

**Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee Meeting Summary
March 18, 2020 1:00 pm Eastern**

1. Welcome and Announcements

In Rami's absence, Pete welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1, below. The minutes of January 15 were approved with Elizabeth and Beth abstaining, and the minutes of February 19 were approved.

2. Assignments for Review and Revision of the WET Module V1M7

Listed here are the sections and the individuals who agreed to review and revise them. Below the summary listing, issues that were discussed as relevant to each section are described more fully.

§1.1-1.3.2 – Beth Thompson

§1.4 – 1.5 – Pete DeLisle

§1.6 – Rami Naddy with input from Amy Hackman, Dwayne Burkholder and Michele Potter

§1.7, 1.7.1, 1.7.1.1, 1.7.1.2, 1.7.2.1, 1.7.2.2 – Steve Rewa

§1.7.1.3 – no one, this section appears to be redundant

§1.7.1.4 – Chris Burbage

§1.7.1.5 – John Overbey

§1.7.1.6 except 1.7.1.6.e – T. K. Chandrasekhar

§1.7.1.6.e – Michele Potter and John Overbey

§1.7.2.3 – Kari Fleming (renumbered as 1.7.3 in the working draft)

§1.7.3 – Tom Widera (will be renumbered as 1.7.4 in the working draft)

Also, participants agreed to change the header for §1.7.2 to be "Standard Reference Tests".

Issues discussed during the meeting are more fully described below. In addition, a mark-up of the module offered by Marlene should be reviewed as individuals proceed with revisions of these specific sections.

§1.1-1.3.2 – Beth

After several discussions about the scope of the module, nothing has been written about what types of testing is covered other than WET (sediments, algae, etc.) and whether the module should cover non-regulatory testing such as Toxicity Identification Evaluations (TIEs). Also, the definitions in the QS module that need to be in the WET module, or where the usage of a term for WET differs from other disciplines, need to be identified and probably should be pulled out for inclusion in the WET standard itself.

§1.4 – 1.5 – Pete

Need to make sure that the sections referenced for the Quality Systems module are still correct (even though they may change again, we'll be able to track future changes).

Define “reference materials”, as used in WETT, since that will be different than the use of the term in chemistry labs. Clarify what’s needed for selection and possible validation of non-regulatory methods. Participants discussed the concept of an accreditation as also being a recognition of lab’s competency to develop tests and protocols for exploratory testing to identify unknown factors – such as performing a TIE to meet client requirements, rather than following a published protocol. Somehow, that concept (customization) needs to be brought into the WET module, with selection of “appropriate for task” methods as well as validation of methods.

§1.6 – Rami with input from Amy, Dwayne and Michele

Rami committed to drafting language for the NELAP AC to review about the analyst initial DOC, and Amy, Dwayne and Michele have already been part of that activity.

§1.7, 1.7.1, 1.7.1.1, 1.7.1.2, 1.7.2.1, 1.7.2.2 – Steve

Participants determined that the language about positive and negative controls in the QC section needed to be aligned with the positive and negative control sections of the data acceptance criteria, so that both 1.7.1 and 1.7.2 should be revised together. It is likely that the current language was extracted from the chemistry module, and thus could be much improved for toxicity testing. Sort out what is quality control and what is acceptance criteria. How to accept or reject test results based on the performance of controls is fundamental to the discipline. May need to define other factors that impact test acceptability.

§1.7.1.3 – no one

This section appears to be redundant – final decision pending

§1.7.1.4 – Chris Burbage

No additional discussion occurred.

§1.7.1.5 – John

John is already immersed in this due to the chemistry QC effort

§1.7.1.6 except 1.7.1.6.e –Chandra

Probably can remove a lot of this but be sure that things not in the methods get addressed in the standard and clarify activities such as randomization. This can be tricky because it comes out of the regulatory methods and permits, as tox labs are “doing science” instead of performing prescribed test protocols verbatim. Have the lab document the reasons or justification for its choices if not specified in the regulatory method (or permit).

§1.7.1.6.e – Michele and John

Final language about the QC for chemistry support methods awaits more definitive response from EPA; preliminary response received already but promise of confirmation to come still pending.

§1.7.2.3 – Kari (Selection of Appropriate Statistical Analysis Methods, renumbered as 1.7.3 in the working draft)

Nobody uses semi-log graph paper these days, was the sentiment!

§1.7.3 – Tom (Sample Handling, renumbered as 1.7.4 in the working draft)

No additional discussion occurred.

Materials for use in the revision are being distributed with these minutes to all committee members.

3. Updates

Time was expired, so Lynn gave a rapid rundown of the on-going assignments from the agenda, as follows:

Assessor Training Reviews (Stephen, Sarah, Elizabeth, Katie, John and Mike Chanov)

Reviewers are working; results to be delivered to TNI Training Administrator by March 31

Draft Outline for Data Interpretation Training (Teresa and Natalie)

Teresa is working on revisions since the SETAC Workshop in Toronto

PT Data Request

Letter sent to TNI IT Administrator

Method Codes for WET Analyses (Michele, Ginger and maybe Teresa)

Status unknown

LAMS Clean-up for WET Methods (Rami, Michele and Elizabeth)

Status unknown

PT Instructions for PT Providers (Ginger and Pete, Mark also)

Ginger has been working on it

QC for Support Measurements (Michele and John, Marlene interacting w/ EPA)

PDF of email for preliminary response was distributed FYI

Technical Director Requirements (Beth, Pete and Ginger)

Draft proposal awaits review by committee

Analyst IDOC Write-up (Rami)

Status unknown

4. Next Meeting

The next teleconference meeting will be on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at 1 pm Eastern. An agenda and any needed documents will be sent in advance.

Attachment 1

WET Expert Committee Membership

Member	Affiliation	Email	Category	Term Expiration	Present
Ginger Briggs	Bio-Analytical Laboratories	bal@bioanalyticallabs.com	Lab	Dec. 2020 (2)	No
Chris Burbage	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	cburbage@hrsd.com	Lab	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
Kari Fleming	WI DNR	kari.fleming@wisconsin.gov	AB	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
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)	no
Pete De Lisle (Vice Chair)	Coastal Bioanalysts Inc.	pfd@coastalbio.com	Lab	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
Rami Naddy (Chair)	TRE Env. Strat. LLC	naddyrb.tre@gmail.com	Lab	Dec. 2020 (2)	No
Teresa Norberg-King	USEPA	norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov	Other (Affiliate)	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
John Overbey	American Interplex Corp.	joverbey@americaninterplex.com	Lab	Dec 2020 (1)	Yes
Chris Pasch	Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.	cpasch@apaienv.com	Other	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
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)	Yes
Elizabeth West	LA DEQ LELAP	elizabeth.west@la.gov	AB	Dec. 2020 (2)	No
Associate Members					
Sylvia Bogdan	EPA R6	Bogdan.sylvia@epa.gov	Other (Assoc.)		No
Steve Boggs	CA ELAP	steve.boggs@waterboards.ca.gov	Other (Assoc.)		No
Dwayne Burkholder	PA DEP	dburkholde@pa.gov	AB (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.)		Yes
Stephen Clark	Pacific EcoRisk	slclark@pacificecorisk.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
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
Natalie Love	GEI Consultants	nlove@geiconsultants.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
VelRey Lozano	USEPA Region 8	Lozano.VelRey@epa.gov	Other (Assoc.)		No
Marlene Moore	Advanced Systems	mmoore@advancedsys.com	Other (assoc.)		Yes
Mark O'Neil	Environmental Enterprises USA, Inc.	moneil@eeusa.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Katie Payne	Enthalpy Analytical	katie.payne@enthalpy.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Christina Pottios	Los Angeles Cty Sanitation Districts	cpottios@lacsds.org	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Greg Savitske	US EPA OECA	Savitske.gregory@epa.gov	Other (Assoc.)		No
Lem Walker	USEPA OW/OST	Walker.lemuel@epa.gov	Other (Assoc.)		No
Craig Watts	Hydrosphere Research	cwatts@hydrosphere.net	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Bruce Weckworth	HRSD	Bruce.weckworth@hrsd.com	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Tom Widera	ERA	twidera@eraqc.com	Other (Assoc.)		Yes
Program Administrator					
Lynn Bradley		Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org			Yes