

TNI Stationary Source Audit Sample Expert Committee Teleconference  
December 7, 2009

Attendance:

Maria Friedman, Chair	Committee member	Present
Jack Herbert	Committee member	Present
Michael Klein	Committee member	Present
Ray Merrill	Committee member	Present
Gregg O'Neal	Committee member	Present
Michael Schapira	Committee member	Absent
Jim Serne	Committee member	Present
Candace Sorrell	Committee member	Absent
Richard Swartz, Vice-chair	Committee member	Present
Stanley Tong	Committee member	Absent
Jane Wilson	Program Administrator	Present
Shawn Kassner	Associate member	Present
Mike Miller	Associate member	Absent
Chuck Wibby	Associate member	Present
Jeff Lowry	Guest	Present
Andy Rezendes	Guest	Present

1) Welcome to Guests

Maria welcomed Jeff Lowry of ERA and Andy Rezendes of Alpha Labs who will be participating as guests to help with the update of the SSAS table. Jeff is also a member of the TNI FoPT subcommittee that developed the original table.

2) Chair Update

Maria reminded the Committee of the basic TNI requirements for conduct of discussions and meeting attendance. She wants to ensure that everyone is respectful of other opinions and works together toward common goals. She reminded participants to avoid interruptions and talking over others. Since the committee cannot see each other, it is important to be respectful when entering into the discussions. Maria wants to make sure that everyone gets the opportunity to bring their comments forward. The Chair will also table non-productive discussions for future consideration.

The TNI policy for expert committees membership states that members cannot be absent for 3 consecutive meetings or >50% of meetings per year. Maria asked that if you are not able to attend, to please notify her to let her know your plans and when you expect to be able to participate. She noted that most participants have been conscientious about doing this. This also extends to voting issues as the required votes can be adjusted if a committee member documents their inability to participate in the vote.

3) Double-check of documents to be referenced in this teleconference

Maria confirmed the materials for today's meeting including the minutes from the Nov 30<sup>th</sup> meeting and spreadsheets from Candace with EPA historical data. The additional data from Jeff Lowry sent this morning will also be discussed.

- 4) Review and approval of minutes from teleconference on November 30, 2009

Maria noted she is still working on updates to the flowchart and will redistribute soon.

Ray Merrill motioned to accept the minutes as drafted/Richard Swartz seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

- 5) Discuss SSAS Table update

Maria asked for comments on the materials that were distributed. Jack noted that it seemed like data were missing for some of the methods. It was explained you need to scroll in the attachment area of the email to see all the data files. EPA may not have released Method 18 data. Maria reminded that the committee can choose how to evaluate the data as long as the approach is documented for EPA review.

Jim asked if there is a failure rate that is considered "acceptable". For example, out of 100 audits, are there a certain number of failures that would be expected? The group discussed whether a newer method would have a higher accepted failure rate, and an established one would be lower. Will acceptance criteria be adjusted in the future based on performance in the audit sample program? It was also noted that audit sample results may not be that good, but can be in compliance with data quality objectives.

It was also asked how limits can be set when samples have not been run since there would be no statistics to use for setting limits. The audit sample could be sent to multiple labs to determine if it can be successfully analyzed. This would be similar to an ASTM round robin laboratory program. If a laboratory is way off, often their data are not used in the statistics so the calculations don't get skewed.

Jeff noted that TNI has a method for calculating acceptance limits. This method takes out high and low values to normalize the data.

Maria asked Jeff to explain the spreadsheet he provided. Jeff reviewed the organization of the data in the spreadsheet. The TNI SOP could be applied to develop the acceptance limits. Ray noted there appears to be four ranges of concentrations in the low, mids, and high ranges. Jeff explained how the statistics are used to determine the failure rates. TNI uses the 95% confidence limit for calculations. It was suggested to look at some of the specific methods that have a lot of audits done for them so that a large amount of data is available.

TNI SOP 4-001 (revision 3) should be reviewed by everyone for discussion next week. Maria will be looking for volunteers next week to take responsibility for evaluating the data for a specific method. Shawn asked if the committee is taking this on as the committee rather than forming a subcommittee. Shawn suggested designating one person as the point person on updating the table to make sure that everything is being done consistently. The committee discussed whether the calculations should be done by one person rather than split among a group of people.

Jeff agreed to coach the committee in developing the criteria. Maria noted there is already an example spreadsheet that will help with consistency. Gregg noted the final EPA rule may be delayed until June 2010, but EPA may stop providing audit samples at the end of Feb 2010. Any TNI samples in the interim period will have to be evaluated to the existing SSAS tables.

Jack suggested prioritizing the methods to evaluate the most important ones first, e.g., method 6 is not performed very often. The group concurred on prioritizing the methods. Jack also suggested inviting some chemists to help with each method and Maria noted we can invite additional experts that can provide the technical expertise on specific methods.

Jack added that some states may have a need to request the performance of audit samples in the interim period outside of the EPA program. States could just contact providers directly about whether they can provide those types of samples.

Jeff Lowry asked about the process for how the SSAS table is updated in terms of what someone has to submit to initiate such a request. There is not a formal mechanism for this right now. The TNI program will not be limited to what EPA has contracted in the past, so the program may get other requests for audit samples. Jeff noted there is language around this in the 2003 NELAC standard. Maria will look at 2003 NELAC standard and Shawn will look at the 2008 TNI standard to see if it is addressed. The update process could also be added to the FAQs in the future.

Next meeting is Dec 14th 2:00 pm EST.

- Read SOP 4-001 and review Jeff's spreadsheet
- Jack will propose prioritization of methods
- Ray will email Maria ERG's latest spreadsheet on EPA's audit sample requests
- Jeff will email Maria the previous spreadsheets with historical data from 2000 to 2008 where the current SSAS Table limits were obtained
- Jeff has some historical data on method 18 to share with the committee