

Radiochemistry Expert Committee (REC)

Meeting Summary

May 25, 2022

1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Terry Romanko, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1pm Eastern on May 25, 2022 by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 7 members present. Associate members in attendance: Keith McCroan and Mark McNeal.

The January, February and March minutes were distributed for email review. The January minutes need an attendance correction – Stan and Amanda were present. A motion was made by Mary Beth to approve the January 26, 2022 with the attendance correction and the February 23, 2022 and March 23, 2022 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jim and unanimously approved.

2. TNI Standard

No comments were received. There will be no additional revisions. The Standard will be set aside until TNI is ready to publish it.

3. Technical Manager/Expert/Specialist

Terry showed the current recommendation that the Committee worked on last month. There are only a few changes between this version and what was originally proposed more than a year ago.

Radiochemistry goes beyond just normal Chemistry degrees. This is why more was requested. Section v. allows for consideration of experience. Terry reviewed all the language with the Committee.

Mary Beth agrees with Terry's description, but she would like written language to be easier to understand though she doesn't have any specific changes to recommend. Chrystal agreed with this.

Terry decided to step through the language to see how it can be improved. Break out to main bullets and then sub-bullets to make it more readable.

Crystal asked about how courses will be evaluated to see if they qualify.

Who would approve whether a course was equivalent? This would be the AB. How do you get consistency within ABs? Terry thinks we have to rely on a subjective opinion or all the equivalencies will need to be removed. He realizes there is some grey area here.

Where can people find a radiochemistry class? Maybe the TNI classes are a possibility. Terry doesn't think it is in depth enough. Could a manufacturer's class be a possibility? Some could, but just instrument instruction would not be enough.

Ilona commented that this relates to what the Competency Task Force is doing. What do the Learning Outcomes or KSA's need to be? Maybe a test is designed that everyone takes to remove AB bias? What needs to be in the technical course? This could create a conflict with universities and what they teach. Do we want to go there?

There was additional support for the concept of a quiz that has to be passed.

Terry is concerned that we need to get comments to QMS and this may be beyond what we can write up right now.

Ilona noted that the language the committee is working on on right now can be shared, but a note can be added that more work needs to be done on how to determine what courses are acceptable.

Terry thinks that he should be able to pull a typical college course description and show how a staff member's knowledge matches it.

There was agreement that the language should be sent to QMS. There should be an explanation that there is a grey area around equivalent technical course. More work would need to be done on this topic.

Velinda wondered if you are going to test people with experience as you test people that take courses. How do you know their technical experience is great enough.

Chrystal motioned to send the language developed for Technical Manager/Specialist to QMS (Attachment D) with the reservation about defining what equivalent technical course means. The motion was seconded by Jim. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved.

4. New Business

- None.

5. Action Items

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

6. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be June 22, 2022 at 1pm Eastern. *(Addition: The Committee did not meet in June and the next meeting was July 27, 2022.)*

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

Terry adjourned the meeting at 2:25pm Eastern.

Attachment A
Participants
Radiochemistry Expert Committee

Members	Affiliation		Contact Information
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	ERA	Other	bmiller@eraqc.com
Stan Stevens (2023*) Absent	Perma-Fix Environmental Services	Other	stanws@aol.com
Amanda Fehr (2023*) Absent	GEL	Lab	amanda.fehr@gel.com
Jim Chambers (2023*) Present	Fluor-BWXT Portsmouth LLC	Other	jim.chambers@ports.pppo.gov
Greg Raspanti (2022*) Absent	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	AB	Greg.Raspanti@dep.nj.gov
Robert Aullman (2022*) Absent	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) Absent	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	
114	Terry will send the reporting uncertainty recommendation to PTPEC and the PT Expert Committee.	Terry	5-24-22	
115	Send new Technical Specialist recommendation to QMS.	Terry	6/4/22	

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.

Attachment D.

- a) Any technical expert of an accredited environmental laboratory engaged in radiological analysis shall be a person:
 - i. with 8 college and/or equivalent technical courses in any combination of chemistry and/or physics; and
 - ii. with 1 additional college and/or equivalent technical course of radiochemistry for each technology/method used in the laboratory, with a maximum of 4 courses required.
 - i. For example, the technical manager of a laboratory performing only gas-flow proportional counting (GFPC) would need only 1 course of credit, whereas one at a laboratory performing GFPC, alpha spectrometry, gamma spectrometry, liquid scintillation, alpha scintillation, and ICP-MS would require 4 courses.
 - ii. In the case where a new technology/method is brought online, the total number of Radiochemistry courses is not yet 4, and the technical expert does not have a full year of experience in that specific technology/method before accreditation is sought, accreditation for the new technology/method may be given based upon the demonstrated performance of the new method and PT performance (installation documentation, method validation, DOCs, PT performance, etc), with a maximum of one technology/method per year; and
 - iii. with two (2) or more years of experience in the radiological analysis of environmental samples.
 - i. A master's or doctoral degree in one of the above disciplines may be substituted for one (1) year experience.
 - iv. 1 year experience working in an environmental radioanalytical laboratory may be substituted for 1 course in section a.i or a.ii.
 - i. Multiple years of substitution may be utilized, but each year substituted must be related to the learning of and proficiency in a different analytical method/technique or instrumentation type. This will help ensure an increasing level of knowledge in radiochemistry analyses (preparation and/or instrumentation) during that time period. No more than 6 courses total may be substituted – at least 6 courses must be from actual college and/or equivalent technical training sources.