

Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee Meeting Summary

January 25, 2017 Forum on Laboratory Accreditation

1:00 pm Central, Houston, Texas

1. Welcome and Announcements

Rami welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an introduction to the committee's mission, goals, and membership as well as a basic description of WET testing.

2. Discussion of Revising V1M7

The following comments were raised and discussed as part of revising the WET module of the TNI standard. The 2009 version will be the starting point, but some of the revisions will be informed by material that was added to the not-used 2012 revision.

- Emphasize the need for randomization – consider making this a “shall” even though the EPA protocols use “should.”
- Demonstration of competency (IDOC/DOC) procedures should be based on the concept of “work cells.” This could be a giant matrix of tasks performed over time, somewhat similar to biological oxygen demand (BOD) tests, since most tests use the same procedures but with different organisms. Explore options for ways to document DOC before finalizing the revision.
- When considering requirements for “chemistry” tests, note these are primarily “support tests” and not reported for compliance purposes but rather to ensure survival of the test organisms. Consider how to measure the accuracy and acceptability of such testing.
- Address other types of toxicological testing – sediment, plants, worms, solids to dissolve in water. The issue of testing a solid arose in later discussion, in that one assessor declared that the testing was not covered under the lab's certificate because the “test method” included preparing a solution of the solid material, and the accredited method did not include putting the solid in the water.
- Address cross-contamination from condensation on board covers.
- Address the testing of food for the various test organisms. Presently, accreditation bodies have differing requirements for this, with at least one AB requiring that every batch of food be tested. One participant asked, if the organisms are healthy and viable, is food testing actually needed? Others asked about testing the container materials and the salts used.
- Consider whether to address the need for further inquiry if the data are always “tight” (aka, no failures) since dealing with living organisms makes occasional test failures nearly inevitable.
- Consider whether to include specifications for PT testing for WET, whether in V1M7 or possibly working with the PT Expert Committee (later, for V1M1 revision?)

A brief discussion of the process and procedures for standards revision took place, primarily to explain that once formal comments are invited, they are individually tracked and the submitter receives a response to inform them of the committee's decision about how to handle the comment.

3. Additional Suggestions Concerning Proficiency Testing

Several suggestions were made that pertain more to PTs than to the revision of the standard module. These are noted below.

- The sources of test organisms may cause varying results. This would further compound the difficulties of varying test conditions for PTs, currently. Participants recommended working with the PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) to seek resolution of this aspect of PTs.
- Ask to see whether the PT providers could consider using the same toxicant for PT samples (unknown to purchasers) for each round of PTs – this would provide more data to use in comparing PT results.

Rami invited participants to send any additional questions to Lynn, the Program Administrator for the committee.

4. Next Meeting

The next teleconference of the WET Expert Committee will be on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at 1 pm Eastern. Teleconference information and an agenda will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

Attachment 1

Committee Membership

Member	Affiliation	Email	Phone	Category	Term	
					Expiration	Present
Rami Naddy (Chair)	TRE Env. Strat. LLC	naddyrb.tre@gmail.com	970-416-0916	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Ginger Briggs	Bio-Analytical Laboratories	bioanalytical@wildblue.net	318-745-2772	Lab	Feb. 2018	No
Pete De Lisle (Vice Chair)	Coastal Bioanalysts Inc.	pfd@coastalbio.com	804-694-8285	Lab	Feb. 2018	No
Steven Rewa	Environmental Resources Management	steven.rewa@erm.com	616-738-7324	Lab	Feb. 2018	No
Chris Burbage	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	cburbage@hrsd.com	757-355-5013	Lab	Feb. 2018	No
Chris Pasch	Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.	cpasch@apaienv.com	512-687-2162	Other	Feb. 2018	No
Teresa Norberg-King	USEPA	norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov	218-529-5163	Other	Feb. 2018	No
Elizabeth West	LA DEQ LELAP	elizabeth.west@la.gov	318-676-7457	AB	Feb. 2018	No
Amy Hackman	Penn. Dept. Environ. Protection	ahackman@pa.gov	717-346-8209	AB	Feb. 2018	No
Michele Potter	New Jersey Dept of Environ Protect.	Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov	609 984-3870	AB	Feb. 2018	Yes
Michael Pfeil	Texas Comm. Environ. Quality	Michael.pfeil@tceq.texas.gov	512-239-4592	AB	Feb. 2018	No
Kari Fleming	WI DNR	kari.fleming@wisconsin.gov	608-267-7663	AB	Dec. 2017	No
Associate Members						
Michael Chanov	EA Eng., Sci. &Tech.	mchanov@eaest.com	410-584-7000 ext: 5120	Lab (Assoc.)	--	No
Kevin Dischler	Element Materials Technology	Kevin.dischler@element.com	337-443-4010	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No

Monica Eues	CK Associates	Monica.eues@c-ka.com	225-923-6946	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Vel Rey Lozano	USEPA Region 8	Lozano.VelRey@epa.gov	303-312-6128	Other (EPA)	--	No
Linda Nemeth	Northwestern Aquatic Sciences	lnemeth@tds.net	541-265-7225	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Mark O'Neil	Environmental Enterprises USA, Inc.	moneil@eeusa.com	800-966-2788	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
John Overbey	American Interplex Corp.	joverbey@americaninterplex.com	501-224-5060, ext. 209	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Joe Pardue	Pro2Serve	Parduejjr@oro.doe.gov	423-404-4117	Other	---	Yes
Katie Payne	Nautilus Environmental	katie@nautilusenvironmental.com	858-587-7333 ext. 212	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Christina Pottios	San Jose Creek Labs, LA County	CPottios@lacs.d.org	562.908.4288 x3055	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Shain Schmitt	ESC Lab Sciences	sschmitt@esclabsciences.com	615-758-5858	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Thekkekalathil "Chandra" Chandrasekhar	FL DEP	Thekkekalathil.Chandrasekhar@dep.state.fl.us	850.245.8075	Other (Assoc.)		Yes
Beth Thompson	Shealy Consulting	bthompson@shealyconsulting.net	803-582-7996	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Tom Widera	ERA	twidera@eraqc.com	303-463-3536	Other		No
Program Administrator						
Lynn Bradley	TNI	Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org	540-885-5736			Yes
Guests						
Jennifer Duhon, Millipore Sigma, Jennifer.duhon@sial.com Coralie Leonard, Millipore Sigma, Coralie.leonard@sial.com ND Kaku, TCEQ, Nd-Kaku@tceq.texas.gov Mitzi Miller, Dade Moeller, Mitzi.Miller@dademoeller.com Sheela Agrawal, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, agrawals@neords.org Carol Turner, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, turnerc@neords.org Bob Wyeth, CSDEC Chair, rfwyeth@yahoo.com Veronica Godley, San Antonio Water System, veronica.godley@saws.org Dorothy Love, Eurofins, dorothylove@eurofinsus.com Scott Siders, PDC Labs, ssiders@pdclab.com						

Attachment 2

Action Items

	Action/Activity	Responsible Person(s)	Anticipated Completion	Comments
7	Review draft response to second set of questions, as provided by Rami, and submit comments	All members	February meeting	Be prepared to finalize responses to Questions 2, 3, & 4
10	Review 2009 and 2012 versions of V1M7, and determine which issues/revisions you wish to work on	All members	January meeting	Received formal approval for beginning the revision; notification posted to TNI website on January 17, 2017.
11	Pick a target timeframe for presenting the Webinar from the August 2016 Assessment Forum	Rami, Ginger, Beth and Katie, and other members	February meeting	