

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

April 28, 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 April 28, 2023. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were eight (8) voting members present. Associate members present: Chuck Faulk, Craig Huff, Amy DeMarco, Fred Anderson, Jennifer Bordwell, Michella Karapondo, Scott Haas, and Tom Dziedzic.

There were no changes made to the agenda.

The March minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Tim Miller to approve the March 24, 2023 minutes with the addition that the effective date was changed to November 1, 2023. Patrick seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

2. Radiochemistry FoPTs

The Radiochemistry FoPTs have not been posted, but the Committee would still like to give people 6 months to implement the changes. Stacie proposed changing the effective/implementation date to November 1, 2023.

The actual limits were approved with a 2/3 vote of the Committee in the March minutes. The effective date was set at 10/1/23 at that time.

Jennifer Best made a motion to change the effective date of the Radiochemistry FoPT table to November 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by Rachel and was unanimously approved.

3. Advocacy Paper

Stacie reviewed the recommended changes made to the Advocacy Paper by the Advocacy Committee:

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

Patrick made a motion to approve the Advocacy Paper as amended today. The motion was seconded by Tim Miller and unanimously approved.

4. Data Submission for WET and Chemistry FoPT Subcommittees

Craig has been trying to submit data, but it says there is an issue with the login credentials. He has reached out to William.

Michella noted that she is trying to get the UCMR data also. The UCMR team is very busy right now with the kickoff of this round of UCMR.

Susan will send an email to PT Providers to make sure they are not having issues similar to what Craig is experiencing.

Additional fields are being requested with the WET data: study mean, the toxicant used, the toxicant concentration and the ratio. Could this cause issues in the database? Craig is reaching out to William for help on this.

Concern was expressed that the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee may not get the data in time to comment on the proposed +/- 30%. The Committee could comment that EPA consider using the UCMR limits of +/- 40%, but we would prefer to have data to support the comment.

Stacie will reach out to Jerry and provide an update about the comment letter PTPEC will prepare to the MUR proposal. This letter must be approved by Advocacy. At this point, UCMR has used a plus or minus 60-140% recovery and she would like to see those same limits reflected in this method update rule.

Michella noted they have already received over 2000 comments. Many people are requesting an extension to comment.

The Committee would like to let EPA know in the letter that they are collecting data to make a more informed comment and they would like to submit the information when it is available. Jack will help Stacie put together a first draft of the comment letter.

5. The State of TNI

Lynn Bradley sent a document that was last updated in 2021 on the state of national accreditation. She asked that the PTPEC review the info and make any necessary updates.

Stacie pulled up the document and the Committee edited the document. Stacie, Susan and Jack will clean-up it up and send it out one more time to the Committee for any final comments by email. It will then be sent to Lynn.

A copy of the final document will be included in Attachment C of these minutes.

6. Subcommittee Updates

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee

Amy DeMarco (Chair) reported that the Subcommittee is getting closer to establishing concentration ranges, but they need the data from the PT Providers. The Subcommittee will also be looking at nomenclature.

WET FoPT Subcommittee

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

PTP SOP Subcommittee –

Stacie asked for new volunteers for this Subcommittee. Prashant and Jennifer Best volunteered. Susan and Reggie will continue on the Committee. Stacie will try to reach Eric Smith also.

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 a teleconference on May 26, 2023 at 11:30am Eastern.
(Addition: The May meeting was canceled.)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 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
Jennifer Best (2026*) Present	Other	USEPA	karapondo.michella@epa.gov
Jack Denby (2026*) Present	Lab	HRSD	jdenby@hrsd.com
Rachel Ellis (2025) Present	AB	New Jersey DEP	Rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov
Patrick Selig (2024*) Present	AB	ANAB	pselig@anab.org
Prasanth Ramakrishnan (2024*) Present	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	



**The State of National Accreditation
2023**

Proficiency Testing (PT) Program

TNI's PT Program is utilized across the country, by the EPA Discharge Monitoring Report-Quality Assurance (DMRQA) program for wastewater testing and by the EPA drinking water program. TNI recognized PT providers manufacture samples for drinking water, non-potable water, and solid and chemical materials. The TNI Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) that provides program oversight consists of representatives from EPA, TNI and state specific accrediting agencies, PT Providers, non- governmental accreditation bodies, laboratories, and other stakeholders.

TNI's PT Program has responded to regulatory drivers and the needs of the environmental laboratory community by:

- Updating the Drinking Water Radiochemistry Fields of Proficiency Testing (FoPT) Table.
- Completing updates to a Position Paper that can be utilized to advocate the advantages of participation in the TNI PT Program.
- Continuing to work with non-governmental accreditation bodies for recognition as PT Provider Accreditors.
- Completing and updating SOPs to document procedures used by the PTPEC and other stakeholders for activities related to the TNI PT Program.

The PTPEC is continuing to provide oversight and respond to the environmental laboratory community on issues related to the PT Program through:

- Developing FoPTs for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water.
- Updating the Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing (WETT) non-potable water FoPT Table to include more meaningful data evaluation criteria.
- Preparing to address a request for addition of radiochemistry FoPTs in non-potable water and solid and chemical materials.
- Continuing to evaluate the value of expanding the PT Program to include sample preparation methods.
- Continuing to work with other stakeholders to streamline LAMS.
- Identifying and providing training on the PT program as needed.

Attachment D: 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			<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>
458	Improve communication with non-TNI AB stakeholders.			2/18/21	8/1/22			<p>8/1/22: Discussed at Crystal City meeting.</p> <p>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>

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	May 2021			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.

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	

