

Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee Meeting Summary

March 21, 2018 1 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Announcements

Rami welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1, below. The minutes from February 21, 2018, were approved. New associate members David Johnston (Valero) and Silvia Bogdan (EPA R6) were invited to introduce themselves.

2. Committee Membership

VelRey Lozano, EPA R8, agreed to be nominated to become a full member of the committee. With her addition as an “other” stakeholder, we could add two of the highly active associate members as full members, as well. Beth Thompson (“lab”) and John Overbey (“lab”) were nominated to become full members.

Elizabeth moved and Chris Pasch seconded that all three nominees be elected into full membership. Approval was unanimous. (NOTE: The chair of the Consensus Standards Development Executive Committee has approved these new members.)

3. Status Updates on Follow-Up Items from Conference

NEFAP – after the meeting, Elizabeth offered to take on this role, and no other volunteers have appeared. Thank you, Elizabeth!

WET Methods for the TNI Method Compendium in LAMS – now that Dan Hickman, TNI’s Database Administrator, has returned from vacation, Elizabeth and Rami have a scheduled conference call with him in early April.

FoPT Analyte Codes – reviews of the analyte codes tentatively assigned by Dan are returning to Rami, after the meeting. The composite response will be discussed with the full committee before being returned to Craig for PTPEC.

PTPEC Request from December – no further activity has occurred.

3. Revising the WET Module of the TNI Standard (V1M7)

4. DOC/IDOC – Steve and Pete provided a revised version of the draft, based on prior discussions as well as specific comments from Elizabeth and Marshall. We agreed that tracking changes through a year’s worth of revisions is not feasible, and have abandoned that thought; a version with “tracked changes” can be created at the end of the process.

Working through the draft revision, line-by-line, stalled early on with discussion of the scope of the standard. Will it include more than WET testing as defined in the WET method manuals? What about sediments, soils in an aqueous environment (but not chemical testing of soils,) drilling fluids, and the use of plants and other organisms such as worms? It is clear that some Accreditation Bodies (ABs) accredit methods beyond WET, but not all do. There was some discussion about whether sediments would require a separate module, but the phrase “toxicity testing” would cover any methods where the test organism is the indicator.

General consensus seemed to be that a more broadly inclusive scope would be preferred, since accreditation is by method, but that the actual wording of the introductory language and decisions about whether to create separate sections of the standard for the non-WET aspects should be postponed until we have resolved the two “hot button” issues of Demonstration of Capability (DOC) and QA/QC for chemistry measurements.

We did agree that all references to other parts of the standard will likely need to be targeted to the 2020 (or later) revision of the Quality Systems module, using the 2017 version of ISO/IEC 17025. This would include portions of the module like method development and validation.

Moving on to discussion of the DOC, there was general agreement that for a lab's initial accreditation, the existing "on-going DOC" (ODOC) can serve as the initial DOC (§1.6.2.) Beyond that, Steve and Pete asked for additional feedback about whether the initial analyst training (§1.6.2.1) can serve as the Initial DOC (IDOC) so that they can spell out in detail the expectations for individuals to demonstrate ongoing competence.

Then §1.6.3, Ongoing DOC, becomes a hybrid of annual DOC and annual analyst training, so that all analysts are documented as successfully performing each of the lab's methods. Satisfactory performance in Standard Reference Toxicant (SRT) testing is generally considered to demonstrate ongoing competence for the laboratory. There was some debate about whether passing the DMR-QA or PT test counts for an individual's ODOC or only for the parts which the individual actually performed.

General consensus formed around the concept that the DOC should be associated with the laboratory while training would be associated with the individual analyst(s). One participant noted that this would be acceptable if there is a way to ensure that the lab's training system is effective.

At this point, Rami checked to see if participants were willing to remain on the line a bit longer to finish discussing the draft provided by Steve and Pete, and established that there was no "new business" to be addressed.

Moving through to §1.6.2.3.b, there was ample discussion about individual analyst training and criteria for that training to serve as IDOC, including some concerns about whether each "task" of a method was truly equivalent across different species and possibly different methods as well (when the task seems to be identical.) Questions posed were:

Does each analyst have to perform a successful SRT for each method? (Alternate text was provided to require this, for consideration – should it be retained or dropped?)

Can each lab define how it ensures that an analyst has successfully completed each task in the SRT?

Steve will create another version with DOC and training separated and with sections for lab and individual under both. Elizabeth suggested looking at similar language in the chemistry module, and offered to share that.

Steve and Pete will work up a new version with DOC language for the May meeting, and distribute it in advance so that committee members have time to review it before the meeting.

Chemistry QA/QC – John and Michele agreed to revise the initial language to provide details, specifics, and minimum requirements for "verification" and to have this language available for review at the April 2018 meeting.

5. Next Meeting

The next teleconference will be Wednesday, April 18, 2018, at 1 pm Eastern. Teleconference information and an agenda will be provided in advance.

The following meeting will be May 16.

Attachment 1

Committee Membership

Member	Affiliation	Email	Category	Term Expiration	Present
Ginger Briggs	Bio-Analytical Laboratories	bioanalytical@wildblue.net	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)	No
Pete De Lisle (Vice Chair)	Coastal Bioanalysts Inc.	pfd@coastalbio.com	Lab	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
VelRey Lozano	USEPA Region 8	Lozano.VelRey@epa.gov	Other (EPA)	Dec 2020 (1)	No
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
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)	Yes
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					
Debmalya Bhattacharyya	NE OH Regional Sewer District	bhattacharyad@neorsd.org	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Silvia Bogdan	EPA R6	Bogdan.silvia@epa.gov	Other (Assoc.)		Yes
Michael Chanov	EA Eng., Sci. &Tech.	mchanov@eaest.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
Marshall Faircloth	FL DEP	joseph.faircloth@dep.state.fl.us	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
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.)		Yes
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@lacsds.org	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Shain Schmitt	ESC Lab Sciences	sschmitt@esclabsciences.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Greg Savitske	US EPA OECA	Savitske.gregory@epa.gov	Other (Assoc.)		No
Thekkekalathil "Chandra" Chandrasekhar	FL DEP	Thekkekalathil.Chandrasekhar@dep.state.fl.us	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Jordan Thorngren	Eurofins (Horsham, PA)	jordanthorngren@eurofinsUS.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Tom Widera	ERA	twidera@eraqc.com	Other (Assoc.)		No

Lynn Bradley	TNI Program Administrator	Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org			Yes
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Attachment 2

Action Items

	Action/Activity	Responsible Person(s)	Anticipated Completion	Comments
15	Draft language about DOC requirements	Steve and Pete, with others	??	Revised draft expected for May 2018 meeting
16	Submit difficult questions from webinar to committee for response	Ginger, Elizabeth, et al	December 2017	done
17	Draft language about QC requirements for water chemistry measurements	Michele, John, others?	??	revised draft language expected for April 2018 meeting
18	Reply to Laura Phillips' questions in follow-up to August meeting about PT/DMR-QA	Rami	12/15/18	
19	Contact Vel Rey Lozano about full membership, and if not, then one of two other possible candidates from the "other" stakeholder category	Rami	March 16, 2018	
20	Work with TNI Database Administrator about WET methods in the compendium	Rami, Elizabeth		Conf call set for 4/6/18
21	Review FoPT table with inserted analyte codes in	Rami, Michele, Beth, Chandra		Discuss at April meeting