

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

March 24, 2023

1. Roll call, approval of minutes and overview:

Chair, Stacie Crandall, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order at 1pm Eastern on March 24, 2023. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were seven (7) members present. Associate members present: Tom Dziedzic, Reggie Morgan, Craig Huff, Amy DeMarco, and Jack Denby.

2. Radiochemistry

Email from Craig Huff: 3/1/23

Hi everyone,

I did indeed confirm Tim's and Carl's calculations of the PTRL's...They are good to go as is. Sorry for the confusion on my part.

Stacie reviewed the impact of changes on the failure rates. She has not gotten any comments from the NELAP AC. She is asking that the group go ahead and assign an effective date.

Tim Miller asked if labs have looked at it. The labs on the Radiochemistry Expert Committee were involved in the development of these new limits.

Susan Jackson - Strontium 90 is one that her lab has struggled with in the past. This is one that the failure rate could go up with the new limits.

Ilona reminded the Committee that the limits being proposed are not based on previous PT studies. Bob Shannon gave a presentation on the new procedure before the Committee approved them.

Stacie proposed that the implementation date be October 1, 2023. This is a 6 month implementation period. It will be voted on by email since there is not a quorum today.

A motion was made by Tim to implement the new DW Radiochemistry limits on October 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by Michella.

A roll call vote was taken:

Stacie – For

Susan – For

Tim – For

Michella – For
Scott – For
Rachel – For
Patrick Selig – For

(Addition:

Carl – For (email – 4/14/23)

Andy – For (email – 4/14/23)

Prasanth – For (email – 4/14/23)

Total Votes were 10 votes in favor of the motion. The motion passed. The table can be posted on the TNI website with the effective date of 10/1/23.)

(Addition: See April 28, 2023 minutes. The effective date was changed to 11/1/23.)

3. Availability of Radiochemistry PTs

There is currently only one vendor for Radiochemistry PTs. This was questioned due to Stack Testing where there was a program requirement that there be more than one provider.

There will be a future discussion regarding the need for more than one provider. Stacie commented that maybe they could be offered twice a year so data sets are bigger. It was commented that this could cause other issues when make-ups are needed. Michella would like to see more providers, but there aren't other providers interested. The lab questioning the lack of availability is filing a complaint to the PT Provider and the Committee will wait to see the result of the complaint process before it is further discussed.

4. Advocacy Paper

Stacie shared the work done by the work group (Stacie, Eric and Prasanth) on the position statement that will be sent to the Advocacy Committee.

A motion was made by Patrick Selig to approve the statement. The motion was seconded by Tim and unanimously approved. Stacie will forward it to the Advocacy Committee.

(Addition: The statement was sent to the Advocacy Committee with the following response from Jerry Parr received on 4/6/23:

The Advocacy Committee reviewed this today and had 2 comments.

- 1. We suggest removing the last bullet under benefits as it is not worded as a benefit and the first bullet captures that issue.*
- 2. Expanded the references to the TNI standard.*

The revised document is attached. If the PTEC accepts these changes, Advocacy will vote on it at their next meeting.

The statement with the changes made by the Advocacy Committee can be found in Attachment C.)

5. Subcommittee Updates

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee

Amy DeMarco (Chair) reported that the Subcommittee will be referencing a recording for the examples requested for the FoPT Limit SOP (SOP 4-101).

PFAS – The Subcommittee wants lab QC Criteria. Amy prepared a request in February and 16 labs responded. She is compiling the data. It looks like labs can see further down than they could in 2021 when data was last collected. This will be discussed at their April meeting.

WET FoPT Subcommittee

Craig Huff (Chair) reported that they can't move ahead until they get data from the PT Providers.

PTP SOP Subcommittee –

No update.

6. PFAS Discussion

The EPA proposed rule only has a certain number of compounds - 6. Stacie asked if the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee will only work on what EPA has proposed? Amy noted that they are working with the ARA where 29 compounds were requested. The Subcommittee can look at the 6 EPA is proposing first. This would speed up timing to be able to comment during the comment period. May 4th is the public hearing.

UCMR -3 – Michella may be able to provide information that was collected to the Committee.

A final rule is still a couple of years out. It is a lengthy process.

7. Membership:

Associate members were asked to exit the meeting.

A motion was made by Tim to add Jack Denby and Jennifer Best as Committee members. The motion was seconded by Michella and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Tim to approve a second term for Rachel. The motion was seconded by Patrick and unanimously approved.

Scott, Michella, Jennifer, and Fred all finished their second terms as voting members. Stacie thanked these members for their service. They will all continue as Associate members.

8. New Business

None.

9. Action Items

The action items can be found in Attachment C. Attachment B includes a list of reminders.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be a teleconference on April 28, 2023 at 11:30am Eastern. The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm Eastern.

Attachment A
Participants
TNI
Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

| Members | Rep | Affiliation | Contact Information |
|---|--------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Stacie Crandall (2025*) (Chair) Present | Lab | HRSD | scrandall@hrsd.com |
| Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Present | | TNI | tauntoni@msn.com |
| Susan Jackson (2025*) (Vice-Chair) Present | Lab | South Carolina DHEC | jacksosb@dhec.sc.gov |
| Carl Kircher (2024) Absent | AB | Florida Department of Health | Carl.Kircher@flhealth.gov |
| Andy Valkenburg (2024) Absent | Other | QASE Inc. | cvalkenbur@aol.com |
| Tim Miller (2024*) Present | Other | Phenova | timm@phenova.com |
| Eric Smith (2024*) Absent | Other | | eric.smith72@comcast.net |
| Michella Karapondo (2022) Present | Other | USEPA | karapondo.michella@epa.gov |
| Fred Anderson (2023) Absent | Other | Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC | Fred@advancedqc.com |
| Jennifer Bordwell (2023) Absent | Lab | Upper Occoquan Service Authority | jennifer.bordwell@uosa.org |
| Scott Haas (2023) Present | FSMO/ LAB | Environmental Testing, Inc. | shaas@etilab.com |
| Rachel Ellis (2022*) Present | AB | New Jersey DEP | Rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov |
| Patrick Selig (2024*) Present | AB | ANAB | pselig@anab.org |
| Prasanth Ramakrishnan (2024*) Absent | AB | ISA | pramakrishnan@iasonline.org |

Attachment B

Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Executive Committee

| | Item | Meeting Reference | Comments |
|----|--|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 7 | Add the Field PT Subcommittee to the limit update SOP during its next update. | 3/4/10 | In Progress |
| 11 | Evaluate how labs are accredited for analytes that co-elute. | 5-19-11 | See meeting reference for details. |
| 13 | Charter needs to be reviewed/updated in November. | Ongoing | |
| 18 | Shawn noted that PTPEC should have some specific measurements. This should be passed along to the PTP SOP Subcommittee. Nicole noted that we need to determine which items to measure. | 6-29-17 | To be added to 2021 goals. |
| 19 | Review possible issues surrounding one vendor for Radiochemistry PTs. | 3/24/23 | |

(Addition: Attachment C: Position Paper with Advocacy Committee changes.)



The NELAC Institute (TNI) Position Statement Proficiency Testing Program

Every environmental testing laboratory should incorporate the TNI Proficiency Testing Program into its quality management system.

INTRODUCTION

Proficiency Testing (PT) is an integral part of TNI's accreditation programs: the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) and the National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP). It is used to assist laboratories, their clients, regulatory agencies, and accreditation bodies in evaluating a laboratory's performance. PT provides an independent, objective evaluation of the competency of laboratories and Field Sampling and measurement Organizations (FSMO) in addition to other quality management tools to evaluate performance of laboratories.

BACKGROUND

TNI defines Proficiency Testing as a means of evaluating a laboratory's performance under controlled conditions relative to a given set of criteria through analysis of unknown samples provided by an external source. Fields of Proficiency Testing (FoPTs) are analytes for which a laboratory or FSMO is required to successfully analyze a PT sample in to obtain or maintain accreditation, collectively defined as: matrix, technology/method, analyte. The corresponding matrices, analytes, concentration ranges, and acceptance limits adopted for the PT program are organized into tables and posted on the TNI website.

The TNI PT program consists of:

- A PT Expert Committee that establishes the requirements for proficiency testing as documented in the TNI Standard.
- A PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) that manages the implementation of the program.
- PT Provider Accreditors (PTPA) that accredit organizations as PT Providers (PTP).
- Private and public sector PTPs that manufacture and provide PT samples and evaluate the results.

The benefits of TNI's PT program include:

- Assurance that PTPs, laboratories and PTPAs are held to consistent standards to ensure equitable performance evaluations.
- A demonstration and confirmation of ongoing competence.
- A mechanism for validation of new methods or technologies.
- An ongoing evaluation of laboratory performance.
- An indication of potential non-conformities.
- A tool for identifying the need for corrective actions to address non-conformities.
- A tool for identifying opportunities for continuous improvement through preventative action
- Education and training of laboratory staff.
- Initial and ongoing demonstration of capability of laboratory staff.
- Increased confidence in the quality of a laboratory's performance.
- Satisfying clients', regulators', and accreditation bodies' needs for demonstrated and documented laboratory competence.
- Assurance that PT products have undergone rigorous homogeneity, stability and verification testing and are uniquely applicable to environmental testing.

All TNI PTPs are accredited by TNI Approved PTPAs. PTPA accreditation of PTPs includes:

- Assessments by the PTPA of the quality management system.
- Onsite assessments of PT Providers that include observation of sample preparation to ensure procedures meet requirements of the TNI Standard.

All TNI PTPAs are recognized by the PTPEC. PTPEC recognition of PTPAs includes:

- Evaluations by the Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) that includes review of procedures, and observation of a PT Provider assessment.
- Ongoing PT Provider data evaluation to ensure failure rates are within acceptable limits.
- Reports to the PTPEC covering PT Provider performance and overall program effectiveness.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The adoption of TNI's PT Program is a cost-effective assessment tool for periodically monitoring a laboratory's or FSMO's testing competence to provide the laboratory, client, regulatory agency, or accreditation body with confidence in an organization's data.
- TNI should continue to promote the adoption of its PT program by all environmental testing organizations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Stacie Crandall, Susan Jackson, Eric Smith, Prasanth Ramakrishnan TNI Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

TNI Advocacy Committee

RESOURCES

1. Wruck, Dan and Ingrid Flemming, *Educational Aspects of Proficiency Testing Program*. 2007.
2. ILAC, *Benefits for Laboratories participating in Proficiency Testing Programs*. 2008.
3. The NELAC Institute, Environmental Laboratory Sectors, *Volume 1, Management and Technical Requirements for Laboratories Performing Environmental Analysis*. Latest approved version.
4. The NELAC Institute, Environmental Laboratory Sectors, *Volume 2, General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Environmental Laboratories*. Latest approved version.
5. The NELAC Institute, Environmental Laboratory Sectors, *Volume 3, General Requirements for Environmental Proficiency Test Providers* Latest approved version.
6. The NELAC Institute, Environmental Laboratory Sectors, *Volume 4, General Requirements for an Accreditor of Environmental Proficiency Test Providers*. Latest approved version.
7. The NELAC Institute, Field Sampling and Measurement Organization Sectors, *Volume 1, General Requirements for Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations*. Latest approved version.
8. The NELAC Institute, Field Sampling and Measurement Organization Sectors, *Volume 2, General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations*. Latest approved version.

| | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Position Statement Number: | 1205 | REVISION NO: | 0 |
| Advocacy Committee Approval Date: | 4/8/16 | Policy Committee Review Date: | 4/17/16 |
| TNI Board of Directors Endorsed Date: | 5/11/16 | Effective Date: | 5/11/16 |
| | | REVISION NO: | 1 |
| Advocacy Committee Approval Date: | | Policy Committee Review Date: | |
| TNI Board of Directors Endorsed Date: | | Effective Date: | |

Attachment F: PTPEC Committee Action Item Summary – 2023

| Item | Task Description | Document Number | TNI Contact | Task Added | Start Date | Due Date | Complete Date | Comments |
|------|--|-----------------|----------------------|------------|------------|----------|---------------|--|
| 431 | Discuss with IT Committee the need for LAMS updates to be communicated to the PTPEC. | | | 10/31/19 | | | | 2/17/21: Shawn to discuss with Mei Beth and Jerry. |
| 437 | Reach out to Sennet Kim and ANAB to confirm there is still an issue related to SCM FoPT table metals footnotes for fixed limits. | | | 3/26/20 | 3/26/20 | | | 2/17/21: On-going Shawn working with William to access data. 4/21/22: Shawn to follow-up. Sennet has left A2LA. 8/17/22: Shawn thinks this is still an issue. Need to look at this during evaluations. Fred said Nick Slawson is taking over as PT contact for A2LA. |
| 455 | Update SOP 4-107: FoPT Table Management | SOP 4-107 | PTP SOP Subcommittee | 2/19/21 | | | 4/21/22 | 2/18/21: Need procedures to make non-ARA changes to the table? 3/16/21: Received initial Policy Committee comments to review. 4/21/22: PTPEC approved. Sent to Policy Committee. 8/12/22: Policy sent comments to PTPEC. Add to agenda. 10/28/22: Sent to PTP SOP Subcommittee. To be discussed in December. 2/23: A few more changes are needed. Resubmitted to PT SOP Subcommittee. |

| Item | Task Description | Document Number | TNI Contact | Task Added | Start Date | Due Date | Complete Date | Comments |
|------|--|-----------------|----------------------|------------|------------|----------|---------------|---|
| 456 | Update SOP 4-101: Recommendation, Evaluation, and Calculation of Acceptance Criteria and Applicable Concentration Ranges for Proficiency Tests | SOP 4-101 | PTP SOP Subcommittee | 2/18/21 | 2/18/21 | | | 2/18/21: Combined workgroup established to complete SOP. 3/18/21: workgroup met and SOP Subcommittee will send final DRAFT to Chemistry FOPT Subcommittee for examples. Update 8/17/22: Examples requested from Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee that has not met. PTPEC needs to talk about when the next limit updates will occur. 3/24/23: Examples have been added by Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee and resubmitted to the PT SOP Subcommittee. |
| 458 | Improve communication with non-TNI AB stakeholders. | | | 2/18/21 | 8/1/22 | | | 8/1/22: Discussed at Crystal City meeting. Need to help Advocacy update the White Paper to help reach out to other states. Ambassador program. Also need to include more non-NELAP ABs in the Executive and Expert committees. Outreach needed. 10/28/22: Workgroup formed to update paper. 3/24/23: Paper completed and sent to Advocacy Committee. |

| Item | Task Description | Document Number | TNI Contact | Task Added | Start Date | Due Date | Complete Date | Comments |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|---------------|---|
| 459 | ARA: PFAS on DW table | | Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee | 12/1/20 | | | | 12/1/20: ARA sent to Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee 2/18/21: Shawn has requested data. Subcommittee will start working on this after data is received. 5/21/21: Data has been received. There may not be enough. Need to determine next steps. Update 8/17/22: Survey of labs is complete, and data needs to be looked at. Amy DeMarco will be new Subcommittee Chair. 12/1/22: The Subcommittee will start working in February 2023. 3/24/23: Requesting more data from labs and requested PT Data from William. |
| 460 | Develop PT Program metrics | | | 2/18/21 | 5/21/21 | | | Update 8/17/22: Developed partially as Charter was updated. Need to formalize. |

