

Committee Request for Board Action: none

Regular meeting: 33 attendees via Zoom representing 24 agencies.

Whole Effluent Acute Toxicity Testing and Toxicity Testing Species Screening Requirements

Drew Gantner (McCampbell Analytical) provided a webinar covering the contract laboratory perspective on acute toxicity testing, as well as requirements for chronic toxicity species screening under the upcoming toxicity provisions. Drew covered the following points in his presentation:

- **Training** - for staff training for TNI certification, group training is acceptable. For ongoing demonstration of capability, analysts do not need perform all aspects of testing on the same test. For example, an analyst could perform test initiation, test maintenance, and test termination in different months.
- **Test failure** - When there is a failed acute toxicity testing, check technician error, water quality, test conditions (including lighting), test materials, and the organism culture.
- **Test Acceptability Criteria:** When the reference toxicant response is more than 2 standard deviations from the mean response, don't panic. Drew covered procedures for rejecting or accepting the test.
- **Reference Toxicants** - Sodium chloride, potassium chloride, and metals have pros/cons.
- **Acute Survival Data from Chronic Bioassays** – this is acceptable under specific circumstances described in the presentation.
- **Species Screening** – Once the statewide toxicity provisions are added to reissued NPDES permits, most dischargers will need to conduct a new species screening for chronic toxicity. Drew recommended including the 100% effluent concentration in addition to concentrations bracketing the IWC. Make sure to account for species availability; some species, like kelp and topsmelt, are subject to supply disruptions. Work with your contract laboratory to generate a screening proposal (allow at least 3 weeks for the proposal), then work with the Regional Water Board staff for approval.

File-Sharing for Policies and Procedures

The committee has established a shared folder for policies and procedures to assist with the TNI accreditation process. Request access from [Mary](#).

ELAP Coordination

- In February, the committee prepared a [letter](#) to ELAP requesting additional guidance on proficiency testing and related matters, and received a [response](#) from ELAP. Additional outreach to the State Water Board may be required to request implementation of the most recent Methods Update Rule.
- In some cases, the new Standard Methods 23rd edition is more stringent than TNI standards. Members discussed which QC standards should apply. Once findings from one member's recent on-site ELAP assessment are available, more information will be shared.
- Several members agreed to work on outreach to ELAP regarding additional guidance for specific requirements related to methods, QC requirements, the Methods Update Rule, and related matters.

Other Updates

- The [Sampling and Analysis Plan](#) for Phase 2 of the PFAS Regional Study is complete, and sampling will be completed this spring.
- There is currently no anticipated effective date for the Chlorine [blanket permit amendment](#).
- The Mercury/PCB watershed permit will be reissued in 2022 (October or November). Compilation of PCB congener data will be the first phase.
- Implementation of the Statewide Toxicity Provisions is just a few months away, as the provisions will soon be heading to USEPA for review.

Member discussions

- Several members reported recent and surprisingly positive experiences with third-party assessments. Virtual and in-person assessments are both now common.
- Members reported that performing a gap assessment ahead of audits was extremely valuable.

- Members discussed their experiences with training staff as TNI quality manuals are being developed, including the pros/cons of waiting until the manual is complete or doing trainings as the manual is developed chapter-by-chapter.

TNI Training and Implementation

- The 11th TNI training session with Diane Lawver is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17th, where the discussion topic will be personnel. Recordings of previous sessions are available through the [BACWA website](#) (password required).

Upcoming Events

The virtual ELAP conference is scheduled for May 31st to June 3rd. More information is [here](#).

Next Regular Meeting : June 14, 2022, 10 AM – 12 PM via Zoom

Planned Guest Speakers at Upcoming Meetings:

June 14, 2022 – Alexandria Turner, ELAP

August 9, 2022 – Xin Xu, EBMUD, Ion Chromatography for Volatile Fatty Acids

October 11, 2022 – Diane Lawver, IR Guns