

**Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee Meeting Summary**  
**March 17, 2021 1:00 pm Eastern**

**1. Welcome and Announcements**

Rami welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1, below. The new associate member, Chad Cooper, was invited to introduce himself.

The agenda was revised to add a brief discussion seeking a volunteer to pick up revision of sections 1.7 through 1.7.1.5, which Steve Rewa had initially revised. Steve has resigned from the committee and left TNI. The original agenda with that two items added is shown in Attachment 2, below, and was approved by acclamation.

The minutes from February 17 were approved unanimously, with John and Dwayne abstaining due to their absence from that meeting. Rami noted that he had some conversations about §1.7 but did not have any revisions to the draft for distribution despite it being an action item from February (see that section, below).

**2. Updates**

WET FoPT Subcommittee – names of volunteers will be referred to PTPEC -- Ginger, Tom and Pete

Assessor Training Errata Sheet (Rami, others) – Jerry and Ilona will finalize the draft and then distribute it to trainees along with free registration to Understanding WET Testing course; committee members who took the course are requested to provide their feedback to the committee after reviewing it

Data Interpretation Training (Natalie and Teresa w/ Katie, Rami, Stephen and John) – a second meeting is scheduled for the following week

Method Codes for WET Analyses and LAMS Clean-up for WET Methods – Lynn committed to checking back with Jerry about clarification from TNI's Database Administrator of what is actually needed

**3. Method Selection and Method Validation §1.4 - 1.5**

Pete reviewed the discussion from the January meeting and redistributed his revised draft of the section as prepared after that meeting, as it was never dropped into the draft module revision. He noted that a list of about 10 bullets of things to be considered in deciding about method validation was added to §1.5, and participants expressed a desire to clearly state that TIE methods need not undergo full validation.

This revision also includes an expanded Method Selection §1.4. The revision clarifies that reference methods, while not necessarily regulatory or promulgated, are published by recognized organizations and have already undergone validation and peer review prior to publication. Reference methods should be agreed upon with the client, depending on the client's needs, but are considered to be "established methods" used routinely in aquatic toxicity testing. These methods must be verified prior to use, by demonstrating that the test acceptability criteria are met when run in the lab. Then, once verified, if the test SOP becomes part of the lab's routine offering to clients (and accreditation is desired), it becomes integrated into the lab's routine of Standard Reference Tests (SRTs) which constitute demonstration of competency. At least one participant

recommended that the appropriate method selection section(s) of V1M2 should be referenced with the explanation that they also apply to V1M7. Lynn recommended that, for now, they be referenced by name, as the 2017 updated to ISO 17025 was restructured and the next revision of V1M2 (which will become part of the same updated complete standard as WET is working on) will have a different structure than does the 2016 TNI Standard.

While rarely needed, lab-developed non-reference methods are uniquely developed for a particular need or purpose and these methods must be validated prior to use. The Method Validation section needs to describe the minimum requirements to be met in validating such a lab-developed method. Pete explained that he considered the method validation sections of both the microbiology and the chemistry modules, and created §1.5.1 – 1.5.4 to describe the critical evaluation factors that must be established in order to demonstrate that a lab-developed method is sound – successful completion test (endpoints and test evaluation criteria set prior to validation), precision, test sensitivity, and an acceptable false positive rate. Then, once the validation is satisfactorily completed, all other QC requirements apply.

Participants also discussed how an intra-lab validation (2 tests or 2 “rounds” of testing) would differ from a multi-lab validation, where each lab would run 2 rounds of testing. It was noted that, with judicious selection of reference toxicant, such validation could serve several purposes.

Pete will clean up these two sections and re-distribute them. He asked that committee members review and ponder the changes for the next round of discussion, and mentioned in particular that members should consider whether the difficult-to-perform false positive rate determination should be required, or not.

#### **4. QC Section 1.7**

Three different assignments were made and submitted for this section. Steve Rewa had revised §1.7-1.7.1.5, which was first reviewed at the February meeting. Rami asked for a new champion to see these revisions to completion, with the caveat that his effort to revise the first draft convinced him that the entire section needs to be restructured completely, after considering what “should” be addressed rather than just reorganizing the existing text. John will talk with Rami about a joint effort to recreate these Technical Requirements.

As meeting time was nearly over, Chandra recommended that committee members review his draft of §1.7.1.6 (Test Conditions) and be prepared to discuss at the April meeting.

Language for §1.7.1.6.e (QC for support chemistry measurements) was drafted and agreed upon by John and Michele several years ago, but as additional people have joined the conversation, the existing language will be re-reviewed and may have minor revisions to accommodate specific AB requirements that all chemistry measurements be accredited and the importance of disclaiming accreditation when support chemistry measurements are reported even though not accredited. Again, the purpose of these measurements is to ensure the well-being of the test organisms, so that the precision of the measurements is less important than in analytical chemistry testing and reporting of analyte concentrations.

#### **5. New Business**

Lynn noted that she had neglected to include the Vice Chair election in today’s agenda, but that the only nomination, Stephen Clark, was unable to attend, anyway. That election will be held at the beginning of the April meeting.

John moved and Natalie seconded that the meeting be adjourned; approval was unanimous.

## **6. Next Meeting**

The next teleconference meeting will be on April 21, 2020, at 1 pm Eastern. An agenda and any needed documents will be sent in advance.

**Attachment 1**

**WET Expert Committee Membership**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>	<b>Present</b>
Dwayne Burkholder	PA DEP	<a href="mailto:dburkholde@pa.gov">dburkholde@pa.gov</a>	AB (assoc.)	Jan. 2024 (1)	Yes
David Caldwell	OK DEQ	<a href="mailto:David.caldwell@deq.ok.gov">David.caldwell@deq.ok.gov</a>	AB (assoc.)	Jan. 2024 (1)	Yes
Thekkekalathil "Chandra" Chandrasekhar	FL DEP	<a href="mailto:Thekkekalathil.Chandrasekhar@dep.state.fl.us">Thekkekalathil.Chandrasekhar@dep.state.fl.us</a>	Lab (Assoc.)	Jan. 2024 (1)	Yes
Stephen Clark	Pacific EcoRisk	<a href="mailto:slclark@pacificecorisk.com">slclark@pacificecorisk.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)	Jan. 2024 (1)	No
Sarah Hughes	Shell Oil Co.	<a href="mailto:s.hughes@shell.com">s.hughes@shell.com</a>	Other	Jan. 2022 (1)	No
Rami Naddy (Chair)	TRE Env. Strat. LLC	<a href="mailto:naddyrb.tre@gmail.com">naddyrb.tre@gmail.com</a>	Lab	Jan. 2024 (3)	Yes
Teresa Norberg-King	USEPA	<a href="mailto:norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov">norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov</a>	Other (Affiliate)	Jan. 2022	Yes
Mark O'Neil	Environmental Enterprises USA, Inc.	<a href="mailto:moneil@eeusa.com">moneil@eeusa.com</a>	Lab	Jan. 2024 (2)	No
John Overbey	American Interplex Corp.	<a href="mailto:joverbey@americaninterplex.com">joverbey@americaninterplex.com</a>	Lab	Jan. 2024 (2)	Yes
Natalie Love	GEI Consultants	<a href="mailto:nlove@geiconsultants.com">nlove@geiconsultants.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)	Jan. 2024 (1)	Yes
Rosana McConkey	WA Dept of Ecology	<a href="mailto:rosa461@ECY.WA.GOV">rosa461@ECY.WA.GOV</a>	Non-NELAP AB	Jan. 2024 (1)	No
Ila Meyer-Fritzsche	VA DCLS	<a href="mailto:ila.meyer-fritzsche@dgs.virginia.gov">ila.meyer-fritzsche@dgs.virginia.gov</a>	AB (assoc.)	Jan. 2024 (1)	Yes
Katie Payne	Enthalpy Analytical	<a href="mailto:katie.payne@enthalpy.com">katie.payne@enthalpy.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)	Jan. 2024 (1)	Yes
Caitie Van Sciver	NJ DEP	<a href="mailto:Caitie.VanSciver@dep.nj.gov">Caitie.VanSciver@dep.nj.gov</a>	AB	Jan. 2024 (1)	Yes
<b>Associate Members</b>					
Travis Bartholomew	ORELAP	<a href="mailto:Travis.J.Bartholomew@dhsosha.state.or.us">Travis.J.Bartholomew@dhsosha.state.or.us</a>	AB		No
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Chad Cooper	PDC Labs	<a href="mailto:ccooper@pdclab.com">ccooper@pdclab.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Pete De Lisle	Coastal Bioanalysts Inc.	<a href="mailto:pfd@coastalbio.com">pfd@coastalbio.com</a>	Lab		Yes
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Christina Pottios	Los Angeles Cty Sanitation Districts	<a href="mailto:cpottios@lacsdsd.org">cpottios@lacsdsd.org</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No
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## Attachment 2

### Meeting Agenda for March 17, 2021

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes (February minutes attached)
- Brief Updates – Ongoing Activities
  - WET FoPT Subcommittee – volunteers referred to PTPEC (Ginger, Tom and Pete)
  - Assessor Training Errata Sheet (Rami, others) – revision prepared by Jerry, to be sent to trainees along with free registration to Understanding WET Testing course
  - Data Interpretation Training (Natalie and Teresa w/ Katie, Rami, Stephen and John) – status report from Natalie
  - Method Codes for WET Analyses and LAMS Clean-up for WET Methods – no response from Jerry about clarification from TNI's Database Administrator of what is actually needed.
- V1M7 Revision (see updated version of draft V1M7)
  - Resume discussion of §1.5 (validation, Pete's edits)
  - Discuss §1.7.1.6 (Chandra's edits to 1.7.1.6)
  - Discuss §1.7.1.6.e (Michele/John's chemistry QC), time permitting
  - Request for volunteer to work on §1.7 – 1.7.1.5, Technical Requirements
- New Business
- Adjourn