

Radiochemistry Expert Committee (REC) Meeting Summary

February 24, 2021

1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Terry Romanko, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1pm Eastern on February 24, 2021 by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 9 members present. Associate members in attendance: Ron Houck, Bob Shannon, Carl Kircher and Keith McCroan (Guest).

Meeting minutes are distributed by email for comment/revision for a week and then posted on the TNI website.

2. Standard Update

Robert and Chrystal volunteered to go through the Standard one more time to see if there are any more changes needed. Everyone was asked to do the same thing since the goal will be to approve a DRAFT standard next month.

It should be possible to ask William for periodic updates on comments being received during the 90 day comment period.

3. SIRs

It looks like the Committee is good with the language Terry developed for the second SIR (SIR 403). The language for SIR 399 was discussed and some language was developed that will be looked at through email. The Committee determined it needed a bit more work and a reference to Module 2, Section 5.10 needed to be added. Depending how the email review is handled, it could be voted on by email or during the March meeting.

SIR 399:

Response: Section 1.7.3 applies to Data Evaluation and Reporting, with 1.7.3.5 (Reporting Results) specific to results shown on the final deliverable(s) to the client. 1.7.3.5.f was included in acknowledgement that certain programs (e.g. SDWA) target a level of uncertainty based upon method requirements (e.g. detection limit goal), and that State reporting forms, which may be filled out by the laboratory, often do not include a place to list the uncertainty. If a client does not want to see any uncertainty results on their final report, that is their prerogative (although in the Committee's opinion the result is not "complete" without some form of uncertainty). However, this does not absolve the

lab of the requirements of other sections of Module 6 or the Standard as a whole, including Module 2, Section 5.10 (Reporting the Results). The third paragraph in Module 2, Section 5.10.1 states:

“In the case of tests or calibrations performed for internal customers, or in the case of a written agreement with the customer, the results may be reported in a simplified way. Any information listed in 5.10.2 to 5.10.4 which is not reported to the customer shall be readily available in the laboratory which carried out the tests and/or calibrations.”

Thus, regardless of what is presented on the report, the uncertainty must be determined by the laboratory and readily available. And, if a client requests data be “reported in a simplified way”, the laboratory must maintain the written agreement. Also, note that Module 2, Section 5.10.3.1 requires that the report shall include “a statement of compliance/non-compliance with requirements and/or specifications”. The Committee believes this would apply to not presenting the uncertainty on the report, as the uncertainty is an integral part of Radiochemistry results.

Note that in the next revision of Module 6, 1.7.3.5.f will read as follows:

“Project- or client-specified reporting requirements can take precedence as described in Volume 1, Module 2, Section 5.10.”

(Addition: A motion was made by email on 3-12-21 by Robert to approve the response above to SIR 399. The motion was seconded by Amanda on 3-16-21. Vote: For - 8 (Velinda (3-16-21), Jim (3-16-21), Stan (3-16-21), Mary Beth (3-17-21), Amanda (3-16-21), Robert (3-16-21), Terry (3-16-21), Chrystal (3-16-21)). Against – 0. Abstain – 0. The motion passed with a 2/3 vote. Terry sent the response to Lynn Bradley on 3-17-21.)

SIR 403:

Response: Section 1.7.2.1.c) is part of the overall 1.7.2 section for “Quality Control for Radiochemistry”. Specifically 1.7.2.1.c) defines how samples shall be grouped for the purpose of assigning batch QC, allowing for use of Preparation Batch or RMB as outlined in the section. This section does not discuss sample counting/measurement. Note: the Preparation Batch and Radiation Measurements Batch (RMB) are defined in section 1.3 “Terms and Definitions”.

There is not a requirement set out in Module 6 for all samples in a Preparation Batch or RMB to be counted in a consecutive order without other samples being interspersed. In fact, unless specifically stated in a promulgated method, samples can be counted across multiple detectors on multiple days, with samples from other batches (Preparation Batches or RMB) counted in-between on the same detector(s). All that is required for any individual sample measurement is that the requirements in section 1.7.1 are met for the detector on which the sample is counted. This would include documented Initial Calibration, Calibration Verification, Instrument Performance Checks, Subtraction Background Measurements, etc. as outlined in the subsections of 1.7.1.

(Addition: A motion was made by email on 3-3-21 by Robert to approve the response above to SIR 403. The motion was seconded by Stan on 3-3-21. Vote: For - 10 (Sherry (3-

3-21), Stan (3-3-21), Robert (3-3-21), Mary Beth (3-3-21), Greg (3-3-21), Chrystal (3-3-21), Jim (3-3-21), Velinda (3-3-21), Amanda (3-3-21), Terry (3-17-21) . Against – 0. Abstain – 0. The motion passed with a 2/3 vote. Terry sent the response to Lynn Bradley on 3-17-21.)

The non-voting membership left the meeting.

4. Committee Membership

Two new Committee members were voted on to the Committee last month. The voting membership also needs to vote for second terms for 3 Committee members: Terry, Brian and Velinda.

A vote was taken to approve a second term for Terry, Brian and Velinda. For - 6 (Stan, Jim, Greg, Robert, Chrystal, and Mary Beth). Against – 0. Abstain: Terry, Brian and Velinda.

(Addition: There was no motion or second made for this vote, so it had to be repeated. The vote was repeated during the April meeting on 4/28/21: A motion was made by Stan to approve second terms for Terry, Brian and Velinda. The motion was seconded by Jim with no further discussion. Vote: For – 8, Against – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.)

5. New Business

None.

6. Action Items

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

7. Next Meeting and Close

There will be no meeting in January. The next meeting will be March 24, 2021 at 1pm Eastern.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 pm Eastern. (Motion: Greg Second: Stan Unanimously approved.)

**Attachment A
Participants
Radiochemistry Expert Committee**

Members	Affiliation		Contact Information
Terry Romanko Chair (2024) Present	TestAmerica Laboratories, Inc.	Lab	Terry.romanko@testamericainc.com
Sherry Faye (2022*) Absent	Wadsworth Center, NY State DOH Albany, NY	Lab	sherry.faye@health.ny.gov
Velinda Herbert (2024) Present	National Analytical Environmental Laboratory	Lab	Herbert.velinda@epa.gov
Brian Miller (2024) Present	ERA	Other	bmiller@eraqc.com
Stan Stevens (2023*) Present	Perma-Fix Environmental Services	Other	stanws@aol.com
Amanda Fehr (2023*) Absent	GEL	Lab	amanda.fehr@gel.com
Jim Chambers (2023*) Present	Fluor-BWXT Portsmouth LLC	Other	jim.chambers@ports.pppo.gov
Greg Raspanti (2022*) Present	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	AB	Greg.Raspanti@dep.nj.gov
Robert Aullman (2022*) Present	Utah Department of Health	AB	aullman77@gmail.com
Chrystal Sheaff (2024*) Present	Energy Laboratories, Inc.	Lab	csheaff@energylab.com
Mary Beth Gustafson (2024*) Present	Virginia	AB	mary.gustafson@dgs.virginia.gov
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) Present	The NELAC Institute	n/a	Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org

Attachment B**Action Items – REC**

	Action Item	Who	Target Completion	Completed
90	Send note about method codes and concerns to the PT Expert Committee. Is there a way to limit the codes a lab can use to report PT data?	Bob	TBD	
105	Review Charter	All	TBD (Feb or Mar)	
106	Prepare 2021 goals.	All	TBD (by mid January)	
107	Send new membership to Chair of CSDP EC for approval.	Terry Ilona	2/24/21	
108	Review Final Draft of Standard for any needed changes.	Robert and Chrystal	3/23/21	
109	Complete SIR 399 and 403 by email.	Terry	3/23/21	

Attachment C – Back Burner / Reminders

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
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	
6	From Action Item # 75: Prepare copy of Standard annotated with summary document language.		This is a project Carolyn was working on, but the committee decided it may duplicate the Small Lab Handbook. This project has been put on Hold.