

Development of an ASTM standard for the measurement of “cellulose”

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Overview

- 01 CKF Conversion – Meeting Industry Need
- 02 E-3417: The Ultimate Collaborative Project
- 03 Unlocking D3 RINs
- 04 Conclusions and Future Perspectives

01

CFK Conversion – Meeting Industry Need

The Need for A Method



Designation: E3181 – 20

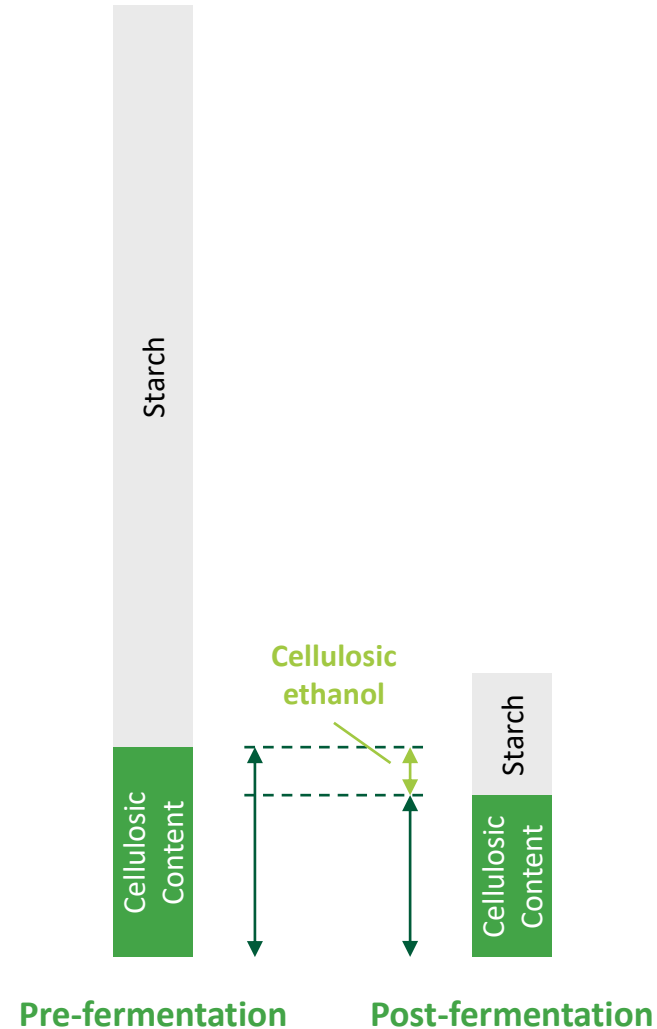
Standard Practice for
Determination of the Converted Fraction of Starch and
Cellulosic Content From a Fuel Ethanol Production Facility

$$Ash_{ratio} = (Ash_{AC} / Ash_{BC}) \quad (X5.3)$$

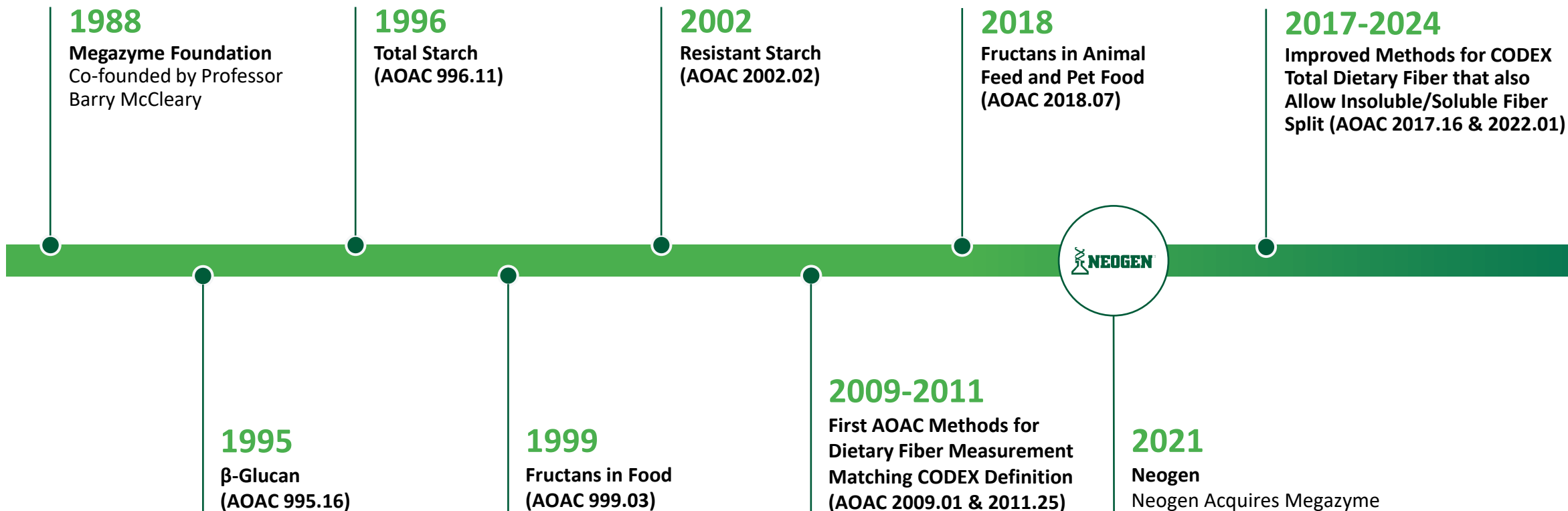
$$CF_c = 1 - ((Cellulosic\ Content_{AC} / Ash_{ratio}) / Cellulosic\ Content_{BC})$$

Note:

EPA has defined “cellulosic content” as the sum of cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin



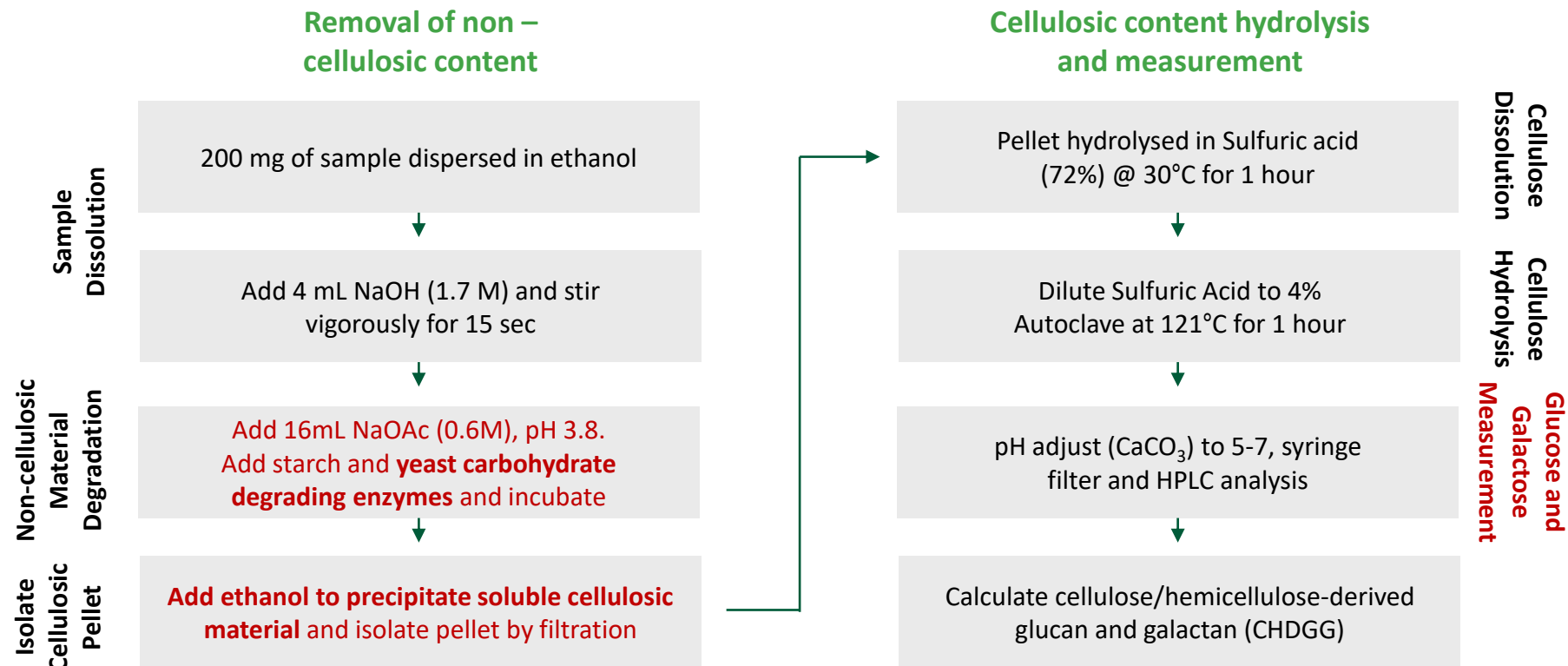
Megazyme and Polysaccharide Assay Expertise



02

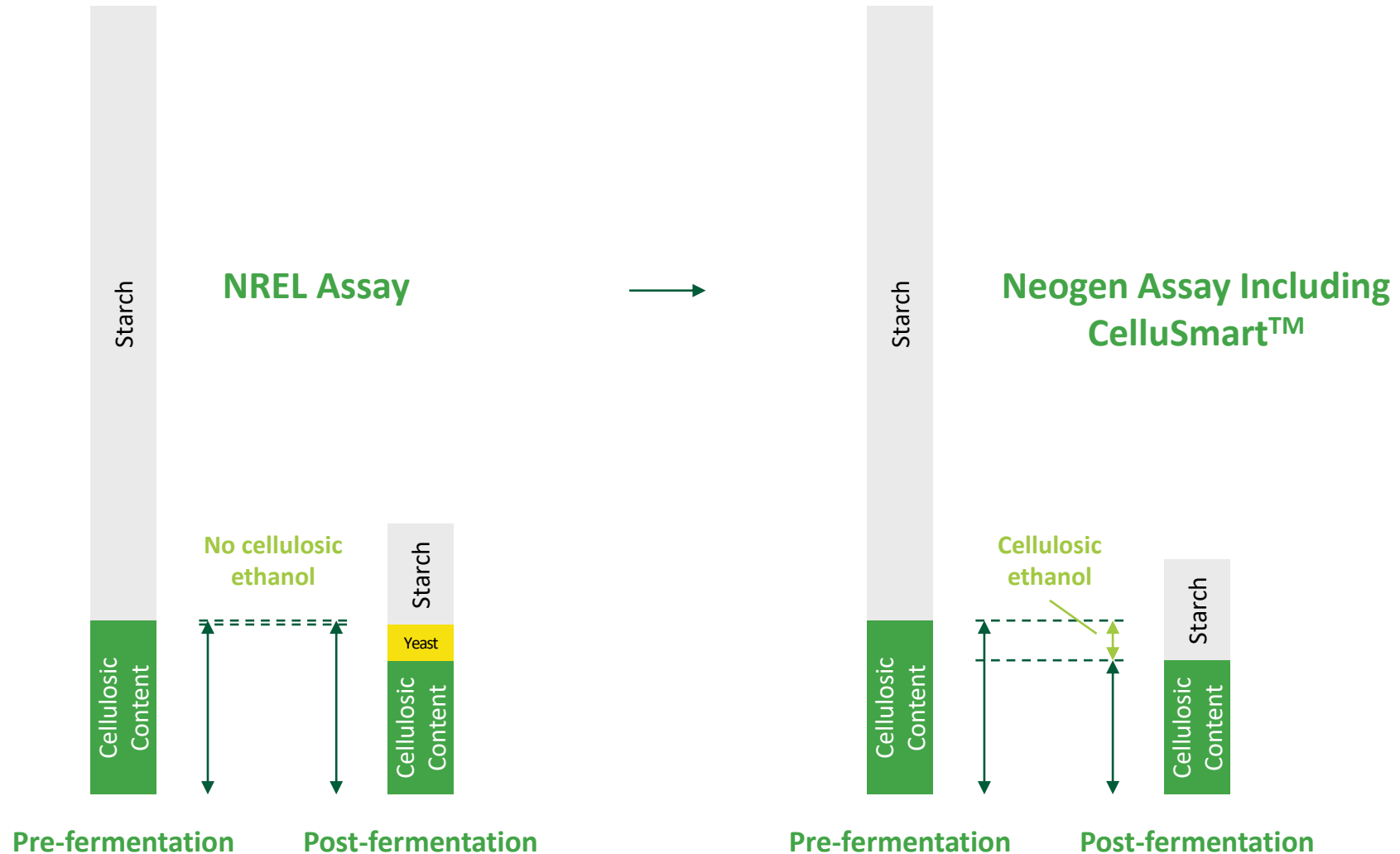
E-3417: The Ultimate Collaborative Project

Neogen (Modified NREL) Assay (2023)



CHDGG = Cellulose/Hemicellulose-Derived Glucan and Galactan

Bias 1 – Effect of Yeast in Pre- and Post-fermentation Samples



Bias 2 – Loss of Cellulosic Content Due to NaOH Treatment

NREL LAP
Determination of Cellulosic Glucan Content in Starch Containing Feedstocks

200 mg + 10 mg sample

Addition: 0.4 mL 190 proof EtOH

Adapted from Megazyme RTS-NaOH 2019

Ice Bath
4 mL, 1.7 M NaOH
15 minutes

16 mL, 600 mM NaOAc

50 °C Water Bath
0.2 mL α-amylase,
0.2 mL glucoamylase
60 minutes

Method Continues



Proposal for Evaluation

200 mg + 10 mg sample

Addition: 0.4 mL 190 proof EtOH

Adapted from AOAC Official Method 996.11

Boiling Water
4 mL, DMSO
6 minutes

0.2 mL, α-amylase
6 minutes

50 °C Water Bath
0.2 mL glucoamylase
60 minutes

Method Continues



Neogen

200 mg + 10 mg sample

Addition: 0.4 mL 190 proof EtOH

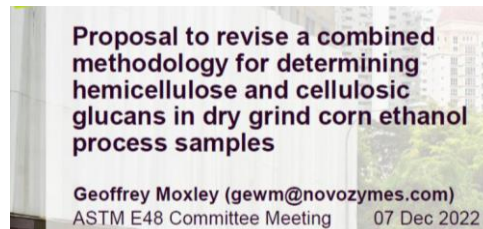
Ice Bath
4 mL, 1.7 M NaOH
15 minutes

16 mL, 600 mM NaOAc

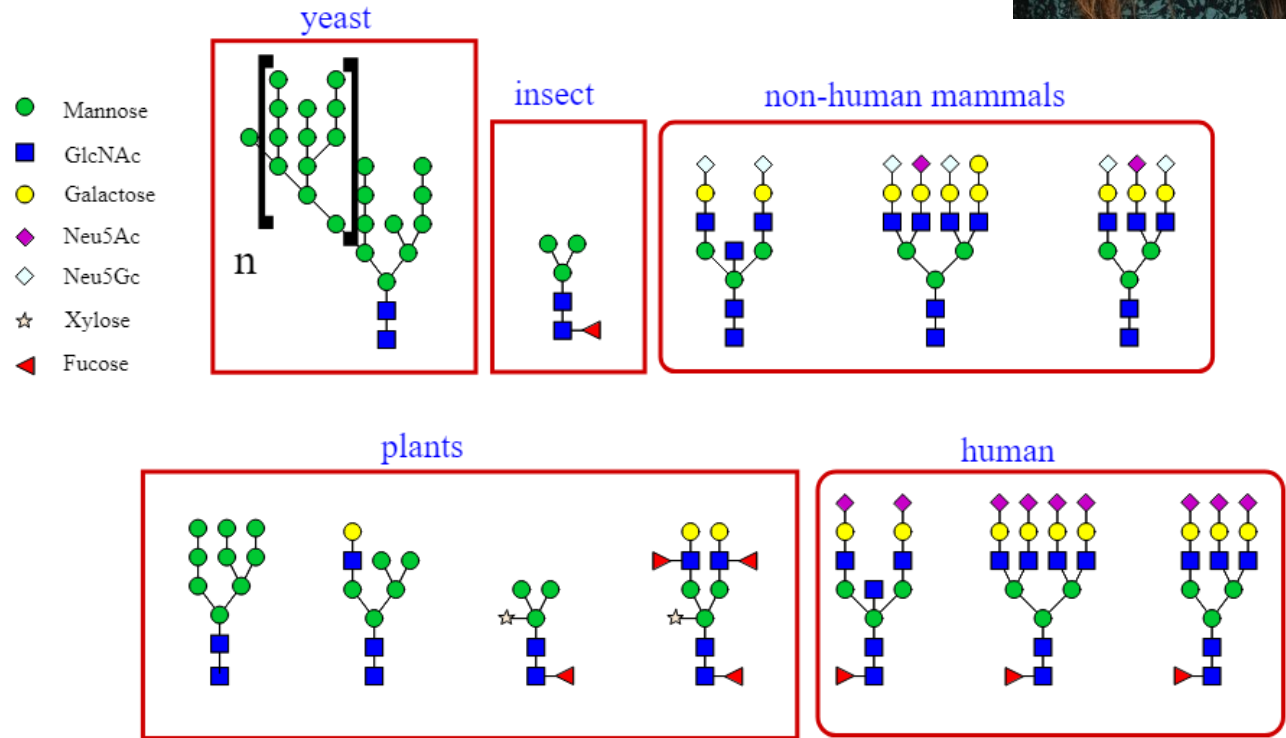
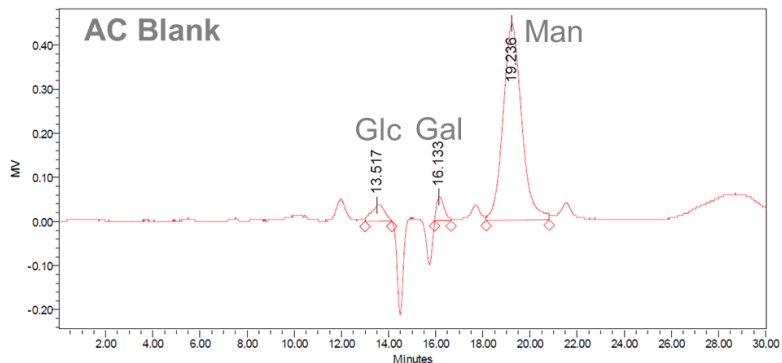
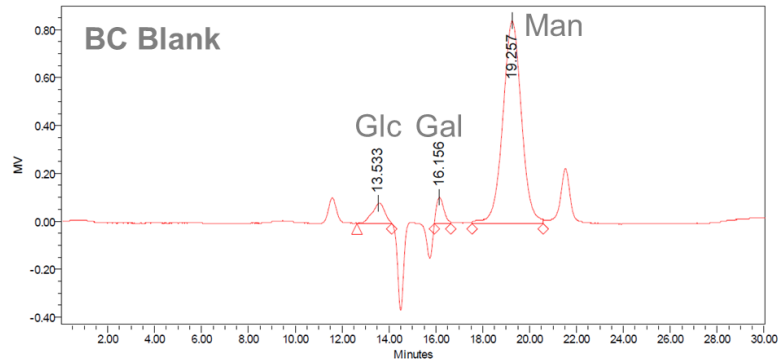
50 °C Water Bath
0.2 mL α-amylase,
0.2 mL glucoamylase
60 minutes

Ethanol Precipitation

Method Continues



Reagent Blank Requirement



Evolution of NREL assay to ASTM 3417

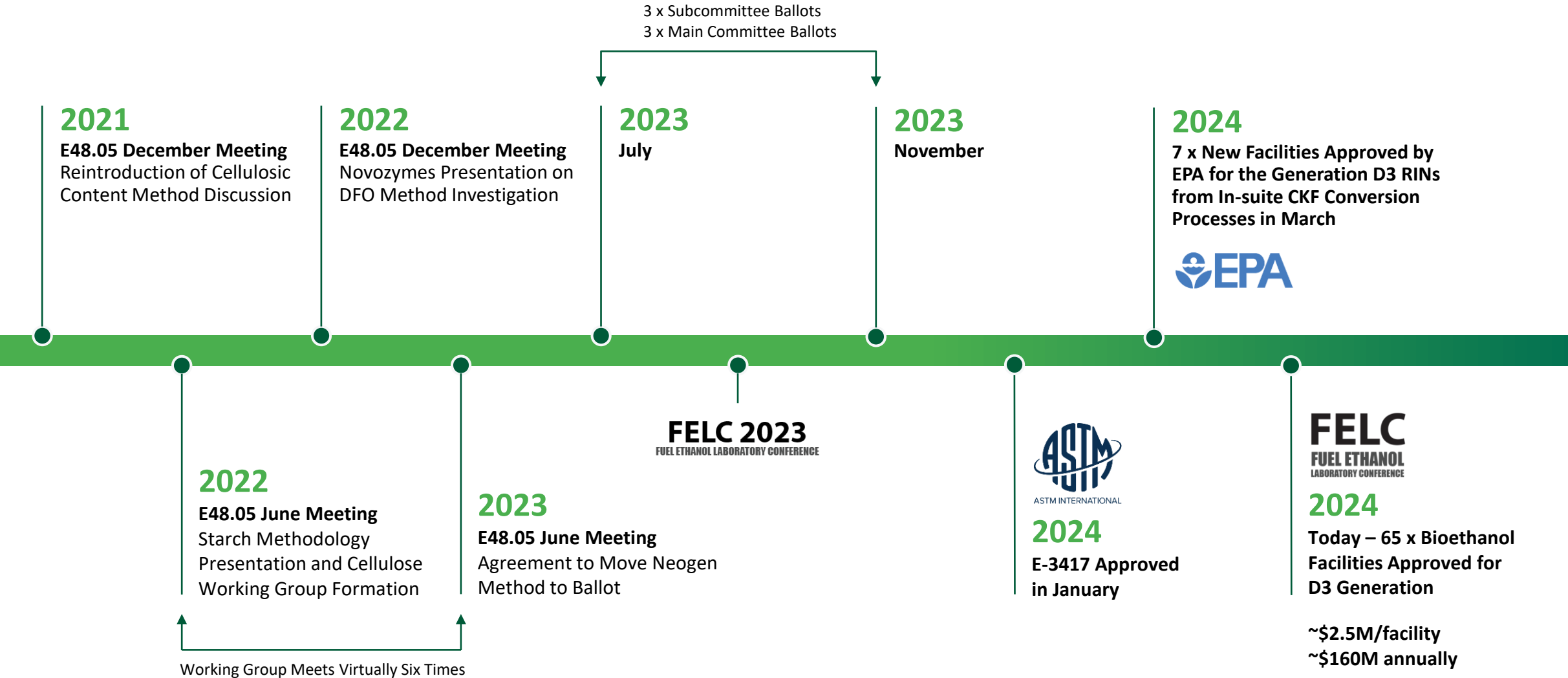
- ✓ Bias 1 – yeast glucan removed through CelluSmart™
- ✓ Bias 2 – solubilized cellulosic precipitation using ethanol
- ✓ Bias 3 – inclusion of galactan, identification of CHDGG as target analyte
(Plus addition of reagent blank)

	NREL Method	ASTM 3417
Sample	% Cellulosic Ethanol	
Conventional	-0.64	-0.13
CKF Process	0.11	0.88

03

Unlocking D3 RINs

The Pathway to EPA Approval



How Does It Work?



Phase 1

Producer objective: Prepare for facility registration by EPA

CelluSmart™; (E-RDYDC)

Tasks:

- Purchase CelluSmart™; (E-RDYDC) under supply agreement and perform in-house analysis or outsource to your analytical partner
- Gather % cellulosic ethanol data from multiple fermentations
- Plant fermentation process development (if required)
- Predict % cellulosic ethanol

<https://www.epa.gov/fuels-registration-reporting-and-compliance-help/how-register-new-renewable-fuel-producer-renewable>

Phase 2

Producer objective: Generate D3 RINs

CelluSmart™; (E-YDC)

Tasks:

- Order CelluSmart™ (E-YDC; \$FOC) under supply agreement and perform in-house analysis or outsource to your analytical partner
- Generate % cellulosic ethanol data from multiple fermentations
- Complete 3rd party engineering audit and submit to EPA for facility registration
- Re-submit data to EPA every 500K gallons for re-certification

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2022-title40-vol19/pdf/CFR-2022-title40-vol19-sec80-1451.pdf> - see page 4

04

Conclusions and Future Perspectives

Summary

A highly collaborative effort among multiple industry stakeholders has led to the creation of a novel method for measuring the relevant portion of cellulosic content as defined by the EPA

Key milestones:

- ASTM approval as standard E3417
- Endorsement by the EPA
- Rapid uptake by 65 bioethanol facilities as of end September 2024

Future developments:

- An update to E3417 is currently being balloted in ASTM to expand market application to corn-sorghum blended feedstocks and improve overall usability



Acknowledgements

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Novonesis

- David Gogerty
- Geoff Moxley

TCD

- John O’Brien
- Manuel Ruether

CCRC

- Paristoo Azadi

ASTM standard collaborators

- Too many to list!



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For more information on the commercial aspects of accessing the analytical technology

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For more information on how to join ASTM and help support the next steps in the story



