

Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee Meeting Summary

January 16, 2019

1. Welcome and Announcements

Rami welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1, below. Minutes from December 19 were approved by acclamation since a quorum was not present.

2. New Member Application

Sarah Hughes of Shell applied to join the WET Committee and her application was distributed to committee members. At the outset of this meeting, there was no quorum, but by the end of the meeting, another full member had joined, so that her application could be acted upon. Sarah was asked to join the call late, and when she did, Rami asked her to introduce herself, as all new members are invited to do. Then, near the end, Sarah signed off before the vote was taken.

Steve Rewa moved and Ginger seconded that Sarah's application be accepted, and approval was unanimous. Congratulations, Sarah!

Having another member of the "other" stakeholder category allows for an additional member of the "lab" category, which means that one of the active associate members can "move up" to full member status. That would give the committee the maximum of 15 members plus two affiliate members. Affiliates are an exception to the normal rule, in that they are not TNI members but are invited to participate in the committee because of their unique expertise – in this case, Teresa who wrote the method manuals and VelRey who is in an EPA regional office dealing with NPDES permits. Rami invited participants to nominate one of the associates for full membership, by sending email with their names to Lynn. Self-nominations are accepted also. NOTE: as of January 20, one nomination was received, for Mark O'Neil. If other nominations arrive, then a competitive vote will determine the next full member.

3. Updates

Rami continues his efforts to contact Kelly Black of Neptune, Inc. (administrators of A2LA's PT database) to discuss our request to PTPEC for help in somehow improving the statistical reliability of PT sample results. Both of these individuals have complicated schedules, with Kelly often being out of the country, so that it has taken an exceptional time to make the connection.

Only two full members will be at conference in Milwaukee. Rami cannot be there, and neither Kari nor Michele were available for this teleconference. Rami will work with Kari about leading the WET session (Tuesday morning, 8 am to noon Central) in Milwaukee. Chandra will also be there.

NOTE: A speakerphone will be available for this meeting. This is because the group using that room in the afternoon needed one, so WET benefits. For those who can join the call, the information will be provided by email.

4. Revising V1M7

Discussion continued from the December meeting, where there was no consensus on the necessity of using Standard Reference Toxicants (SRTs) for demonstration of competency (DOC) or how to remove the requirement for individual analysts.

If SRTs are to be used, how many would be required? The final module must set a requirement acceptable to all NELAP ABs, but there are tests done in a WET lab that do not have SRTs available or the available SRT is not useful for certain test protocols. The scheme proposed by Stephen Clark at the December meeting was again mentioned, where there are three parts of a test needing DOC – the test initiation, maintenance of organisms and termination. (This assumes that all calculations are done by other staff with different DOC requirements to meet.) This scheme allows for the DOC be performed for the laboratory with a defined training program for each analyst, and the analysts' competency essentially demonstrated by the ongoing steadiness of the tests quality control parameters.

One of the major reasons this committee recommended retaining the 2009 module for the 2016 standard saw the burdensome individual DOC (for each analyst) in the approved 2012 revision of the module. This led to some discussion of whether the DOC terminology is even necessary. It comes from the 2003 NELAC standard, and several ABs expressed a preference for keeping the terminology consistent, but also for retaining the concept of a "work cell" in describing how a WET lab demonstrates its competency.

EPA methods are not explicit about individual DOCs, so that the TNI standard does need a clear and consistent requirement. "Flexible" requirements lead to inconsistency among ABs and assessors. Rami asked whether Amy could express for the group what seems to be her clear vision of what's needed, but she is challenged by the workload and has been unable to make time to do that.

Another opinion offered was that the lab DOC is adequately addressed in the method manuals, but that what this committee struggles with is the individual DOC. Perhaps if work cells are defined carefully, it may be possible to use that concept to address individual DOCs. Consensus was that this is the issue that needs to be clarified in the standard module – the individual or "work cell" DOC, and the lab DOC is already adequately addressed.

Rami asked that all committee members review §1.6.5 particularly, and §1.6.6, of the draft module that was circulated with the meeting agenda, and think about what might work. Could it be a single SRT, or how many more, and what is needed in addition to SRTs.

Rami also asked members to consider whether can "similar technology" (across species) be defined well enough to be useful in the standard, or is it essential to treat each species as if it were a different detector for the test (even when other parts of the test protocol are the same and only the organism different)? The underlying question here is how many data sets does the assessor need to see to be satisfied, how many replicates of the same protocol? One participant pointed out that SRTs serve two purposes – showing lab competency and also organism sensitivity – so that perhaps they could serve for DOCs for both the lab and the analyst.

Rami asked that members think through the language cited above and send comments to Steve Rewa prior to the February meeting (by February 13 would allow Steve time to prepare a revised draft text).

5. Next Meeting

The next teleconference meeting will be at **1 pm Eastern on February 20, 2019**. An agenda and documents will be sent before the meeting.

The WET Expert Committee's session at conference in Milwaukee is scheduled for Tuesday morning, January 29, 2019, at 10:30 am CST. Unfortunately, teleconference capability will not be available.

Attachment 1

Committee Membership

Member	Affiliation	Email	Category	Term Expiration	Present
Ginger Briggs	Bio-Analytical Laboratories	bioanalytical@wildblue.net	Lab	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
Chris Burbage	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	cburbage@hrsd.com	Lab	Dec. 2020 (2)	No
Kari Fleming	WI DNR	kari.fleming@wisconsin.gov	AB	Dec. 2020 (2)	No
Amy Hackman	Penn. Dept. Environ. Protection	ahackman@pa.gov	AB	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
Sarah Hughes	Shell Oil Co.	s.hughes@shell.com	Other	Dec. 2021 (1)	Yes
Pete De Lisle (Vice Chair)	Coastal Bioanalysts Inc.	pfd@coastalbio.com	Lab	Dec. 2020 (2)	No
VelRey Lozano	USEPA Region 8	Lozano.VelRey@epa.gov	Other (Affiliate)	Dec 2020 (1)	No (furlough)
Rami Naddy (Chair)	TRE Env. Strat. LLC	naddyrb.tre@gmail.com	Lab	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
Teresa Norberg-King	USEPA	norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov	Other (Affiliate)	Dec. 2020 (2)	No (furlough)
John Overbey	American Interplex Corp.	joverbey@americaninterplex.com	Lab	Dec 2020 (1)	Yes
Chris Pasch	Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.	cpasch@apainv.com	Other	Dec. 2020 (2)	No
Michael Pfeil	Texas Comm. Environ. Quality	Michael.pfeil@tceq.texas.gov	AB	Dec. 2020 (2)	No
Michele Potter	New Jersey Dept. of Environ Protect.	Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov	AB	Dec. 2020 (2)	No
Steven Rewa	Environmental Resources Management	steven.rewa@erm.com	Lab	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
Beth Thompson	Shealy Consulting	bthompson@shealyconsulting.net	Lab	Dec 2020 (1)	No
Elizabeth West	LA DEQ LELAP	elizabeth.west@la.gov	AB	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes

Associate Members					
Silvia Bogdan	EPA R6	Bogdan.silvia@epa.gov	Other (Assoc.)		No
Steve Boggs	CA ELAP	steve.boggs@waterboards.ca.gov	Other (Assoc.)		No
Thekkekalathil "Chandra" Chandrasekhar	FL DEP	Thekkekalathil.Chandrasekhar@dep.state.fl.us	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Michael Chanov	EA Eng., Sci. &Tech.	mchanov@eaest.com	Lab (Assoc.)	--	No
Stephen Clark	Pacific EcoRisk	slclark@pacificecorisk.com	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Erin Consuegra	ERA LAB	econsuegra@eralab.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Kevin Dischler	Element Materials Technology	Kevin.dischler@element.com	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Monica Eues	CK Associates	Monica.eues@c-ka.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Nicole Fortin	Honolulu City Lab	nfortin@honolulu.gov	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Christina Henderson	Bio-Aquatic Testing, Inc.	chenderson@bio-aquatic.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
David Johnston	Valero Refining Co - Benecia	david.johnston@valero.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Linda Nemeth	Northwestern Aquatic Sciences	lnemeth@tds.net	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Mark O'Neil	Environmental Enterprises USA, Inc.	moneil@eeusa.com	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Katie Payne	Nautilus Environmental	katie@ nautilusenvironmental.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Christina Pottios	Los Angeles Cty Sanitation Districts	cpottios@lacs.org	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Greg Savitske	US EPA OECA	Savitske.gregory@epa.gov	Other (Assoc.)		No
Shain Schmitt	ESC Lab Sciences	sschmitt@esclabsciences.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Justin Scott	Cove Sciences	justin@covesciences.com	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Jordan Thorngren	Eurofins (Horsham, PA)	jordanthorngren@eurofinsUS.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Craig Watts	Hydrosphere Research	cwatts@hydrosphere.net	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Tom Widera	ERA	twidera@eraqc.com	Other (Assoc.)		Yes
Lynn Bradley	TNI Program Administrator	Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org			Yes