

Notes/Minutes for TNI Radiochemistry Module 6 Subcommittee

Date: 6/26/2012 at 15:00 ET

Participants: Bob Shannon, Sreenivas Komanduri, Marty Johnson, Dave Fauth, Tom Semkow, Carolyn Wong, Joe Pardue, Keith McCroan, Todd Hardt, Nile Ludtke, Terry Romanko

Agenda

A. Each member introduced themselves to the group.

B. Bob Shannon presented the subcommittee's mission. We will review Module 6 of the 2011 TNI Standard. While the overall format of the standard presents limitations to the scope, we should work to identify and update items to be appropriate for radiochemical laboratories doing environmental analysis as part of NELAC. The standard is based, among others, on ISO 17025, so there should be ways to address most issues within the framework of the module. The TNI standard is first and foremost a quality systems standard. Thus we will need to be careful to not be prescriptive, and need to keep in mind that especially most radiochemistry labs rely heavily on performance-based methods, but also perform analysis under programs such as SDWA/CWA. In other words, the final standard should focus generally on requirements for analysis types, as opposed to individual methods.

C. Members shared general thoughts about the TNI standard and our mission.

Joe Pardue – Supports keeping the group small, make incremental changes to the standard – much work is needed

Tom Semkow – Especially the sections on calibration and instrument check frequencies and evaluation, MDAs, MDCs and SDWA DL, and preparation and analytical batches, need work

Vas Komanduri – Radiochemistry methods dating back to the 1980s are not strong on QA sections – need to beef up requirements to support this weakness; Also should consider availability of PT samples specific to radchem, their frequency, and associated criteria. We discussed that this is outside the scope of Module 6. Joe Pardue, however, is on the PT committee and said that he would be willing to take our comments and suggestions to them. Bob Shannon will check with the QC committee chair. Perhaps we can reserve time after we finish going through our module to look at PTs.

RTS – Need to consider addressing imprecise language that creates ambiguity for labs and auditors

D. Moving forward

Bob asked if people would be attending NEMC (August 6-10 in WA DC) since this could be a possibility to meet, assuming enough people attended. Only two people are going, so for now, that thought was tabled. RRMC, later in the year, might also offer a similar opportunity. Here is a link to the website: <http://nemc.us/>

We decided to continue meeting Friday afternoons (4th Friday of each month) one hour earlier than this week. The next meeting will be on Friday, July 27, at 2 PM ET (1 PM CT; 12 PM MT; 11 PM PT)

Dave Fauth volunteered to the scribe and take notes for the record.

Communication with the committee – there were some problems with delivery of emails. Bob will request read receipts – please respond so that he can see who is NOT getting emails.

For next time, committee members should review the 2011 Module 6 through section 1.5. Identify sections that need attention (corrections, additions, deletions), provide suggestions for updating the sections, and send these to Bob (BobShannon@boreal.org) by 7/20. He will summarize these and distribute to the group. These will become the basis for the discussion on the next teleconference.

E. Additional Items Discussed:

Tom Semkow asked what changes were made to 2009 in the 2011. There were a number of changes made, apparently not all for the better. Bob will get a redline copy of the revised (2011) version of Module 6 and will distribute to the group before the next meeting.

Vas Komanduri asked about whether Rn labs, and the sections addressing lab measurements of radon where within scope. Bob will check on this before the next meeting.

Carolyn Wong asked about getting a Word version of Module 6. Bob will look at getting a copy, will add line numbers and create a PDF from which we will work, but will also distribute the Word version of the document to the committee – before the next meeting. .

The teleconference ended at 15:50 ET

The next conference call will be Friday, July 27, at 2 PM ET (1 PM CT; 12 PM MT; 11 PM PT)