

Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee Meeting Summary

November 18, 2015 1 pm Eastern

1. Welcome, Roll Call, Approval of Minutes and Announcements

Rami Naddy welcomed everyone to the meeting. Minutes of the October 21, 2015, meeting were approved. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1, below.

2. Goals and Priorities

Participants undertook to finalize the draft Goals and Priorities for this committee. The following table reflects the results of that discussion.

WET Expert Committee Goals and Priorities		Short/Long Term & Priority	Suggested Timeline
PT Goals Two broad categories—standardizing test conditions and standardizing test endpoints			
PT1	Standardize test conditions		
	Standardize test conditions required for PT/DMRQA WET studies. Current practice of conducting multiple tests using different NPDES permit test conditions creates ambiguity in assessing any participating laboratory's performance with a WET method.		
	Review the PT/DMRQA data to determine whether DMW should be combined with MHSF data.	Short term	
	Clearly define the data objectives and purposes for WET PT/DMRQA studies for all stakeholders involved.	High priority	
PT2	Standardize test endpoints		
	Choose one statistical method to calculate the test endpoint, such as IC25 or LC50 point estimate, for Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) PT/DMRQA studies and eliminate the use of hypothesis test endpoints such as NOEC, NOAEC, LOEC and LOAEC in order to increase the size of the database and improve statistical results.	Short term	

	Improve the statistical power and evaluation of WET data sets and results in PT/DMRQA studies.	Long term		
	Complete the work started by the WETT PT subcommittee by improving the testing and reporting requirements of the PT/DMRQA study.			
Education and Outreach				
EO1	To offer expert assistance to TNI on WETT testing methods, quality control and data interpretation.			
EO2	To offer expert assistance to TNI, auditors and laboratories on interpretation of the Standard as it pertains to WETT.			
EO3	Educate assessors on IC25 vs. NOEC for PT/DMRQA endpoints.	Short term	Summer 2016	
EO4	Work with PT providers and assessors to consolidate, clarify, and improve the guidance on acceptable and unacceptable corrective actions for laboratories when a PT/DMRQA study result is outside of the acceptance limits.	Long term		
Revising the Standard				
RS1	Improve the way initial demonstration of capability is handled specifically for WET testing.	Long term		
RS2	Review the complete WET module of Volume 1 for additional improvements to the standard.			

3. Review 2009 and 2012 Versions of WET Module to Determine Which Best Meets Needs

During discussions about the potential SIR submission, a question arose about which version of the WET module (V1M7) of the TNI Standard would best address the goals and priorities formulated by this committee, and it's not clear that the 2012 version is an improvement over the 2009 version, by that criteria. Rami asked committee members to please review both versions (using the redline/strikeout as distributed) and set an additional meeting so that this decision can be made in time for the Laboratory Accreditation Systems Executive Committee to be able to address our committee's recommendation in its recommendation to the NELAP Accreditation Council about whether to adopt the newer module or retain the older one. An additional meeting time was set for Wednesday, December 2, as well as the normally scheduled meeting on December 16.

4. Potential Language for a Standards Interpretation Request

This issue will be postponed until the determination of which version of the WET Module is preferred can be accomplished.

5. Additional Business

Rami reported that he met by teleconference with the Shawn Kassner, Chair of the PT Expert Committee, and Bob Wyeth, Chair of the Consensus Standards Development Executive Committee, to discuss our committee's thoughts and concerns about proficiency testing. While a final decision has not been made, the possibility of adding a WET section within the PT module of the standard (V1M1) was raised and remains under consideration.

Also, Rami noted that Steve Arms, Chair of TNI's Advocacy Committee, contacted him with a request for our committee to review several chapters of guidance document being prepared about good laboratory practices. The purpose of the review is solely to ensure that nothing in the guidance conflicts with the WET module of the standard. NOTE: Lynn has requested reviewers for these but got minimal response.

Rami moved and Ginger seconded that the meeting adjourn, shortly after 2 pm Eastern.

6. Next Meeting

The WET Expert Committee will meet again on Wednesday, December 2, 2015, at 1 pm Eastern. This is an "extra" meeting, and the normally scheduled December 16 meeting will also be held 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	Yes
Pete De Lisle	Coastal Bioanalysts Inc	pfd@coastalbio.com	804-694-8285	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Steven Rewa	Environmental Resources Management	steven.rewa@erm.com	616-738-7324	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Chris Burbage	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	cburbage@hrsd.com	757-355-5013	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Chris Pasch	Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.	cpasch@apaienv.com	512-687-2162	Other	Feb. 2018	Yes
Teresa Norberg-King	USEPA	norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov	218-529-5163	Other	Feb. 2018	Yes
Elizabeth West	LA DEQ LELAP	elizabeth.west@la.gov	318-676-7457	AB	Feb. 2018	Yes
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. 2015	Yes
Associate Members						
Kevin Dischler	Element Materials Technology	Kevin.dischler@element.com	337-443-4010	Lab (Assoc.)	---	Yes
Monica Eues	CK Associates	Monica.eues@c-ka.com	225-923-6946	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Barbara Escobar	Pima County RWRD, CRAO Laboratory	Barbara.escobar@pima.gov		Lab (Assoc.)	---	No

Melinda Hooper	Englewood Water District, Florida	hoopermelinda@gmail.com		Lab (Assoc.)		No
Robert Kelley	ETT Environmental Inc	bobkelley@ettenvironmental.com	864-877-6942	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Brian Krausz	USEPA	krausz.brian@epa.gov	202-564-3069	Other (EPA)	--	No
Jennifer Loudon	Raritan Township Municipal Utilities Authority	JLoudon@rtmua.com	908-787-7453 x 19	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Vel Rey Lozano	USEPA Region 8	Lozano.VelRey@epa.gov	303-312-6128	Other (EPA)	--	No
Robert Martino	QC Laboratories	rmartino@qclaboratories.com	267-699-0103	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Jamie Mitchell	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	jmitchell@hrsd.com	757-460-4220	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Linda Nemeth	Northwestern Aquatic Sciences	lnemeth@tds.net	541-265-7225	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Mark O'Neil	Environmental Enterprises USA, Inc.	moneil@eeusa.com	800-966-2788	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Marilyn O'Neill	Nautilus Environmental	Marilyn@nautilusenvironmental.com	858-587-7333	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Joe Pardue	Pro2Serve	Parduegjjr@oro.doe.gov	423-404-4117	Other	---	No
Peter M Paulos	Atkins Environmental Toxicology Lab	Peter.Paulos@atkinsglobal.com	713-292-9023	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Katie Payne	Nautilus Environmental	katie@nautilusenvironmental.com	858-587-7333 ext. 212	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Beth Thompson	Shealy Consulting	bthompson@shealyconsulting.net	803-808-3113	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Program Administrator						
Lynn Bradley	TNI	Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org	540-885-5736			Yes