

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

**1. Welcome and Announcements**

Rami welcomed everyone to the meeting. The newest associate member, David Caldwell, was invited to introduce himself. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1, below. Ginger moved and John seconded that the minutes of October 21 be approved, and the vote was unanimously in favor, with Amy abstaining due to her absence last month. There were no changes to the agenda, which is in Attachment 2, below.

**2. Updates**

- PT Instructions for PT Providers (Ginger, Pete and Mark)
  - Rami planned to meet with PTPEC on November 19 to discuss further. There is some question about whether the planned joint meeting during conference will be necessary, and the EPA DMR-QA Coordinator, Greg Savitske, definitely needs to become involved
- Assessor Training Errata Sheet
  - No response yet (two follow-up emails sent so far)
- Draft Outline for Data Interpretation Training (Teresa and Natalie)
  - Training proposal was submitted by Natalie, and Lynn is following up to learn what the review procedure is, now that TNI has a formal Training Committee in place
- Method Codes for WET Analyses (Michele, Ginger and maybe Teresa)
  - Hoping to re-start this review in 2021, as Teresa has more availability due to completing her year as SETAC NA President
- LAMS Clean-up for WET Methods (Rami, Michele and Elizabeth)
  - On hold for now

**3. Continued Discussion of Analyst IDOC Write-up**

Rami again expressed his desired to have a consensus agreement on the minimum requirements for an analyst demonstration of competency (DOC) before the current committee members rotate off in January. When agreement is reached, the document will be proposed to the NELAP Accreditation Council to ensure that all other NELAP ABs will accept the minimum requirements that the committee agrees upon. Then, the resulting requirements will be written into the draft revised module.

In advance of the meeting, Rami distributed another revised draft. The initial discussion focused on using requirements language (“must”) for requirements and that if “should” or “may” were used, those sections should be notes within the standard.

During the discussion, Pete noted that a brief search turned up a Federal Aviation Administration website stating that “shall” is not considered enforceable by the courts (see [https://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/plain\\_language/articles/mandatory/](https://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/plain_language/articles/mandatory/)). That site states “We call “must” and “must not” words of obligation. “Must” is the only word that imposes a legal obligation on your readers to tell them something is mandatory. Also, “must not” are the only words you can use to say something is prohibited. Who says so and why? Nearly every jurisdiction has held that the word “shall” is confusing because it can also mean “may, will or must.”” This link was shared with TNI’s Executive Director and Lynn will ensure that it gets considered for inclusion in the Standards Development SOP 2-100, to become normal TNI practice.

Then, participants discussed criteria for acceptability of cross-training among methods. Cross-training should only occur when all components are in all methods for which one “cross-training” applies, and the methods must use similar technologies (static and static renewal are not acceptable cross-training for a flow-through method). For instance, a “primary” method – a chronic test – could be used to cross-train for a “secondary” method -- the acute test for the same (or determined to be similar enough) organism and technology. Acceptable cross-trainings will be described in the standard as will “similar enough” organisms, but as a “note” and not as a requirement.

Discussion also considered how sediment tests differ from WET tests. Recovery of organisms from the sediment (whether alive or not) is the key issue for sediment tests. Steve Boggs, Mark, Pete and Ginger agreed to wordsmith the bullet about sediment testing to reflect what is appropriate.

It will also be necessary to clearly distinguish what is acceptable for training purposes (these would be defined by the lab in its quality system) and what is required for DOC.

#### **4. Method Validation**

Time was expired. Hopefully, this topic and perhaps more of the revisions submitted by various committee members can be addressed at the December meeting.

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

Ginger noted that one supplier had been distributing a product for reconstituted calcium sulfate ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ ) that contains toxic levels of trace element Cadmium, and that labs should be aware of that issue.

Ginger moved and Chris seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

#### **6. Next Meeting**

The next teleconference meeting will be on Wednesday, December 16, 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>
Ginger Briggs	Bio-Analytical Laboratories	<a href="mailto:bal@bioanalyticallabs.com">bal@bioanalyticallabs.com</a>	Lab	Jan. 2021 (2)	Yes
Chris Burbage	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	<a href="mailto:cburbage@hrsd.com">cburbage@hrsd.com</a>	Lab	Jan. 2021 (2)	No
Kari Fleming	WI DNR	<a href="mailto:kari.fleming@wisconsin.gov">kari.fleming@wisconsin.gov</a>	AB	Jan. 2021 (2)	Yes
Amy Hackman	PA Dept. Environ. Prot.	<a href="mailto:ahackman@pa.gov">ahackman@pa.gov</a>	AB	Jan. 2021 (2)	Yes
Sarah Hughes	Shell Oil Co.	<a href="mailto:s.hughes@shell.com">s.hughes@shell.com</a>	Other	Jan. 2022 (1)	No
Pete De Lisle (Vice Chair)	Coastal Bioanalysts Inc.	<a href="mailto:pfd@coastalbio.com">pfd@coastalbio.com</a>	Lab	Jan. 2021 (2)	Yes
Rami Naddy (Chair)	TRE Env. Strat. LLC	<a href="mailto:naddyrb.tre@gmail.com">naddyrb.tre@gmail.com</a>	Lab	Jan. 2021 (2)	Yes
Teresa Norberg-King	USEPA	<a href="mailto:norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov">norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov</a>	Other (Affiliate)	Jan. 2021 (2)	No
Mark O'Neil	Environmental Enterprises USA, Inc.	<a href="mailto:moneil@eeusa.com">moneil@eeusa.com</a>	Lab	Jan. 2021 (1)	Yes
John Overbey	American Interplex Corp.	<a href="mailto:joverbey@americaninterplex.com">joverbey@americaninterplex.com</a>	Lab	Jan. 2021 (1)	Yes
Chris Pasch	Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.	<a href="mailto:cpasch@apaienv.com">cpasch@apaienv.com</a>	Other	Jan. 2021 (2)	Yes
Michael Pfeil	Texas Comm. Environ. Quality	<a href="mailto:Michael.pfeil@tceq.texas.gov">Michael.pfeil@tceq.texas.gov</a>	AB	Jan. 2021 (2)	Yes
Michele Potter	NJ Dept. of Environ Protect.	<a href="mailto:Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov">Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov</a>	AB	Jan. 2021 (2)	Yes
Steven Rewa	Env. Resources Management	<a href="mailto:steven.rewa@erm.com">steven.rewa@erm.com</a>	Lab	Jan. 2021 (2)	No
Elizabeth West	LA DEQ LELAP	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.west@la.gov">elizabeth.west@la.gov</a>	AB	Jan. 2021 (2)	No
<b>Associate Members</b>					
Sylvia Bogdan	EPA R6	<a href="mailto:Bogdan.sylvia@epa.gov">Bogdan.sylvia@epa.gov</a>	Other (Assoc.)		No
Steve Boggs	CA ELAP	<a href="mailto:steve.boggs@waterboards.ca.gov">steve.boggs@waterboards.ca.gov</a>	Other (Assoc.)		Yes
Dwayne Burkholder	PA DEP	<a href="mailto:dburkholde@pa.gov">dburkholde@pa.gov</a>	AB (assoc.)		No
David Caldwell	OK DEQ	<a href="mailto:David.caldwell@deq.ok.gov">David.caldwell@deq.ok.gov</a>	AB (assoc.)		Yes
Antoine Chamsi	East Bay Municipal Utility Dist.	<a href="mailto:antoine.chamsi@ebmud.com">antoine.chamsi@ebmud.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No

Thekkekalathil "Chandra" Chandrasekhar	FL DEP	<a href="mailto:Thekkekalathil.Chandrasekhar@dep.state.fl.us">Thekkekalathil.Chandrasekhar@ dep.state.fl.us</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Michael Chanov	EA Eng., Sci. &Tech.	<a href="mailto:mchanov@eaest.com">mchanov@eaest.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Stephen Clark	Pacific EcoRisk	<a href="mailto:slclark@pacificecorisk.com">slclark@pacificecorisk.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Erin Consuegra	ERA LAB	<a href="mailto:econsuegra@eralab.com">econsuegra@eralab.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Kevin Dischler	Element Materials Technology	<a href="mailto:Kevin.dischler@element.com">Kevin.dischler@element.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Monica Eues	CK Associates	<a href="mailto:Monica.eues@c-ka.com">Monica.eues@c-ka.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Nicole Fortin	Honolulu City Lab	<a href="mailto:nfortin@honolulu.gov">nfortin@honolulu.gov</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Christina Henderson	Bio-Aquatic Testing, Inc.	<a href="mailto:chenderson@bio-aquatic.com">chenderson@bio-aquatic.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No
David Johnston	Valero Refining Co - Benecia	<a href="mailto:david.johnston@valero.com">david.johnston@valero.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Paul Junio	Northern Lake Service, Inc.	<a href="mailto:paulj@nlslab.com">paulj@nlslab.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Natalie Love	GEI Consultants	<a href="mailto:nlove@geiconsultants.com">nlove@geiconsultants.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No
VelRey Lozano	USEPA Reg. 8	<a href="mailto:Lozano.VelRey@epa.gov">Lozano.VelRey@epa.gov</a>	Other (Assoc.)		No
Rosana McConkey	WA Dept of Ecology	<a href="mailto:rosa461@ECY.WA.GOV">rosa461@ECY.WA.GOV</a>	Non-NELAP AB (Assoc.)		Yes
Marlene Moore	Advanced Systems	<a href="mailto:mmoore@advancedsys.com">mmoore@advancedsys.com</a>	Other (assoc.)		No
Linda Nemeth		<a href="mailto:lkn1304@gmail.com">lkn1304@gmail.com</a>	Other (assoc.)		No
Katie Payne	Enthalpy Analytical	<a href="mailto:katie.payne@enthalpy.com">katie.payne@enthalpy.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Christina Pottios	Los Angeles Cty Sanitation Districts	<a href="mailto:cpottios@lacsdsd.org">cpottios@lacsdsd.org</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Greg Savitske	US EPA OECA	<a href="mailto:Savitske.gregory@epa.gov">Savitske.gregory@epa.gov</a>	Other (Assoc.)		No
Justin Scott	Cove Sciences	<a href="mailto:justin@covesciences.com">justin@covesciences.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Caitie Van Sciver	NJ DEP	<a href="mailto:Caitie.VanSciver@dep.nj.gov">Caitie.VanSciver@dep.nj.gov</a>	AB		No
Lem Walker	USEPA OW/OST	<a href="mailto:Walker.lemuel@epa.gov">Walker.lemuel@epa.gov</a>	Other (Assoc.)		No
Craig Watts	Hydrosphere Research	<a href="mailto:cwatts@hydrosphere.net">cwatts@hydrosphere.net</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Bruce Weckworth	HRSD	<a href="mailto:Bruce.weckworth@hrsd.com">Bruce.weckworth@hrsd.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Tom Widera	Pace Labs	<a href="mailto:Thomas.Widera@pacelabs.com">Thomas.Widera@pacelabs.com</a>	Lab (Assoc.)		No
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## **Attachment 2**

### **WET Expert Committee Meeting Agenda, November 18, 2020**

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda and Minutes (October minutes attached)
- Brief Status Updates
  - Associate Members Applications for Voting Membership – 3 lab plus 2 AB so far; 1 more AB
  - PT Instructions for PT Providers (Ginger, Pete and Mark) – joint meeting w/ PTPEC & PTEC, 2 pm EST, Monday, 1/25/21
  - Assessor Training Errata Sheet – awaiting response to follow-up
  - Proposal to Develop Data Interpretation Training (Teresa and Natalie) – awaiting feedback from Training Coordinator
  - Method Codes for WET Analyses (Michele, Ginger and maybe Teresa) – awaiting progress
  - LAMS Clean-up for WET Methods (Rami, Michele and Elizabeth) -- back burner
- Continued Discussion of Analyst IDOC Write-up (Rami to send revised draft documents prior to meeting)
- Method Validation (Pete, §1.5 of attached draft module, time permitting)
- New Business, if any
- Adjourn