

Summary
TNI Proficiency Testing Expert Committee Meeting
Tuesday January 13, 2026; 8:00-10:00 AM ET

The Proficiency Testing Expert Committee (PTEC) met during the Forum on Environmental Accreditation in Biston, MA in a joint session with the Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee (PTP EC). After welcoming and thanking all attendees for their participation, the joint session began with the presentation from the PTEC.

Thekkekalathil Chandrasekhar (Chandra), FLDEP (Lab)	Present
Ron Houck, PA DEP (AB)	Absent
Amy Pollard, Geogia Pacific (Lab)	Absent
Ryan Pangelinan, State of Oregon (AB)	Absent
Rachel Ellis, NJ DEP (AB)	Present
Carol Gebhart, ALS Global (lab)-Chair	Present
Amy DeMarco, NYSDOH (Other)	Absent
Hei Man Barrio, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (lab)	Absent
Nick Slawson, A2LA (Other)-Vice-Chair	Absent
Marina Aziz, NYSDOH (AB)	Absent
Patrick Selig, ANAB (AB)	Absent
Brian Stringer, ERA (Other)	Present
Danielle Pearman, Phenova (Other)	Absent
Taryn Hurley, OK DEQ (AB)	Present
Robert Wyeth, Program Administrator	Present

The PTEC, as an expert committee, develops and maintains consensus standards for proficiency testing activities that support TNI programs under the auspices of the PTPEC and the oversight of Consensus Standard Development Program Executive Committee (CSDP EC)

Carol Gebhart of ALS Global, Chair of the expert committee, led the presentation. After introductions of the committee members present and

those unable to attend, the 2025 activities of the PTEC were reviewed as were the plans for 2026. The Chair mentioned that there are vacancies on the PTEC and invited interested parties to submit an application through the TNI website.

While attending to its normal tasks (SIR responses, support of other committees, administrative matters), the major accomplishments of the committee were to complete and post the Draft Standard for EL V4, General requirements for accreditors of Proficiency Test Providers and development of a Draft Standard for EL V3, General Requirements for Proficiency Test Providers. The PTEC is also responsible for EL V1M1(Proficiency Testing) and EL V2M2 (AB requirements relative to proficiency testing). While the committee has progressed in review of these latter modules, these modules as well as completion of EL V4 and posting/finalizing EL V3, are the focus of 2026 activity.

Both EL V3 and EL V4 are essentially a re-write of the previous versions as the committee moved to harmonization of these modules with ISO/IEC 17011 and ISO/IEC 17043, respectively.

During the Boston meeting, all the comments from the now closed comment period for EL V4 were presented and addressed. Additional comments were also received from meeting participants and were addressed by the committee. The committee will now finalize the response to comments as required by SOP and as persuasive comments were received, they will revise the Draft Standard accordingly. After ensuring compliance with the newly approved Style Guide SOP, the revised Draft Standard will again be posted for public comments.

The EL V3 module was also briefly discussed, and the attendees were advised that the committee anticipates posting of the Draft Standard for this module in the near future.

The PTP EC is responsible for establishing and maintaining TNI's national PT program in support of a national environmental accreditation program through development and maintenance of Fields of Proficiency Testing tables (FoPT) establishing acceptance criteria appropriate for the scope of environmental monitoring in the United States and ensuring the competence of Proficiency Test Providers (PTP) providing (PT) samples to laboratories.

During the PTP EC meeting, Chair Susan Jackson introduced the members of the executive committee and reviewed their activities and accomplishments during the past year. The goals of the PTP EC for 2026 were also presented.

The principal activities focused on issues and requirements for FoPT table review, updating, and/or correction. Major accomplishments were development of FoPT for PFAS compounds in drinking water and updating the Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) FoPT tables. They also initiated their 10-year review of all FoPT tables. To date they have concluded that no changes will be proposed to the criteria presented in the FoPT tables for metals and inorganic parameters in drinking water. They are also continuing to work with the Radiochemistry Expert committee on any necessary changes to their FoPT tables and how to address the issue of reporting uncertainty in radiochemistry data.

The executive committee also reviewed and presented comments for consideration by the PTEC on Draft Standard EL V4, General Requirements for PTP Accreditors

It was further noted that positions are available on the PTP EC to fill existing vacancies. Associate memberships, which is open to any interested TNI members, are also welcome. The need for expertise in WET and Microbiology was a specific request for the executive committee. Application for a role on the PTP EC can be completed through the TNI website.