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Update on Standards Development Activity

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TNI is seeing the greatest activity on standards development since the 2009 standard was being developed. Several expert committees are working hard to meet the 2015 deadline for having their Environmental Sector standards ready.

At the time of writing this newsletter article, two Proficiency Testing (PT) Voting Draft Standards (VDS) are in the voting stage (voting deadline is June 26, 2014). Volume 1, Module 1 describes the laboratory requirements, and Volume 2, Module 2 describes the accreditation body requirements. Both of these modules were extensively re-written after being presented and discussed as Working Draft Standards (WDS) and then again as Modified WDS's. The remaining PT standards are following close on the heels of the above two modules. Volume 3 (PT Provider requirements) has been presented by webinar as a WDS, and the committee will soon provide a Modified WDS prepared in response to the few comments it received on the WDS. A WDS for Volume 4 (PT Provider Accreditor requirements) is also complete and scheduled for webinar discussion on July 2, 2014. The Chemistry Expert Committee has devoted more than 3 years developing its standard on the calibration section of the chemistry module (Volume 1, Module 4). Throughout this period, the committee received considerable input from the stakeholder community, resulting in revision of its initial WDS as a Modified WDS, followed by further revision to produce a VDS which passed the voting. All persuasive comments were then addressed to produce an Interim Standard that has been offered for further input. The Microbiology and Radiochemistry Expert Committees were formed late in 2012, and have both made considerable progress in a short time to develop WDS's for their respective modules of Volume 1 that will be presented this summer.

The Stationary Source Audit Sample Expert Committee, being outside the Environmental Sector, does not face the 2015 deadline. Nevertheless, the committee has seen the need to further develop all three volumes of its standard. Its WDS for the providers (Volume 1, Module 1) has already been presented for discussion by webinar, and the other two modules are also under development as WDS's.

All of the above standards development activity is taking place under the latest revision of the TNI Procedures Governing Standards Development (SOP 2-100). These procedures were modified from their original version to require a more deliberative approach to standards development. More steps were added to the process to provide more opportunity for interaction and feedback from stakeholders. Many standards are now presented for discussion by webinar, which has proved much more successful in gaining stakeholder input than face-to-face sessions at the twice yearly TNI public meetings.

Please remember, the job of the Expert Committees is to develop the standards the stakeholders want. Your continued involvement throughout the standards development process is crucial for making this happen.