

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

April 8, 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 six (6) voting members present. Associate members present: Amanda Fehr, Craig Huff, Maria Friedman, and Amy DeMarco.

The December minutes and a summary of the winter Accreditation Forum in Columbus, OH were reviewed. A motion was made by Susan to approve the December 18, 2023, minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Tim and unanimously approved.

The summary of the Accreditation Forum meeting on January 22, 2024, were reviewed. It was noted that the PFAS Rule may be published within the next week. Tim asked about the status of the posting of the Radiochemistry FoPT table. Though the new limits are now final, they are still listed as Future Table Effective 11-1-23. Stacie will check on this. A motion was made by Susan to approve the Accreditation Forum summary. The motion was seconded by Tim and unanimously approved. The summary can be found in Attachment C.

The Committee did not meet in February. The March meeting was postponed and the Committee is meeting today instead - April 8, 2024.

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. They were already sent for comment to the NELAP ABs. There was confirmation from Committee members that they had seen this. Comments are due early May.

There have been no comments received. If EPA goes with the 30% limits, the Committee will evaluate the need for any changes to the table. This could possibly come as an ARA request.

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

Since the Committee did not meet in February, an email request went out to review Volume 3 and 4 so the Committee could provide timely comments to the PT Expert

Committee. Comments were received from Nicole and Ilona, and these were sent to the Expert Committee. Stacie can send these to Committee members.

Stacie located the comments and shared them (see Attachment D). Changes include changing the work “approved” to “recognized” to be consistent with the rest of TNI and most of the changes are editorial.

Tim noted that the comments generated a lot of discussion during the PT Expert Committee meeting. They are concerned they won’t have the volumes complete by the summer meeting. Stacie will investigate what the concern is.

4. Subcommittee Updates

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee

Amy noted the Subcommittee has not met since January since they have not received DW data from all the PT Providers.

Stacie will send a message to William to check on the status of the data.

WET FoPT Subcommittee

Craig reported that they now have data, and that Carl has calculated the first round. The Subcommittee did not have a quorum at their last meeting and could not start making any decisions about the data.

PTP SOP Subcommittee

No new business.

5. Committee Leadership

Stacie shared that she will be retiring from HRSD the end of April. She will continue to Chair the Committee through August. Susan is willing to transition to Chair in September. Stacie will continue to be involved with the Committee as a TNI part-time remote consultant. Current discussion is for Stacie to transition to the PT Administrator role so Ilona can focus more the TNI’s training program. Stacie and Susan will plan the meeting for the summer conference.

6.. Committee Membership

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

Jack made a motion to add Craig Huff as a voting member of the PTPEC. The motion was seconded by Tim and unanimously approved. He will be an “Other”.

Susan made a motion to add Amy DeMarco as a voting member of the PTPEC. The motion was seconded by Jack and unanimously approved. Stacie needs to check if she will be an “Other” or a “Lab”.

Susan made a motion to add Amanda Fehr as a voting member of the PTPEC. The motion was seconded by Tim and unanimously approved.

(Addition:

Committee membership will now look like:

Carl and Andy will be rotating off the Committee.

Stacie – Lab (Other after retirement)

Susan – Lab

Tim – Other

Jennifer – Other

Jack – Lab/FSMO

Rachel – AB

Patrick – AB

Prasanth – AB

Craig – Other

Amy – Lab?

Amanda – Lab

Lab/FSMO – 5

AB – 3

Other – 3

The Committee is still balanced.

Need to confirm Amy’s Stakeholder Group. Also still need to vote for second terms for Tim, Patrick and Prasanth.)

7. New Business

None.

8. Action Items

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

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on April 24, 2024, at 11:00am Eastern. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 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 Recording		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
Jennifer Best (2025*) Present	Other	USEPA	karapondo.michella@epa.gov
Jack Denby (2025*) Present	Lab/FSMO	HRSD	jdenby@hrsd.com
Rachel Ellis (2025) Absent	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	

Attachment C – Summary of Winter Forum Meeting in Columbus, OH

January 22, 2023, 3:30-5 pm Eastern

Attendance: Stacie Crandall, Susan Jackson, Jennifer Best, Tim Miller, and Ilona.

Summary Prepared Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator)

SUMMARY

Stacie prepared a presentation she shared with the attendees (see Attachment 1).

Stacie noted that 3 Committee members are rotating off (Carl Kircher, Eric Smith and Andy Valkenberg). This leaves the Committee with 9 members, so the Committee is seeking more membership. There are 22 associate members.

Stacie reviewed the list of 2023 PTPEC accomplishments provided in Attachment 1.

PFAS Limits

Stacie reviewed how the PFAS limits are being implemented.

Comments:

- How do you know a new FoPT table has been posted? Sign-up on the TNI website to receive these updates.
- It was noted that the Radiochemistry limits were effective 11/1/23, but the 2021 limits are still posted. This needs to be corrected.
- EPA Response to Comment documents will be coming out. They are still deliberating on comments. It was commented that +/- 40% limits were used for UCMR 3, but +/-30% was used for UCMR 5 and 98% of the results were accepted.
 - o The concentration range needs to be looked at. EPA noted that the data was mainly mid-range.
 - o The labs that participated also had to demonstrate that they knew what they were doing. There were about 50 labs?
 - o EPA has not shared the data because they are using it as part of contract lab evaluation program.
- It was noted that TNI needs to look at what concentration was used for the data the Chemistry FoPT Committee evaluated. People thought it was lower. TNI cannot look at the quality of the

labs used to produce the data. The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee shared plots with the PTPEC that supported a +/- 40% limit.

- The PTPEC approved a +/- 40% rate for the 29 PFAS analytes in Drinking Water. They sent the FoPT table to the NELAP AC and PT Providers for comment. After further discussion the PTPEC agreed that they need to look more closely at who the stakeholders are and send it out more widely. Need to send it to labs, DoD, non-NELAP ABs, etc. Stacie agreed that a new mailing list will be developed, and it will be sent out again.

SOP 4-101 - Recommendation, Evaluation, and Calculation of Acceptance Criteria and Applicable Concentration Ranges for Proficiency Tests

The PTP SOP Subcommittee finished this SOP. It is a very detailed SOP, and it includes a link to a video made by Carl Kircher to describe how limits are calculated.

The Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee is planning to use this SOP to start its 10-year review of all limits. They will start by looking at Drinking Water analytes.

WET FoPT Subcommittee

The Subcommittee asked for data from PT Providers during this round of data review so they can make changes to the program to make it a more meaningful evaluation.

PTPEC 2024 Plans and Discussion

- Stacie reviewed the PTPEC 2024 plans in the slide presentation (Attachment 1).
- There was a good discussion on method codes. They need work.
- The Technology Definition Workgroup is being led by the Chair of the CSDP Executive Committee – Paul Junio. The workgroup is looking at previous groupings of technologies in hopes of coming up with divisions that could be used for determining Internal Audit requirements and Technical Specialist requirements without disrupting existing Technologies that relate to PTs and Accreditation. The term Analytical Disciplines is being considered.
- What's the purpose of the program? More discussion is needed.
 - o It was commented that it is not to have a PT for every analyte. It was supposed to show competency, but not every test. Jerry Parr disagrees with comment.
 - o Several regulators think PTs are useless ... the lab always pass.
 - o Some NELAP ABs only require PTs that are on the FoPT tables.
 - LAMS has a Total Chromium, but the FoPT table only has Chromium.
 - Grease and Oil PT - not on FoPT table. So people don't run.
 - There are wrong analyte codes. What is the purpose of analyte codes?
- It was asked if whole Volume PTs are being looked at.

- A PT provider commented that whole volumes would have to look at real hold times of the samples. This could make this difficult.
- Technology vs Analyte Matrix. Concentration levels can be a problem when the same PTs need to be used for all methods/instrumentation. There are some PT concentrations for technology that doesn't do high concentrations. This is a problem.
- The PTPEC will be doing a review of DRAFT Volumes 3 and 4 of the Environmental Laboratory Standard. This is planned for the February agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 5pm Eastern.

Attachment D – Comments on Volume 3 and 4

The following comments were sent to the Chair and Program Administrator of the PT Expert Committee on March 1, 2024.

Volume 3

- Use of proficiency test vs proficiency testing. I believe the latter is the appropriate term, but these are used interchangeably throughout the document. I recommend updating to proficiency testing in the following locations for consistency:
 - Title Page – Proficiency Testing Provider
 - Header on Page 1 of the Standard, Page 9 of the Word document – Proficiency Testing Provider
 - Section 3.10 – Proficiency Testing performance (I also don't think proficiency testing needs to be capitalized here).
 - Section 3.15 – proficiency testing sample (two instances)
 - Section 3.20 a) – proficiency testing program
- Section 1.3.3 – ISO/IEC 17025:2005 reference should be updated to the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 reference
- Section 3.1 – “proficiency test standard” this reference is not consistent with the remainder of the standard which refers to them as proficiency testing samples. Change to “proficiency testing sample”.
- Sections 3.13 – “TNI-approved Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditor” – should this be “TNI-recognized”
- Section 3.14 – “An organization that is approved by TNI...” – should this be “An organization that is recognized by TNI...”
- Section 4.1 – un-italicize “to” in front of ISO/IEC
- Sections 4.1, 4.2 and 4.4 – “TNI-approved PTPA” – should this be “TNI-recognized PTPA”
- Section 5.1.2 – ISO/IEC 17025:2005 reference should be updated to the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 reference; and un-italicize “of” in front of ISO/IEC
- Section 5.5.3.1 – recommend the following update for clarity “...published in the most current effective TNI FoPT Tables.”
- Section 5.5.3.3 b) – recommend the following change as ten analytes is included in clause a) above – “PT samples that are to be scored for eleven (11) to twenty (20) analytes...”
- Section 5.5.3.5 – recommend the following update for clarity “...in the most current effective version of the FoPT Tables.”
- Section 5.6.23. – recommend the following grammatical change – “Homogeneity testing shall be compliant with ISO/IEC...”
- Section 5.6.3.5 – recommend the following change as there is nothing in the standard called a “study discussion report” – “PT samples or analytes which fail to meet the criteria of this Section shall be invalidated in the PT study and described in the study discussion portion of the final evaluation report”. See section 5.10.2.1 l) – this is the only spot that talks about a study discussion and it is in the Final Evaluation Report.

- Sections 5.7.1, 5.7.7 – recommend the following change for as there could be two “approved” FoPT tables, but one might not be “effective” yet - “... listed in the most current **effective** TNI FoPT tables.”
- Section 5.7.4 – layout of clauses is not the same as Section 5.7.2 – recommend the following shifting of language for consistency with 5.7.2
 - Assigned values for solid and chemical matrix analytes:
 - a) shall be equal to the natural (background) concentration as analytically determined by the PT Provider, plus the made-to concentrations of any spiked analytes based on gravimetric and volumetric measurements of a starting material of known concentration, **or if the analyte assigned value is determined by the PT Provider’s measurement, then the assigned value shall be set to the mean of the PT Provider’s verification analyses;**
 - b) shall be presented as three (3) significant figures.
- Sections 5.9.2.1, 5.9.2.2, and 5.9.2.4 – recommend the following update for clarity “...defined in the **most current effective** TNI FoPT Tables.”
- Section 5.9.2.8 – possible rewording for consistency with previous sections. “For protozoan acceptance limits which are calculated using the study data reported by the participating laboratories, the PT Provider shall include all final reported results of the participating laboratories in the calculations of the study mean and standard deviation.”
- Section 5.10.2.2 a) – delete “s” in samples – “lot or PT sample number;”
- Section 5.10.2.2 c) – recommend the following update for clarity “...defined in the **most current effective** TNI FoPT Tables.”
- Change headers to state they are DRAFT Standards.
- Why did the references get moved to applicability?
- Wrong year for ISO/IEC references. For example - should be 17025:2017. 17043 is now 2023. 13528 is now 2022. Why was this crossed off?
- Should check with Paul Junio on definitions. He is trying to create one definition and PTs are not only for laboratories. They could be for an FSMO.
- Section 4.7 - Should the PTPEC be notified if this happens? Or be involved in some step in this process?
- Section 5.1.2 reference should be ISO/IEC 17025:2017.
- Section 5.6.2.3 - Shouldn’t it be ISO/IEC 13528: 2022 instead of 2015?
- Section 5.9.2.6.b - Shouldn’t it be E 178 2021 Edition instead of 2016?

- Use of proficiency test vs proficiency testing. I believe the latter is the appropriate term, but these are used interchangeably throughout the document. I recommend updating to proficiency testing in the following locations for consistency:
 - Title Page – Proficiency Testing Providers
 - Header on Page 1 of the Standard, Page 9 of the Word document – Proficiency Testing Providers
 - Section 3.7 a) – proficiency testing program
 - Sections 1.1 – “TNI-approved Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditor (PTPA)” – should this be “TNI-recognized”
 - Sections 1.3.1 and 1.3.3 – “TNI-approved PTPA” – should this be “TNI-recognized PTPA”
 - Sections 1.3.2 – “The PTPEC reviews and approves the PTPA...” – should this be “The PTPEC evaluates and recognizes the PTPA...”
 - Section 1.3.4, 4.1 b), 5.0, 5.1.2, 6.0, and 6.2 – Should references be updated to “ISO/IEC 17011:2017”
 - Sections 3.4 – “TNI-approved Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditor” – should this be “TNI-recognized”
 - Section 3.5 – “An organization that is approved by TNI...” – should this be “An organization that is recognized by TNI...”
 - Section 4.1 – “The PTPEC shall approve an organization...” – should this be “The PTPEC shall recognize an organization...”
 - Section 4.1 c) – “...shall not cause undue delay in processing a request for accreditation.” – should this be “...shall not cause undue delay in processing a request for recognition.”
 - Section 5.1.2 - Recommend the following deletion as this is for PT Provider accreditation – “The organization shall be recognized by an international cooperation of accreditation bodies for conformance with ISO/IEC 17011:2017(E) General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies for the accreditation of laboratories, and shall demonstrate the following:”
 - Section 5.1.2 a) - ISO/IEC 17025:2005 reference should be updated to the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 reference
 - Section 5.1.2 c) – recommend the following change for consistency in terminology with the subsequent section 5.2 – “has the capability to conduct on-site assessments of PT Providers...”
 - Section 6.2 e) – recommend the following update for clarity “...per the most current effective TNI FoPT tables.”
- Inconsistent process for references between the two standards.
 - Section 1.3.4:
Should be ISO/IEC 17011:2017.
 - Definitions:
Same comment in Vol 3 regarding definitions.
 - Section 4.1.b:

Should be ISO/IEC 17011:2017.

- Section 4.1.c: There is a chance this may change to 3 years when the evaluation process merges with the TNI Standard. Is there a way to write this with some flexibility? This could happen in the next year or so. NELAP is talking to EPA and there is a possibility that the NELAP AC evaluations may go to 4 years ... but it is an unknown right now.
- Section 5:
Should be ISO/IEC 17011:2017.
- Section 5.1.2:
Should be ISO/IEC 17011:2017.
- Section 5.1.2.a: Should be ISO/IEC 17025: 2017.
- Section 6.0 Should be ISO/IEC 17011:2017.
- Section 6.2: Should be ISO/IEC 17011:2017.

Attachment E: 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
								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.
460	Develop PT Program metrics			2/18/21	5/21/21			Update 8/17/22: Developed partially as Charter was updated. Need to formalize.
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

Item	Task Description	Document Number	TNI Contact	Task Added	Start Date	Due Date	Complete Date	Comments
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.
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.

