

Radiochemistry Expert Committee (REC) Meeting Summary

October 27, 2021

1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Terry Romanko, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1pm Eastern on October 27, 2021 by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 11 members present. Associate members in attendance: Mark McNeal, Patrick Garrity, Bob Shannon and Richard Denton.

There was no meeting in September.

2. Module 6 Standard Update

Jan is just about done with the clean-up to prepare for posting.

3. Reporting Uncertainty for PTs

Terry was told the PT Expert Committee and PTP Executive Committee are looking at having a special meeting in San Antonio, TX during the winter conference to discuss the reporting of uncertainties for radiochemistry PTs. It looks like this is not going to happen and instead there will be something set-up just after the conference so more people can be included. The Radiochemistry Committee will not be meeting in San Antonio.

Terry would like Bob and Keith at a minimum to be involved in this meeting. He also thinks Jim Chambers would be a good addition to this meeting.

Bob commented that he is disappointed that the PT Provider is commenting that they can't modify their database, where two years ago this was not mentioned as an issue. He still thinks this is important. These are compliance measurements. Bob and Kieth looked at a lot of PT data when working on the limits project with the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee and there are issues with the data that need to be addressed. There was no control over the data that was being put in the database. It was hard to make an assessment. He thinks the database needs controls put in place so you know what the data means.

Terry is concerned about the statement made that the PT Provider may not be able to update their database to accommodate this change. Coming from the lab side, databases are modified constantly to add a field. Evaluating it may be more complicated, but they should be able to make this work.

Brian joined the meeting and Terry brought him current on the discussion. Terry asked if Brian had any additional information. He commented that the PTPEC is asking who needs the information and how the uncertainty information would be evaluated. The PT Provider on that call expressed concern that this would be a major database/system change. Everyone is trying to understand the benefit.

Terry asked why this was not an issue a couple of years ago, but it is now. Bob restated that when this was discussed a few years ago, both ERA and New York did not think it would be a problem. Is adding a field to a database a major update? It could be qualitative – high?

Bob also discussed his concerns about the database. Brian noted that they just collect the data and the ABs are policing the information. Bob noted that the way the data was being entered made it difficult to assess if it was a real datapoint. The database is what people reported, but the way it is gathered didn't work. Perhaps this is something PTPEC needs to address or look at.

Brian noted the data is collected in a way to compare the results to the FoPT tables. Labs pass or fail.

Brian commented that there are different people involved now than a few years ago. Bob may try to reach out to Shawn Kassner.

Terry is hoping Bob can be involved in these discussions because he knows more of the history and he did most of the direct review of the database.

There were no further comments.

(Addition: Ilona was notified that the special meeting will be happening in San Antonio. She let Bob and Terry know that TNI will be providing access to the meeting via Webex to Bob Shannon and Keith McCroan. Terry will be attending in person.

The following information is being posted on the TNI website for the meeting:

The current TNI modules for proficiency testing (Volume 1 - Module 1, Volume 2 - Module 2, Volume 3, and Volume 4) require laboratories to report uncertainty with the PT result. However, no PT Provider (PTP) has a way to capture this information and there are no criteria to assess uncertainty. Furthermore, the PTPs believe it will be costly to modify their databases to collect and evaluate this measurement – if they even can. The Radiochemistry Committee believes this is an important requirement and that the PTP evaluation of uncertainty be qualitative. They have provided information to the PT program executive committee. However, Accreditation Bodies (ABs) require auditable findings, and thus laboratories will be concerned with how ABs interpret qualitative performance evaluations.

This session will be an open discussion on this topic to try and reach consensus on an approach.)

4. New Business

- Ilona reminded people to take the Committee membership class done by Paul Junio. Terry asked people to let him know when they take it. He can also forward the link if anyone needs it.

5. Action Items

A summary of action items can be found in Attachment B.

6. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be November 24, 2021 at 1pm Eastern. *(Addition: The November and December meeting were canceled.)*

A summary of action items and backburner/reminder items can be found in Attachment B and C.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm Eastern.

**Attachment A
Participants
Radiochemistry Expert Committee**

Members	Affiliation		Contact InAffirmativemation
Terry Romanko Chair (2024) Present	TestAmerica Laboratories, Inc.	Lab	Terry.romanko@testamericainc.com
Sherry Faye (2022*) Present	Wadsworth Center, NY State DOH Albany, NY	Lab	sherry.faye@health.ny.gov
Velinda Herbert (2024) Present	National Analytical Environmental Laboratory	Lab	Herbert.velinda@epa.gov
Brian Miller (2024) Present – joined 1:15pm Eastern	ERA	Other	bmiller@eraqc.com
Stan Stevens (2023*) Present	Perma-Fix Environmental Services	Other	stanws@aol.com
Amanda Fehr (2023*) Present	GEL	Lab	amanda.fehr@gel.com
Jim Chambers (2023*) Present	Fluor-BWXT Portsmouth LLC	Other	jim.chambers@ports.pppo.gov
Greg Raspanti (2022*) Present	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	AB	Greg.Raspanti@dep.nj.gov
Robert Aullman (2022*) Present	Utah Department of Health	AB	aullman77@gmail.com
Chrystal Sheaff (2024*) Present	Energy Laboratories, Inc.	Lab	csheaff@energylab.com
Mary Beth Gustafson (2024*) Present	Virginia	AB	mary.gustafson@dgs.virginia.gov
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) Present	The NELAC Institute	n/a	Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org

Attachment B**Action Items – REC**

	Action Item	Who	Target Completion	Completed
90	Send note about method codes and concerns to the PT Expert Committee. Is there a way to limit the codes a lab can use to report PT data?	Bob	TBD	
105	Review Charter	All	TBD (Feb or Mar)	Complete 5/21
106	Prepare 2021 goals.	All	TBD (by mid January)	Complete 1/21
107	Send new membership to Chair of CSDP EC Affirmative approval.	Terry Ilona	2/24/21	Complete 2/21
108	Review Final Draft of Standard Affirmative any needed changes.	Robert and Chrystal	3/23/21	Complete 4/21
110	Review Stakeholder group and confirm it is what it should be.	All	3/23/21	Complete 2/21
113	Send response to Kirstin Daigles questions about reporting uncertainty with PT results.	Terry	9/1/21	Complete 8/25/21
114				

Attachment C – Back Burner / Reminders

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
5	Affirmativem subcommittee of experts in MS and other atom counting techniques to see that these techniques are adequately addressed in the radiochemistry module.	9/24/14	
6	From Action Item # 75: Prepare copy of Standard annotated with summary document language.		This is a project Carolyn was working on, but the committee decided it may duplicate the Small Lab Handbook. This project has been put on Hold.