

# TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

**April 24, 2024**

## 1. Roll call, approval of minutes and overview:

Chair, Stacie Crandall, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order at 11am Eastern on April 8, 2024. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were eight (8) voting members present. Associate members present: Charles Faulk, Maria Friedman, Michella Karapondo and Marina Aziz (AB – new associate).

The agenda was modified to include a membership vote for 2<sup>nd</sup> terms. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

The March meeting was held on April 8, 2024. The minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Susan to approve the April 8, 2024, minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jack and unanimously approved.

## 2. PFAS limits.

The PFAS limits were distributed for comment to a mailing list that included all PFAS labs, PT Providers, PTPAs and non-NELAP AB states. Jerry asked that we broaden this distribution by putting it on the TNI website so that it is available to everyone. Stacie received some editorial comments regarding nomenclature.

The Office of DW has finalized their rule making for 6 PFAS compounds (published in the Federal Register on Friday, April 26, 2024). The acceptance limits are 70-130%. Stacie received 4 additional comments that the limits be updated on the DRAFT DW FoPT table.

The request for comments on the DRAFT DW table were posted on the TNI website in the News section.

The Committee discussed whether a change to the acceptance limits should be considered for just the 6 compounds or all the PFAS compounds.

Are we looking at making the change across the board or just for the 6.

If we leave it at 40 – labs will get reports.

Ilona noted that the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee reviewed their data and concluded the limits should be 70-130%.

Ilona asked if Michella or Jennifer can provide the concentration ranges of the prepared standards for the UCMR. This would help the PTPEC evaluate whether a change to limits can be recommended.

Michella noted that the PTs are at concentrations 2 to 25 times the UCMR MRLs. The MRLs are public knowledge.

Amy needs the MRLs for the 6 compounds and then the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee can look at the limits again. At the Columbus, OH meeting and during a Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee meeting, Dan Hautman (EPA) stated that 95% of the labs passed PTs at 70-130%. Need to see if the concentrations TNI looked at are similar to the concentrations EPA looked at. The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee could also plug in the new limits into Carl Kircher's work and examine failure rates.

Could we find out what the true certified values were? Michella and Jennifer may not be able to get the actual values because they are still using them as PTs.

Susan is concerned the UCMR concentrations were higher. What happens if we start to see major failure rates? The rule will be in conflict with what we would evaluate the limits should be. TNI can't do something different based on their data.

Stacie thinks we start with 40% on all other compounds. EPA has data that 70-130% for 6 compounds is acceptable.

A motion was made by Susan to have the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee evaluate the 6 compounds in the PFAS rule with the limits of 70-130%. Look at Carl Kircher's data and the 2 – 25 times the MRL range for spiking. The motion as seconded by Craig and unanimously approved.

Stacie will send comments to Amy. Look at MRLs, look at data, calculate against 30% and how they come out.

### 3. Review of the TNI Environmental Laboratory Standard – Volume 3 and 4

PTPEC's comments on Volume 3 and 4 were received by the PT Expert Committee. Ilona was on a CSDP EC call and the PT Expert Committee expressed some concerns about the comments made. For example, they do not like the term "recognized" instead of "approved". Recognized is the term used by NELAP, NEFAP and the ISO/IEC community. ABs and PTPAs are recognized. Ilona reviewed other TNI documents with Paul Junio (Chair, CSDP EC) and the term used is "recognized".

The comments PTPEC sent to the PT Expert Committee can be found in the previous minutes.

Tim Miller also noted that the Radiochemistry FoPT table is now effective and should be moved into the left column. Stacie noted that William has been asked to make this change.

The PTPEC will wait to hear back from the PT Expert Committee if they need any clarification on the comments made.

### 4. Missing DW Data for Limit Updates

Stacie has reached out to the PTPA to work this out with the PT Provider that has not uploaded their data. Jennifer noted that she had a similar issue on the Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee with a PT Provider and Jerry was able to help.

The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee wrote a request to submit data to the Portal. They got data from everyone but 2 providers. The PTPAs were then contacted regarding this request. One was responsive and the other one was not. Ilona will talk to Jerry about whether he would like to reach out or if she should. Also frustrating that other PT Providers complied and did the work. Not submitting data as

requested is not compliant with the Standard. The PTPAs should be following up with PT Providers. This needs to be escalated.

The PTPA has had communication with the PT Provider.

Stacie, Susan and Ilona will continue to follow-up on this.

#### 4. Subcommittee Updates

##### Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee

The Subcommittee will meet to start working on the review of the 6 PFAS analytes discussed above. They are also waiting for the PT Provider data discussed above.

##### WET FoPT Subcommittee

Craig reported that data is being crunched and he is trying to put a quorum together. They will be meeting in 2 weeks.

##### PTP SOP Subcommittee

No new business.

#### 5. Committee Leadership

Stacie is retiring from HRSD. She will be starting in a contractor capacity with TNI on May 1, 2024. Her new role will be conference planning and Program Administrator.

Susan is current Vice-Chair. She is willing to take on Committee Leadership at the August meeting at NEMC. The Committee will need to on a new Chair during the July meeting. A new Vice-Chair will be needed.

Stacie will likely take on the Program Administrator role for PTPEC. Ilona needs more time for training, and she has will be leading the NGAB evaluations this year.

#### 6. Committee Membership

The business portion of the meeting was concluded, and associate members were asked to step off the call.

Look at possible new member, Marina Aziz, and voting on second terms for membership.

Amy made a motion to add Marina Aziz as a voting member of the PTPEC as an AB. The motion was seconded by Tim and unanimously approved.

Amy made a motion to approve Tim, Patrick, and Prasanth for a second term as voting members of the PTPEC. The motion was seconded by Craig and unanimously approved (8 voting members on the call).

The Committee membership will now look like:

Stacie – Lab (TNI after retirement)

Susan – Lab

Tim – Other

Jennifer – Other  
Jack – Lab/FSMO  
Rachel – AB  
Patrick – AB  
Prasanth – AB  
Craig – Other  
Amy – Other  
Amanda – Lab  
Marina - AB

Lab/FSMO – 4  
AB – 4  
Other – 4  
The Committee is still balanced.

#### 7. New Business

None.

#### 8. Action Items

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

#### 9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on May 22, 2024, at 11:00am Eastern. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm Eastern.

**Attachment A**  
**Participants**  
**TNI**  
**Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Stacie Crandall (2025*) (Chair) <b>Present</b>	Lab	HRSD	<a href="mailto:scrandall@hrsd.com">scrandall@hrsd.com</a>
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator <b>Present</b>		TNI	tauntoni@msn.com
Susan Jackson (2025*) (Vice-Chair) <b>Present</b>	Lab	South Carolina DHEC	jacksosb@dhec.sc.gov
Amy DeMarco (2027*)  <b>Present</b>	Other	NY	amy.demarco@health.ny.gov
Craig Huff (2027*)  <b>Present</b>	Other	QASE Inc.	craig_huff@waters.com
Tim Miller (2024*)  <b>Present.</b>	Other	Phenova	timm@phenova.com
Jennifer Best (2025*)  <b>Present</b>	Other	USEPA	Best.Jennifer@epa.gov
Jack Denby (2025*)  <b>Present</b>	Lab/FSMO	HRSD	jdenby@hrsd.com
Rachel Ellis (2025)  <b>Absent</b>	AB	New Jersey DEP	Rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov
Patrick Selig (2024*)  <b>Absent</b>	AB	ANAB	pselig@anab.org
Prasanth Ramakrishnan (2024*) <b>Absent</b>	AB	ISA	pramakrishnan@iasonline.org
Amanda Fehr (2027*) <b>Present</b>	Lab	GEL	amanda.fehr@gel.com

## 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	

Attachment C: PTPEC Committee Action Item Summary – 2023/2024

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.

Item	Task Description	Document Number	TNI Contact	Task Added	Start Date	Due Date	Complete Date	Comments
455	Update SOP 4-107: FoPT Table Management	SOP 4-107	PTP SOP Subcommittee	2/19/21			11/29/23	<p>2/18/21: Need procedures to make non-ARA changes to the table?</p> <p>3/16/21: Received initial Policy Committee comments to review.</p> <p>4/21/22: PTPEC approved. Sent to Policy Committee.</p> <p>8/12/22: Policy sent comments to PTPEC. Add to agenda.</p> <p>10/28/22: Sent to PTP SOP Subcommittee. To be discussed in December.</p> <p>2/23: A few more changes are needed. Resubmitted to PT SOP Subcommittee.</p> <p>10/27/23: SOP completed, approved by PTPEC and sent to Policy Committee for review.</p> <p>11/29/23: SOP approved and posted. COMPLETE</p>



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			<p>2/18/21: Combined workgroup established to complete SOP.</p> <p>3/18/21: workgroup met and SOP Subcommittee will send final DRAFT to Chemistry FOPT Subcommittee for examples.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3/24/23: Examples have been added by Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee and resubmitted to the PT SOP Subcommittee.</p> <p>6/23/23: Make sure SOP 4-101 includes procedures for how data is received.</p> <p>11/29/23: Submitted to PTPEC for final vote. Vote will be in December.</p> <p>12/18/23: Approved by Committee and sent to Policy for review.</p>

Item	Task Description	Document Number	TNI Contact	Task Added	Start Date	Due Date	Complete Date	Comments
458	Improve communication with non-TNI AB stakeholders.			2/18/21	8/1/22			<p>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.</p> <p>10/28/22: Workgroup formed to update paper.</p> <p>3/24/23: Paper completed and sent to Advocacy Committee.</p>

459	ARA: PFAS on DW table		Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee	12/1/20	May 2021			<p>12/1/20: ARA sent to Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee</p> <p>2/18/21: Shawn has requested data. Subcommittee will start working on this after data is received.</p> <p>5/21/21: Data has been received. There may not be enough. Need to determine next steps.</p> <p>Update 8/17/22: Survey of labs is complete, and data needs to be looked at. Amy DeMarco will be new Subcommittee Chair.</p> <p>12/1/22: The Subcommittee will start working in February 2023.</p> <p>3/24/23: Requesting more data from labs and requested PT Data from William.</p> <p>11/29/23: Chem FoPT Submitted final recommendation to PTPEC. Needs further discussion in December.</p> <p>12/18/23: A motion was made by Tim to approve the update to the Drinking Water table to include PFAS limits for 29 analytes as recommended by the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee and provided with the agenda to this meeting. The motion was seconded by Eric. Since Jack Denby is</p>
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Item	Task Description	Document Number	TNI Contact	Task Added	Start Date	Due Date	Complete Date	Comments
								<p>on leave – super majority is 7/10. Motion passed.  4/8/24: PFAS limits were distributed to a bigger stakeholder group for comment. Comments are due early May.  4/24/24: A motion was made by Susan to have the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee evaluate the 6 compounds in the PFAS rule with the limits of 70-130%. Look at Carl Kircher's data and the 2 – 25 times the MRL range for spiking. The motion as seconded by Craig and unanimously approved.  - Stacie will send comments to Amy. Look at MRLs, look at data, calculate against 30% and how they come out.</p>
460	Develop PT Program metrics			2/18/21	5/21/21			Update 8/17/22: Developed partially as Charter was updated. Need to formalize.

Item	Task Description	Document Number	TNI Contact	Task Added	Start Date	Due Date	Complete Date	Comments
461	Finish update to Radiochemistry FoPT Table	- DW Rad FoPT		2/18/21			4/28/23	2/18/21: Table submitted to PTPEC. PTPEC waiting for SOP 4-101 to be complete before reviewing table. 4/21/22: Table footnotes need to be updated before PTPEC can vote. Shawn will make these updates. 11/22/22: Updates complete and approved by Committee. Being sent to NELAP AC and PT Providers for comment before effective date approved. 3/24/23: Vote for effective date. 4/28/23: Effective date changed to 11/1/23. Closed
462	Feasibility: Radiochemistry Uncertainty to PT Evaluations			2/18/21	2/22			Jan 2022: Discussed in San Antonio. Radiochemistry Expert Committee to submit recommendation. 7/21/22: Recommendation sent to PTPEC for review. 10/28/22: Recommendations to be reviewed in November. 11/22/22: Radiochemistry Expert Committee recommendation to be sent to ERA for comment.
463	Feasibility: Technology Based PTs			2/18/21				
464	Feasibility: Add Prep Methods on FoPT tables			2/18/21				
465	Feasibility: Air and Emissions PTs			2/18/21				
470	Determine timing for update of FoPT limits.			7/21/22				Determine after completion of SOP 4-101.
471	Advocacy White Paper			1/11/23			4/28/23	Paper submitted.

Item	Task Description	Document Number	TNI Contact	Task Added	Start Date	Due Date	Complete Date	Comments
472	DMR QA is requesting formal comments			1/11/23			2/24/23	Submitted.
473	State of Accreditation Update			4/28/23			Complete	The document was worked on during meeting and will be finalized by email and sent back to Lynn.
474	Ra-226 PTRL Issue – Respond			6/23/23	6/23/23		Complete	Stacie will prepare response and get feedback through email before sending to Annmarie.
475	Potentially develop better process to get data for FoPT table updates.			6/23/23				
476	Choose PTPA evaluator for upcoming evaluations.			10/27/23	10/27/23		10/27/23	Stacie will join Ilona to evaluate PTPAs.
477	TNI leadership and Sigma to meet to manage a historical data base for Sigma.			10/27/23				
478	Address 2 complaints regarding new Radiochemistry FoPT Limits (#48 and #49)		Stacie Ilona	11/29/23	11/29/23		12/18/23	12/18/23: Response approved by PTPEC and Bob Shannon and Kieth McCroan.
479	Review DRAFT Volume 3 and 4 – Get from Bob Wyeth			4/8/24	2/28/24		3/1/24	Volumes are getting ready to post for comment. Part of discussion in Ohio, but Committee did not meet in February. Stacie sent email to Committee to start review on 2/28/24. 3/1/24: Volume 3 and 4 comments from Nicole and Ilona sent to PT Expert Committee.

Item	Task Description	Document Number	TNI Contact	Task Added	Start Date	Due Date	Complete Date	Comments
480	Request for DW Data for Limit Updates – Missing Data			4/24/24	4/24/24			4/24/24: Data from 2 providers is missing. 7/24/24: Still need data from one more provider. Workgroup in Item 482 formed.