

## Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee Meeting Summary

May 15, 2019

### 1. Welcome and Announcements

Rami welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1, below. Rami invited Natalie Love to introduce herself. Minutes from April 17 were approved unanimously with Steve abstaining.

### 2. Updates

#### PTPEC

Rami circulated draft language for an Analyte Request Application (ARA), as requested by PTPEC when he talked with Maria Friedman (PTPEC Chair) and Craig Huff in April. The purpose of this ARA is to convey the committee's request for a year of PT data and the related statistics from at least the three main WET PT providers. The plan is to scrutinize this data to see if there is some better way to evaluate WET PTs. In particular, the consensus is that any PT study with five or fewer data points does not provide enough certainty to justify classifying one or more of those results as a failed PT.

Some possible hypotheses discussed were that water types could be combined for small data sets, (sheepshead minnows), or a minimum study size could be established that would provide adequate statistical reliability, and whether there is any value in repeating a "failed" study, since only a corrective action is required for the DMR-QA.

Teresa noted that the DMR-QA group wants to create a database for direct entry of PT data, that will include effluent methods, but this is not yet a successful effort. That compilation will likely be useful to this committee when available.

Rami will finalize the language and the form itself, and circulate for **comments**, with a **deadline of May 24 for comments** so that the form can be submitted by May 31.

#### Agenda for Jacksonville Conference

This issue is postponed until the June meeting, but participants agreed that the 1:30 – 3 pm time slot would be adequate, so that after break, they can migrate to the ELAB session and hopefully stimulate some discussion there about WET PTs.

#### ELAB Interactions

There was no update offered during the meeting. However, ELAB meets at the same time as this committee, and later that afternoon, the ELAB Past Chair Mike Delaney contacted Rami and Lynn to say that they are still pursuing conversation with the DMR-QA Coordinator, and that a meeting of some sort in Jacksonville may be forthcoming.

### 3. Revising V1M7

Several detailed lists that break down the individual tasks of a method and a proposed matrix of organisms that would effectively demonstrate all elements of the various methods were distributed for committee members to review, since the last meeting.

Discussion began with the comment that nothing in the current (2009 and 2016) WET module about performing IDOCs. Several statements were made (below) that seemed to reflect

consensus of all participants, and might form the basis for language in the eventual revision of the WET module:

- “In its quality system, the lab shall identify and train to essential skills for conducting tests and then demonstrate those skills in one or more standard reference tests.” Possibly two or three tests could verify skills for up to eight different tests with various organisms, since procedures for some organisms are nearly identical.
- “If the IDOC is to demonstrate the individual skills for an analyst, the lab must be able to demonstrate that the person performing those tasks has that skill, i.e., every action must be initialed by the supervisor/trainer.” Discussion suggested that this language may be in the Quality Systems module (V1M2); if so, it would not need to be repeated in V1M7.
- The terminology of “work cell” should be abandoned for this module, since the groups performing tests in a WET lab are more loosely structured than the work cells used in a chemistry lab and described in other sections of the standard. It will be important not to mislead assessors who may not be experienced with WET lab procedures.

Further discussion suggested that perhaps the “essential skills” (phrasing from above language) should be unambiguously defined in the module, rather than leaving it up to each laboratory. There was also discussion about having details in a guidance document rather than in the standard itself, since guidance is not enforceable as a requirement.

Pete indicated that he has begun sketching out a matrix of skills and methods using them. He will complete his thinking on this and forward it to Steve for refinement/editing, and they will plan to provide a revised draft module for the June meeting. The most recent draft was from October 2018, and Steve said he has one member’s comments on that draft still awaiting incorporation, as well. Material for the IDOC will likely go into section 1.6.2.3.

#### **4. New Business**

A question arose about the Technical Director language that was agreed upon and sent to the Quality Systems Committee, whether it would include a person with an unrelated bachelor’s degree but a master’s degree in aquatic biology or something similar. After the meeting, the language agreed upon was examined and found to be satisfactory, as it says “bachelor’s or higher” degree.

#### **5. Next Meeting**

The next teleconference meeting will be at **1 pm Eastern on Wednesday, June 19, 2019**. An agenda and documents will be sent before the meeting.

**Attachment 1**

**Committee Membership**

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

<b>Associate Members</b>					
Silvia Bogdan	EPA R6	Bogdan.silvia@epa.gov	Other (Assoc.)		No
Steve Boggs	CA ELAP	steve.boggs@waterboards.ca.gov	Other (Assoc.)		Yes
Thekkekalathil "Chandra" Chandrasekhar	FL DEP	<a href="mailto:Thekkekalathil.Chandrasekhar@dep.state.fl.us">Thekkekalathil.Chandrasekhar@dep.state.fl.us</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
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Greg Savitske	US EPA OECA	<a href="mailto:Savitske.gregory@epa.gov">Savitske.gregory@epa.gov</a>	Other (Assoc.)		No
Jordan Thorngren	Eurofins (Horsham, PA)	<a href="mailto:jordanthorngren@eurofinsUS.com">jordanthorngren@eurofinsUS.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Craig Watts	Hydrosphere Research	cwatts@hydrosphere.net	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Bruce Weckworth	HRSD	Bruce.weckworth@hrsd.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Tom Widera	ERA	twidera@eraqc.com	Other (Assoc.)		No
Lynn Bradley	TNI Program Administrator	<a href="mailto:Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org">Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org</a>			Yes