

**Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee Meeting
October 18, 2023 1:00 pm Eastern**

1. Welcome and Announcements

Rami welcomed everyone to the teleconference. The agenda (see Attachment 2 below) was approved by unanimous consent. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1, below. After noting that two edits need to be made to the location and dates of the SETAC meeting, the minutes of September 20 were approved unanimously after a motion by Stephen, seconded by Darrin, with John abstaining due to his absence.

One associate member, Lyndsay Thomas, applied to become a voting member of WET. After Rami invited her to introduce herself, Stephen moved and John seconded that Lyndsay be elected, and approval was unanimous. Welcome, Lyndsay!

2. Updates

PTPEC WET FoPT Subcommittee – No change from September. PT data have begun to arrive, but more are expected, so meetings have not resumed. Rami noted that Sigma is dropping its PT business, leaving two providers offering WET PT samples, and that this may improve the utility of WET PT data for the future.

SETAC Meeting Accreditation Session Presentations – The Aquatic Toxicity session will be on Monday morning, November 14, with the Toxicity Interest Group meeting on Tuesday morning, November 15 plus a social that evening. The Sediment interest group as well as the plant interest group will meet on Monday afternoon, November 14. Katie talked with Rami and Lynn about her “demystifying” accreditation presentation on Thursday morning (11:40 am November 17, Katie is also co-chairing that session) that will focus on NELAP and TNI’s training offerings. Katie invited any interested committee members to review and comment on her presentation as time gets closer, just reach out and let her know you’re interested. Katie will also have a poster presentation about her personal experiences with accreditation that same day. Teresa will present a paper on advancing aquatic toxicity test methods on Tuesday in the ATAG session addressing marine toxicity and *in vitro* testing. Improving PT, discharges, and discussion will also be in this session. Teresa asked for members to offer any discussion ideas they might have

3. Internal Audit of the WET Expert Committee

TNI’s Quality Management Plan requires annual internal audits of each committee’s activities, using a checklist compiled from major items in all of the relevant policies and SOPs for the program in which the committee functions. Lynn provided a copy of the WET Checklist and noted that the three items for which the WET committee is non-compliant are not items within the control of the committee. Those three items are summarized below:

- Checklist item #3 requires that each program have a procedure for addressing complaints. WET is part of the Consensus Standards Development Program, which does not have an explicit complaint policy or procedure, but the Standards Development SOP 2-100 has detailed explanations of how to appeal the committee’s decision(s) about comments on Draft Standards. This item is not something that WET can address.
- Checklist item # 48 requires that all committee members (voting and associate) hold TNI membership. (Affiliate members are not required to be members.) WET has as associate members two EPA representatives, the DMR-QA Coordinator and the TNI Board member, who are not TNI members. This is done because those two individuals play an

active role in WET activities within EPA, and we do have permission of the TNI Executive Director to include them for information purposes as associate members.

- Checklist item #60 requires that records from previous versions of the standard module be reviewed and any leftover items considered when a standard is updated. Lynn was unable to locate any records relevant to either the 2009 or the never-used 2012 versions of the WET module, as those were created by working groups of the Quality Systems Expert Committee and apparently the documentation was lost when the involved individuals moved on in their careers. Going forward, all versions of the Draft Standard as well as the Final Standard, plus all response-to-comments spreadsheets, will be maintained in TNI archival storage using Dropbox.

4. Revising the Module

Teresa provided her promised revisions to §7.1. Most discussion concerned the timing of temperature monitoring and the allowable variation around a 24-hour period, and ways in which static, static-renewal, and flow-through tests should be handled when it is impractical and nearly impossible to renew test chambers at precisely 24 hour intervals, despite the fact that method manuals do not allow any variation. Additionally, if renewal depends on arrival of specimens from the source, the timing is beyond a lab's control. After extensive discussion, Rami and Teresa asked that every committee member consider how this section should be phrased so that labs operating on "real world" time can be in compliance with the standard, and also to re-iterate that if program or permit requirements are more strict than the standard that those more stringent requirements must be adhered to. The relevant section will be distributed as a separate document along with these minutes.

5. New Business

The issue of WET test "acceptance limits" was raised by Ginger after a conversation with her assessor several weeks ago. The method SOP format (or template) used in Louisiana requires setting acceptance limits or detection limits, but all participants in this meeting consider that the "detection limit" for aquatic toxicity testing is the lowest concentration being tested. One participant described the requirement as "thinking with a chemistry brain and not a toxicity/bio brain" and others recommended stating "not applicable" in the method SOPs for toxicity testing.

Others noted that this viewpoint (requiring a detection limit) arises with the PT Executive Committee repeatedly, while chemists don't grasp that toxicity, particularly in the testing of mixtures, does not allow for any standardized units of measurement when neither the identity nor the concentration of chemicals being tested for toxicity are even known. Ginger agreed to draft some general language for the introductory section of V1M7.

A question was raised about an assessment checklist. There is a quality systems checklist available on the TNI website at <https://nelac-institute.org/content/NELAP/gscheck2016-access.php>. In order to access and download this checklist, one must certify that they own a copy of the Standard (Volume 1). Please note that Accreditation Bodies are not required to use this checklist but it is created by the expert committees and many ABs do use it.

6. Next Meeting

The next teleconference meeting is being rescheduled due to the timing of the November SETAC meeting. WET Expert Committee will meet next on **Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 1 pm Eastern**. A Microsoft Teams link for screen-sharing or just a telephone option will be provided with the agenda and any needed documents, in advance of the meeting.

Attachment 1

WET Expert Committee Membership

Member	Affiliation	Email	Category	Term Expiration	Present
Beth Biller	VA DCLS	Beth.biller@dgs.virginia.gov	AB	Jan. 2026 (1)	No
Thekkekalathil "Chandra" Chandrasekhar	FL DEP	Thekkekalathil.Chandrasekhar@dep.state.fl.us	Lab	Jan. 2024 (1)	Yes
Stephen Clark	Pacific EcoRisk	slclark@pacificecorisk.com	Lab	Jan. 2024 (1)	Yes
Darrin Greenstein	Southern CA Coastal Water Research Proj.	Darring@sccwrp.org	Other	Jan. 2026 (1)	Yes
Rami Naddy (Chair)	TRE Env. Strat. LLC	naddyrb.tre@gmail.com	Lab	Jan. 2024 (3)	Yes
Teresa Norberg-King	USEPA	Norbe010@d.umn.edu	Other (Affiliate)	Jan. 2024	Yes
John Overbey	Eurofins Arkansas	joverbey@et.eurofinsus.com	Lab	Jan. 2024 (2)	Yes
Katie Payne	Enthalpy Analytical	katie.payne@enthalpy.com	Lab	Jan. 2027 (1)	Yes
Caitie Van Sciver	NJ DEP	Caitie.VanSciver@dep.nj.gov	AB	Jan. 2024 (1)	Yes
Lyndsay Thomas	Coastal Bioanalysts, Inc.	lyndsay@coastalbio.com	Lab	Jan. 2026 (1)	Yes
Gretchen Welfinger	NY ELAP	gretchen.welfinger@health.ny.gov	AB	Jan. 2027 (1)	Yes
Elizabeth West	Retired	eawest1111@gmail.com	Other	Jan. 2027 (1)	No
Associate Members					
Steve Boggs	CA ELAP	steve.boggs@waterboards.ca.gov	AB (assoc.)		No
Sarah Brown	Cove Environmental	sarah@covesciences.com	Lab (assoc.)		No
Ginger Briggs	Bio-Analytical Laboratories	bal@bioanalyticallabs.com	Lab (assoc.)		Yes
Antoine Chamsi	East Bay Municipal Utility Dist.	antoine.chamsi@ebmud.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
MaryAnn Concepcion	SF Water	Mconcepcion@sflower.org	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Helen Conrad	North Water Dist. Lab. Svcs.	helen.conrad@nwdls.com	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Amy Hackman	PA Dept. Environ. Prot.	ahackman@pa.gov	AB (assoc.)		No

Christina Henderson	Bio-Aquatic Testing, Inc.	chenderson@bio-aquatic.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Paul Junio	Pace Laboratories	paul.junio@pacelabs.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
KC Lee	Environmental Enterprises	klee@eeusa.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Cody Medley	Pace National	cody.medley@pacelabs.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Kathi Mitchell	RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc.	Kathleen.Mitchell@rmbel.info	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Marlene Moore	Advanced Systems	mmoore@advancedsys.com	Other (assoc.)		No
Michele Potter	NJ Dept. of Environ Protect.	Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov	AB (assoc.)		No
Christina Pottios	Los Angeles Cty. Sanitation Districts	cpottios@lacsdsd.org	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Jessica Redifer	EA Eng., Sci. &Tech.	jredifer@eaest.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Greg Savitske	US EPA OECA	Savitske.gregory@epa.gov	Other (Assoc.)		No
Alex Tite	EnviroScience	atite@enviroscienceinc.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Lem Walker	USEPA OW/OST	Walker.lemuel@epa.gov	Other (Assoc.)		No
Craig Watts	Hydrosphere Research	cwatts@hydrosphere.net	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Program Administrator: Lynn Bradley, lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org					

Attachment 2 – Agenda

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes (September minutes attached)
- Updates (if any)
 - PTPEC WET FoPT Subcommittee
 - SETAC Meeting
- Committee Internal Audit Results and Proposed Corrective Actions (see attached spreadsheet, FYI)
- Revising the V1M7 Module (see attached draft)
 - Review changes to §7.1 and additional revisions Teresa will provide prior to the meeting
- New Business
 - Acceptance Limits for WET Tests
- Adjourn