

Notes from the Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee Session
Forum on Laboratory Accreditation, Jacksonville, Florida
Monday, February 3, 2025 1:30 pm Eastern

Teresa welcomed everyone to this meeting. The presentation she used is being distributed with these notes, and will at some point be available as part of the online conference proceedings. Several committee members were also present, and are invited to add their thoughts to these notes.

Teresa opened the session by telling participants how she came to be the committee chair. She was a valued associate member since the outset of the committee and when the original chair had completed the maximum allowable number of terms, she was strongly motivated to continue with the revision of the standard module, and thus offered to become chair. She spoke about some of her relevant experiences at the EPA R&D lab in Duluth, MN, as well as the original and now-reconstituted WET Field of Proficiency Testing Subcommittees (under the PT Program Executive Committee) and the Aquatic Toxicity Interest Group in SETAC (which she co-chairs with Stephen Clark, the WET Vice Chair).

Teresa first reviewed the early discussions about accreditation of support chemistry measurements and the extended negotiation about what should be required for an analyst's initial demonstration of competency (DOC). These issues took months to resolve, but were settled before the concept of Technical Specialist emerged.

She then went into detail about the key updates to the module and invited comments as the various topics were discussed. Those details are in the accompanying presentation.

- Renumber sections: Former §1.1, 1.2, etc. are now §1, §2, §3, etc.
- Expand definitions in §3.
- Introduce new §4 for Technical Specialist Qualifications.
- Clarify Method Selection and Validation in §5 & §6.
- Revise and reorganize Demonstration of Capability (DOC) (now §7).
- Change "Should" from Method Manuals to "Musts" in Technical Requirements (now §8) with added clarifications.
- Include explanatory "Notes" in select areas.
- Explain differences from Analytical Testing within Module.

§4 Qualifications for a WET Technical Specialist – the extensive training needed is difficult to balance with the likely salary levels. Comments and thoughts about what the qualifications ought to be will be an important issue when the draft module is published for comment, particularly since the Quality Management Systems module (V1M2) is still undergoing changes in this area especially.

§5 Method Selection – the committee should take another look at the use of non-promulgated methods, and whether to keep the statement that reference methods are preferred.

§6 Method Validation – this expanded section explains that accuracy is unknowable for toxicity testing and also provides a checklist for method validation.

§7 DOC – the lab DOC is well covered in the method manuals, but participants discussed what constitutes a "significant change" that would require a repeat of the lab DOC, with no clear consensus, but a leaning to "let the lab and/or the assessor decide". Also, the timeframe of "month" is variable, but should be defined in the lab's quality system. Analyst initial DOC needs to be distinguished from training (which is separately documented), and Teresa specifically asked for comment about non-SRT approaches for DOCs in order to allow senior staff to step into a team assignment when necessary (7.3.2), but none were offered. A brief discussion took place over whether support chemistry measurements require a DOC, and while it was clear that training for those measurements must be documented, there is no current requirement for a DOC. Florida DEP has its SOPs online, including those relevant to support chemistry measurements.

§8 Technical Requirements (Quality Control) – for the Essential QC (8.1), Teresa noted that the Test Acceptability Criteria should be evaluated and the test results plotted before any statistical analyses are performed. For the details of the QC requirements, Teresa displayed the text where updates were made and talked through the changes, and then noted that the sample handling requirements (8.2) are simplified.

One commenter asked that all of the technical modules be cross-referenced for things like “support chemistry methods” to ensure that similar items have uniform requirements across the technical modules.

Teresa thanked everyone for their participation in the session.

Attachment 1 WET Expert Committee Membership

Member	Affiliation	Email	Category	Term Expires	Present ?
Beth Biller	VA DCLS	Beth.biller@dgs.virginia.gov	AB	Jan. 2026 (1)	
Thekkekalathil "Chandra" Chandrasekhar	FL DEP	Thekkekalathil.Chandrasekhar@dep.state.fl.us	Lab	Jan. 2027 (2)	yes
Stephen Clark (Vice Chair)	Pacific EcoRisk	slclark@pacificecorisk.com	Lab	Jan. 2027 (2)	
Darrin Greenstein	Southern CA Coastal Water Research Proj.	Darring@sccwrp.org	Other	Jan. 2026 (1)	
Christina Henderson	Bio-Aquatic Testing, Inc.	chenderson@bio-aquatic.com	Lab	Jan. 2026 (1)	
Teresa Norberg-King (Chair)	Aquatic Ecotox Solutions, USEPA (retired)	Norbe010@d.umn.edu	Other (Affiliate)	Jan. 2027	yes
Katie Payne	Enthalpy Analytical	katie.payne@enthalpy.com	Lab	Jan. 2027 (1)	
Caitie Van Sciver	NJ DEP	Caitie.VanSciver@dep.nj.gov	AB	Jan. 2027 (2)	
Lyndsay Thomas	Coastal Bioanalysts, Inc.	lyndsay@coastalbio.com	Lab	Jan. 2026 (1)	
Gretchen Welfinger	NY ELAP	gretchen.welfinger@health.ny.gov	AB	Jan. 2027 (1)	yes
Elizabeth West	Retired	eawest1111@gmail.com	Other	Jan. 2027 (1)	
Associate Members					
Carlita Barton	LA County Sanitation Dist.	cbarton@lacsds.org	Lab (assoc.)		
Steve Boggs	CA ELAP	steve.boggs@waterboards.ca.gov	AB (assoc.)		
Sarah Brown	Cove Environmental	sarah@covesciences.com	Lab (assoc.)		
Skyler Brown	ERA Lab	Sbrown@eralab.com	Lab (assoc.)		
Ginger Briggs	Bio-Analytical Laboratories	bal@bioanalyticalabs.com	Lab (assoc.)		
Antoine Chamsi	East Bay Muni- cipal Utility Dist.	antoine.chamsi@ebmud.com	Lab (Assoc.)		
MaryAnn Concepcion	SF Water	Mconcepcion@sfgwater.org	Lab (Assoc.)		
Laura Connolly	SF Water	leconnolly@sfgwater.org	Lab (Assoc.)		
Erin Consuegra	ERA Lab	econsuegra@eralab.com	Lab (Assoc.)		

Helen Conrad	North Water Dist. Lab. Svcs.	helen.conrad@nwdls.com	Lab (Assoc.)		
Amy Hackman	PA Dept. Environ. Prot.	ahackman@pa.gov	AB (assoc.)		
Paul Junio	Pace Laboratories	paul.junio@pacelabs.com	Lab (Assoc.)		
Arianna Krueger	Coastal Bioanalysts, Inc.	arianna@coastalbio.com	Lab (Assoc.)		
Cody Medley	Pace Labs	Cody.medley@pacelabs.com	Lab (Assoc.)		
Kathi Mitchell	RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc.	Kathleen.Mitchell@rmbel.info	Lab (Assoc.)		
Marlene Moore	Advanced Systems	mmoore@advancedsys.com	Other (assoc.)		
Rami Naddy	TRE Env. Strat. LLC	naddyrb.tre@gmail.com	Lab (Assoc.)		
John Overbey	Eurofins Arkansas	joverbey@et.eurofinsus.com	Lab (Assoc.)		
Michele Potter	NJ Dept. of Environ Protect.	Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov	AB (assoc.)		
Christina Pottios	Los Angeles Cty. Sanitation Districts	cpottios@lacsds.org	Lab (Assoc.)		
Jessica Redifer	EA Eng., Sci. &Tech.	jredifer@eaest.com	Lab (Assoc.)		
Mary Ann Rempel-Hester	EcoAnalysts, Inc.	mrempel@ecoanalysts.com	Lab (Assoc.)		
Greg Savitske	US EPA OECA	Savitske.gregory@epa.gov	Other (Assoc.)		
Justin Seikel	NEORS	seikelj@neorsd.org	Lab (Assoc.)		
Cavan Smith	NEORS	SmithCavan@neorsd.org	Lab (Assoc.)		
Alex Tite	EnviroScience	atite@enviroscienceinc.com	Lab (Assoc.)		
Elizabeth Turner	Eurofins	elizabeth.turner@et.eurofinsus.com	Lab (Assoc.)		
Lem Walker	USEPA OW/OST	Walker.lemuel@epa.gov	Other (Assoc.)		
Craig Watts	Hydrosphere Research	cwatts@hydrosphere.net	Lab (Assoc.)		
Jennifer Whitaker	Trinity River Authority of TX	whitakerj@trinityra.org	Lab (Assoc.)		
Program Administrator: Lynn Bradley, lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org					

Session Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- The Committee – Members and Activities
- Revising the WET Module V1M7
- Break 3:00 – 3:30 pm
- Revising the WET Module V1M7, continued