

Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee Meeting Summary

December 6, 2017 1:00 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Announcements

Rami welcomed everyone to the meeting. Minutes of the October 18, 2017, meeting were approved. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1, below.

2. Committee Membership

It has been three years since this committee was chartered, and Expert Committee terms are three years, with a maximum of two terms for an individual. All members present on the call expressed their desire to remain for a second term. Absent members will be contacted by email.

This led to a discussion about expanding membership, since the maximum number of voting members ("full members") is 15. Current distribution among stakeholder categories is 5 lab, 5 Accreditation Body (AB,) and 2 "other." With the addition of one more "other" member, we could then add additional members from either the lab or AB category. There are several associate members who have taken lead roles in committee projects, and are interested in moving into "full member" status. Also, Vel Rey expressed interest in becoming a full member (EPA Region 8) and Rami mentioned that a new DMR-QA Coordinator in EPA Region 6 is also interested; Rami will explore this further.

3. Follow-up to November SETAC Meeting in Minneapolis, MN

Several committee members participated in the annual Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) meeting in Minnesota, the week prior to Thanksgiving, including a session led by Teresa and Rami. Rami had a brief conversation with Laura Phillips (EPA Office of Wastewater Management) that caused the committee to re-visit the previously planned response to many of the technical questions she had raised in her October 20 response to the summary of our meeting at conference in Washington, DC.

Rami will revise the previously reviewed draft and re-circulate it for comments, requesting that comments be provided by COB (5 pm MT) December 8. EPA participants noted that the Forum on Environmental Measurements (FEM) is meeting in late December, and that, since ELAB reports to the FEM, it might be helpful to have that communication done prior to the FEM meeting.

4. Follow-Up Items

Rami spoke with Nicole Cairns, liaison for discussions to address our request sent to PTPEC in late October, but has had no further communications since then.

5. Updating the Standard

John and Michele provided a strawman draft revision of standard language for QA/QC requirements for water chemistry measurements during WET testing, for committee discussion.

Preliminary discussion of the draft raised several issues: the belief that the standard should clarify unclear aspects of the methods, the fact that WET chemistry tests are not intended to address regulatory requirements and also that some state ABs do require accreditation for the support test measurements.

Another point was AB assessors should try to enforce the QC of the methods, but not every chemistry test needs to be performed for each separate WET test conducted, and that, while chemist assessors are probably more comfortable reviewing the more familiar chemistry

measurements, the actual method requirements need to be examined in addition to the water chemistry measurements. After the meeting, a several-decades-old method checklist for assessing aquatic toxicity methods was circulated as a pdf file (clearly scanned from someone's paper notebook.)

Discussion focused on how to reference the TNI Chemistry module for calibration requirements for these chemistry measurements without including all other aspects of the Chemistry module. It remains undecided whether to include those by reference (which can be updated for future revisions) or to essentially repeat the language in the WET module (so that if the Chemistry requirements change substantially in the next revision, the language in "our" module will still be what the committee wanted.)

Lynn committed to re-sending the 2016 Chemistry module and the Quality Systems module as well (done December 7) and Rami asked that participants consider the language proposed by John and Michele in light of what is in the 2016 standard.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday morning, January 23, 2018, at 8 am local time, at conference in Albuquerque. Teleconference capability will not be available. There will also be an informal gathering of those who met to discuss the ELAB letter to EPA about our PT proposal on Tuesday afternoon after lunch. The meeting room will be Boardroom North, and this will be an opportunity for any of those present to further discuss various aspects of the PT proposal and interactions among the groups, with no set agenda and no expected outcomes, but hopefully, more than a "meet and greet" meeting.

The next teleconference will be Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at 1 pm Eastern. Teleconference information and an agenda will be provided in advance.

Attachment 1

Committee Membership

Member	Affiliation	Email	Category	Term Expiration	Present
Rami Naddy (Chair)	TRE Env. Strat. LLC	naddyrb.tre@gmail.com	Lab	Dec. 2020	Yes
Ginger Briggs	Bio-Analytical Laboratories	bioanalytical@wildblue.net	Lab	Dec. 2020	Yes
Pete De Lisle (Vice Chair)	Coastal Bioanalysts Inc.	pfd@coastalbio.com	Lab	Dec. 2020	Yes
Steven Rewa	Environmental Resources Management	steven.rewa@erm.com	Lab	Feb. 2018	No
Chris Burbage	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	cburbage@hrsd.com	Lab	Feb. 2018	No
Chris Pasch	Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.	cpasch@apainv.com	Other	Dec. 2020	No
Teresa Norberg-King	USEPA	norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov	Other (Affiliate)	Dec. 2020	Yes
Elizabeth West	LA DEQ LELAP	elizabeth.west@la.gov	AB	Dec. 2020	Yes
Amy Hackman	Penn. Dept. Environ. Protection	ahackman@pa.gov	AB	Dec. 2020	Yes
Michele Potter	New Jersey Dept of Environ Protect.	Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov	AB	Dec. 2020	Yes
Michael Pfeil	Texas Comm. Environ. Quality	Michael.pfeil@tceq.texas.gov	AB	Dec. 2020	Yes
Kari Fleming	WI DNR	kari.fleming@wisconsin.gov	AB	Dec. 2017	No
Associate Members					
Debmalya Bhattacharyya	NE Ohio Regional Sewer District	bhattacharyad@neorsd.org	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Michael Chanov	EA Eng., Sci. &Tech.	mchanov@eaest.com	Lab (Assoc.)	--	Yes

Kevin Dischler	Element Materials Technology	Kevin.dischler@element.com	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Monica Eues	CK Associates	Monica.eues@c-ka.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Joseph 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
Vel Rey Lozano	USEPA Region 8	Lozano.VelRey@epa.gov	Other (EPA)	--	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
John Overbey	American Interplex Corp.	joverbey@americaninterplex.com	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Katie Payne	Nautilus Environmental	katie@nautilusenvironmental.com	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Christina Pottios	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	@lacsd.org	Lab (Assoc.)		
Shain Schmitt	ESC Lab Sciences	sschmitt@esclabsciences.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Greg Savitske	US EPA OECA	Savitske.gregory@epa.gov	Other (EPA)		No
Thekkekalathil "Chandra" Chandrasekhar	FL DEP	Thekkekalathil.Chandrasekhar@dep.state.fl.us	Other (Assoc.)		No
Beth Thompson	Shealy Consulting	bthompson@shealyconsulting.net	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Jordan Thorngren	Eurofins (Horsham, PA)	jordanthorngren@eurofinsUS.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Tom Widera	ERA	twidera@eraqc.com	Other		Yes
Program Administrator					
Lynn Bradley	TNI	Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org			Yes

Attachment 2

Action Items

	Action/Activity	Responsible Person(s)	Anticipated Completion	Comments
15	Draft language about DOC requirements	Steve and Pete, with others	??	May meeting begins the review
16	Submit difficult questions from webinar to committee for response	Ginger, Elizabeth, et al	December 2017	
17	Draft language about QC requirements for water chemistry measurements	Michele, John, others?	??	Review draft language in light of 2016 revision to the Chemistry module
18	Reply to Laura Phillips' questions in follow-up to August meeting about PT/DMR-QA	Rami	?	

Attachment 3

Strawman Draft for Chemistry QC Requirements for WET Tests

Routine testing of effluent and synthetic waters for physical and chemical parameters such as temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, alkalinity, hardness, residual chlorine, and ammonia are utilized to measure the water quality of the effluent and/or controls during testing. Instruments used for routine support measurements of chemical and physical parameters such as pH, DO, conductivity, salinity, alkalinity, hardness, chlorine, ammonia, and weight shall be calibrated, and/or standardized per manufacturer's instructions and the applicable reference method. As these are support measurements, only the calibration and verification requirements specified TNI Volume 1 Module 2 Section 5.5.13.1 and TNI Volume 1 Module 4 Section 1.7.1.1 apply. All measurements and calibration shall be documented.