

# TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

**June 23, 2023**

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

Chair, Stacie Crandall, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order at 11:30am Eastern on June 23, 2023. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were six (6) members present. Associate members present: Chuck Faulk, Craig Huff, Amy DeMarco, Fred Anderson, Jennifer Bordwell, Michella Karapondo, Maria Friedman (added 12:30pm) and Tom Dziejic.

There were no changes made to the Agenda.

## 2. Radiochemistry FoPTs

Annmarie Beach sent the message below to Terry Romanko (Chair, Radiochemistry Expert Committee) on June 20, 2023:

Good morning,

I am following up on a concern that has been submitted to the PA Laboratory Accreditation Program. Accredited laboratories within our program are concerned with the upcoming update in November 2023 for the PTRLs for Radiochemistry.

Achieving the Ra-226 PRTL could be an issue. In using the current GA DNR process, which is the most limiting method, the lab can pretty much guarantee a 0.25 pCi/L. But to get to 0.1 pCi/L, about the only thing the lab can do is push the count time to >100 minutes, and that is way outside of the routine 10 minutes to achieve the 1.0 pCi/L MDC. If the lab increases the sample count time, it will have to increase the background count time to at least 50 minutes, and even then, the background on the cell has to be pretty low.

The labs would be treating PT samples very differently than client samples if these modifications are implemented to meet the PRTL of 0.1 pCi/L.

Can you please provide the reason why the committee wants to require the lower PTRLs and whether they took into consideration actual laboratory testing to achieve these lower limits? I would also appreciate any recommendations that you can provide so that labs can remain compliant with PT testing.

Through communications with Ilona and Terry, Ilona got Carl Kircher involved (Past Chair, Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee). Carl responded on June 21, 2023:

I have checked my records, and the PTRL is correct as presented and tabulated for Ra-226. The Radiochemistry Committee was the one that wanted to revise the FoPT acceptance limits to the US EPA SDWA Cert Manual Section VI quality objectives, so that is the result of applying the statistics. There were no recommendations to change the activity range for Ra-226 from 1-20 pCi/L to a different range. So, applying the lowest possible Assigned Value at 1.0 pCi/L and plugging it into  $(a \cdot AV + b) - 2 \cdot (c \cdot AV + d)$  results in a really low value such that we had to apply the 10% rule. Thus, the PTRL is now 0.1 pCi/L.

I suppose any "fix" to this would be for Annmarie to submit a ARA to change the Ra-226 "concentration" (activity) range. Given the environmental relevance of Ra-226, I am not sure how US EPA (or FL-DOH or FL-DEP) would feel about that change. Rather, I would ask, what is the probability that in any given Radiochemistry PT round that Ra-226 would be randomly spiked at a selected Assigned Value of 1-2 pCi/L? I would recommend that the lab run its PT the same as it would routine samples, and if the lab does not get a measureable count on the PT after its SOP routine count times, then see about making any changes to analytical procedures under the hopefully uncommon circumstances.

I apologize if I say that 50-100 minutes is not too long to take for gamma ray spectrometer count time in order to achieve the desired minimum detectable activity. Section 10.4.2 of the Georgia Tech Method says that the lab must do the Detector Background Characterization (monthly, according to Section 10.4.5) and that a minimum count time of 36000 seconds (600 minutes) is recommended.

Please feel free to e-mail or phone me if you have any questions. Otherwise, presently, I stand by the FoPT Table that we voted on and approved.

Craig added that the PT Provider has to demonstrate they can see  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the PTRL.

The PT Provider still has to verify they can see it at a tighter range than the labs.

If the method doesn't limit you to a 10 minute run – the lab should be able to do this. Susan has a radiochemistry lab – she asked where the 10 min remark is coming from. It is in the second paragraph in the original comment.

Carl noted that the Radiochemistry Expert Committee considered all of this.

Susan noted that the lab would be looking at the spike range of 1-20 – so don't need to go down to the PTRL.

The concern has been addressed. Stacie will write a response and share it with Carl and Susan before she sends it out to the Committee for review and then to Annmarie.

### 3. Preparation for Summer Conference – Minneapolis

Stacie pulled them up the DRAFT slides she prepared for the conference.

- Added that the comment period for PFAS method update rule has been extended to August 30, 2023 and that the Committee will prepare comments.
- On the Radiochemistry FoPT slide, the effective date was changed to November 1, 2023.
- WET Slide - Still waiting for data.
- Editorial changes were made as needed.

#### 4. Data Requests

We have had some problems receiving timely data, but we do now have the data.

Carl has taken the data and put it into the tool for data analysis and has sent the results to the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. He made recommendations based on the results. It has not been peer reviewed yet. Need to be sure the results have been checked. Carl was thanked for doing this so quickly.

With the WET data request, there is a problem uploading the data into the database because the fields extend beyond what Chemistry asks for. The deadline was set for June 11<sup>th</sup>.

- Craig/ERA noted it will take 2 more weeks for him to load data.
- Phenova – has submitted it. No errors. Should be OK.
- Tom gathered data, but hasn't been able to submit. He plans to load it next week.

Tim is concerned how the process to collect this information was presented. Requests should be reviewed and explained.

William is aware that something different is being asked for.

Other providers will let Ilona know when they submit so she can check with William.

Need to add to Goals how to better receive data as needed.

Make sure SOP 4-101 includes procedures for how data is received. – Add to 2024 goals.

#### 5. PFAS Rule Making Comments

There is one comments about limits. – 70-130% needs to change to 60-140%. Stacie will email the comments to the Committee.

## 6. Subcommittee Updates

### Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee

Amy DeMarco (Chair) reported the Committee will meet next week.

### WET FoPT Subcommittee

No update.

### PTP SOP Subcommittee –

The SOP Subcommittee is meeting next Friday. Ilona sent Susan a copy of the last version of SOP 4-107 that Eric sent her. Susan will begin leading this Subcommittee.

## 7. New Business

The Policy Committee needs a representative from the PT Program on their Committee. This will be further discussed offline.

## 8. Action Items

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

## 9. Next Meeting

There will be no regular July meeting. The Committee will be meeting face-to-face in Minneapolis the following week and then again, the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday in August by teleconference.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54pm 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	<a href="mailto:tauntoni@msn.com">tauntoni@msn.com</a>
Susan Jackson (2025*) (Vice-Chair) <b>Present</b>	Lab	South Carolina DHEC	<a href="mailto:jacksosb@dhec.sc.gov">jacksosb@dhec.sc.gov</a>
Carl Kircher (2024)  <b>Present - Phone</b>	AB	Florida Department of Health	<a href="mailto:Carl.Kircher@flhealth.gov">Carl.Kircher@flhealth.gov</a>
Andy Valkenburg (2024)  <b>Absent</b>	Other	QASE Inc.	<a href="mailto:cvalkenbur@aol.com">cvalkenbur@aol.com</a>
Tim Miller (2024*)  <b>Present</b>	Other	Phenova	<a href="mailto:timm@phenova.com">timm@phenova.com</a>
Eric Smith (2024*)  <b>Absent</b>	Other		<a href="mailto:eric.smith72@comcast.net">eric.smith72@comcast.net</a>
Jennifer Best (2026*)  <b>Absent</b>	Other	USEPA	<a href="mailto:karapondo.michella@epa.gov">karapondo.michella@epa.gov</a>
Jack Denby (2026*)  <b>Present</b>	Lab	HRSD	<a href="mailto:jdenby@hrsd.com">jdenby@hrsd.com</a>
Rachel Ellis (2025)  <b>Absent</b>	AB	New Jersey DEP	<a href="mailto:Rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov">Rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov</a>
Patrick Selig (2024*)  <b>Present</b>	AB	ANAB	<a href="mailto:pselig@anab.org">pselig@anab.org</a>
Prasanth Ramakrishnan (2024*) <b>Present – after 12</b>	AB	ISA	<a href="mailto:pramakrishnan@iasonline.org">pramakrishnan@iasonline.org</a>

## Attachment B

### Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Executive Committee

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Meeting Reference</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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

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> <p>6/23/23: Make sure SOP 4-101 includes procedures for how data is received.</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	

