

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

February 26, 2020

1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Terry Romanko, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1pm Eastern on February 26, 2020 by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 7 members present. Associate members in attendance: Keith McCroan (Guest), Carl Kircher, and Mary-Beth Gustafson.

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

Terry welcomed the new Committee voting members: Amanda, Jim, Stan and Mark.

2. TNI Newport, CA Meeting and Training

- There was a lot of discussion about Technical Manager requirements and possible Technical Manager training. Terry noted that the ABs need some sort of fixed requirement. It can't be vague.

Terry brought up a copy of what Radiochemistry has to date with some new possible language. See Attachment D.

- It was asked if PT performance could be used for a demonstration of performance. Terry confirmed that this is possible. DOCs and PTs are not method validation. Method validation should come before them.

Ron noted that there is a whole section in Module 6 on method validation.

3. Public Meeting

Terry would like everyone to take a look at the table he sent with the Agenda. It is based on the list of ongoing items the Committee worked on during the Fall.

He needs comments back by tomorrow by 2pm Eastern so Ilona can prepare it to go out with a Public Meeting notification.

Is it valid for someone during the meeting to suggest changes? Yes.

Rows 5-27 – He asked two volunteers to make sure each one makes sense? Amanda volunteered. Robert will help too.

4. PT Samples

Terry asked that Keith summarize the issue he brought up last week. A PT was failed, but it turned out that the assigned value was not the best estimate of the true value. Is there a way to specify that PT Providers provide a best estimate of the true value? How is true value being determined?

The other labs didn't use as an aggressive technique, so their values would actually be lower than the true value. The lab failed because their technique was more aggressive and higher.

Carl commented that TNI only has Radiochemistry FoPTs for the DW matrix. He submitted an ARA for NPW. Ilona noted that the ARA is suggesting the use of the current limits with the current determination procedure to set-up the NPW limits. His suggestion is not based on the new procedure submitted to determine Radiochemistry limits.

ICP-MS methods fall under Module 4. They don't actually measure radioactive decay

Ilona asked who the Radiochemistry Expert Committee would like to send to be part of the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee meetings where possible NPW limits will be developed for Radiochemistry. Terry will reach out to Bob and Keith to see if they will do it again. Keith made it back on the call and agreed to continue work with the Subcommittee. Carl suggested the Subcommittee will look at using the current DW limits and make them wider for NPW? He is also open to talking about using DQOs too.

5. New Business

None.

6. Action Items

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

7. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be April 22, 2020 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 2:02 pm Eastern. (Motion: Amanda Second: Robert Unanimously approved.)

Attachment A
Participants
Radiochemistry Expert Committee

Members	Affiliation		Contact Information
Terry Romanko Chair (2021*) Present	TestAmerica Laboratories, Inc.	Lab	Terry.romanko@testamericainc.com
Sherry Faye (2022*) Present	Wadsworth Center, NY State DOH Albany, NY	AB	sherry.faye@health.ny.gov
Velinda Herbert (2021*) Present	National Analytical Environmental Laboratory	Lab	Herbert.velinda@epa.gov
Brian Miller (2021*) Absent	ERA	Other	bmiller@eraqc.com
Ron Houck (2021) Present	PA DEP/Bureau of Laboratories	AB	rhouck@pa.gov
Mark Johnson (2023*) Absent	Louisiana	AB	mark.johnson@la.gov
Stan Stevens (2023*) Present (at 1:30)	Perma-Fix Environmental Services	Lab	stanws@aol.com
Amanda Fehr (2023*) Present	GEL	Lab	amanda.fehr@gel.com
Jim Chambers (2023*) Present	Fluor-BWXT Portsmouth LLC	Other	jim.chambers@ports.pppo.gov
Greg Raspanti (2022*) Absent	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	AB	Greg.Raspanti@dep.nj.gov
Pepa Sassin (2022*) Absent	EPA - Region 3	Other	Sassin.Pepa@epa.gov
Robert Aullman (2022*) Present	Utah Department of Health	AB	aullman77@gmail.com
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	
93	Discuss new PT criteria at next FoPT Chemistry subcommittee meeting	Bob and Keith	3/21/19	
94	Harmonize Excel Checklist with Word Checklist	Terry and Candy	3/27/2019	In progress.
95	Provide information for training data package to Terry.	Yoon	TBD	
96	Let Ilona know if training material needs to be pre-recorded for Jacksonville.	Terry	7/15/19	
97	Submit new membership to Chair of CSDP EC for approval.	Terry	2-22-20	

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.

Attachment D – Technical Manager Update

- a) Any technical manager of an accredited environmental laboratory engaged in radiological analysis shall be a person:
- i. with a bachelor's degree; and
 - ii. with thirty-two (32) college semester credit hours of chemistry and physics; and
 - iii. with sixteen (16) college semester credit hours of radiochemistry; and
 - iv. with two (2) or more years of experience in the radiological analysis of environmental samples.
 - v. A master's or doctoral degree in one of the above disciplines may be substituted for one (1) year experience.
 - vi. 1 year experience working in an environmental radioanalytical laboratory may be substituted for 4 credit hours. Multiple years of substitution may be utilized, but each year substituted must be related to the learning of and proficiency in a different analytical method/technique or instrumentation type. This will help ensure an increasing level of knowledge in radiochemistry analyses (preparation and/or instrumentation) during that time period. No more than 24 hours total may be substituted – at least 24 hours must be from actual college courses.
 - ~~vii. In lieu of any of the above, the laboratory may petition each body for which accreditation is sought, presenting the candidate's qualifications in a consistent format to each.~~

Replace iii. above with:

with four (4) college semester credit hours of radiochemistry for each instrument type used in the laboratory, with a maximum of sixteen (16) hours required. For example, the technical manager of a laboratory performing only gas-flow proportional counting (GFPC) would need only 4 hours of credit, whereas one at a laboratory performing GFPC, alpha spectrometry, gamma spectrometry, liquid scintillation, alpha scintillation, and ICP-MS would require 16 hours. In the case were a new instrument type is brought online, the total number of Radiochemistry hours is not yet 16, and the technical director does not have a full year of experience in that specific technology before accreditation is sought, accreditation for the new method may be given based upon the demonstrated performance of the new method (installation documentation, method validation, DOCs, PT performance, etc); and

b)