**Subcommittees:**

- None

**Program Administrator:** Ilona Verrips Taunton



**Attachment C**  
**Action Items – REC**

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Target Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
11	Complete and distribute language proposed for 1.7.1.	Tom Vas Bob	Next Meeting	In Progress
29	Continue update to Section 1.7.2 as per comments from 12/18/13 meeting.	Carolyn Marty	12/17/13	In Progress
30	Forward updated charter to CSDP.	Ilona	12/1/13	Complete

**Attachment D – Back Burner / Reminders**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Meeting Reference</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	Update charter in October 2013	n/a	Complete – 11/20/2014
2	Issue of noting modifications to methods.	1/16/13	
3	Look at batching when QC is looked at.	1/16/13	
4	Look at need to reference year for any standard references– which version is being referenced. Is this necessary?	5/22/13	