

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

OCTOBER 28 2021 3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>George Hull, Chair, NGEC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: <i>George Hull, Jeffrey Gordon, Ray Hessinger, Jennifer Bastian, Jennifer Bastian also as proxy for Troy Hughes, Gurleen Boparai, Ed Engle, Jason Biggs, Mike Jenkins, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Joe Paul, Steve Hewitt, Melissa Shurland, Anand Prabhakaran, Art Peterson, Tammy Krause, Industry Members: Richard Curtis, Rich Stegner, Paul Jamieson, Tom LaMano, Rich Bowie, Kevin Myles, Josh Coran, Jack Martinson, Paul Arnone, Jack Madden, Steve Ojalvo, Darrell Smith, Dave Warner, Jeff Schultz, Kevin Sudano, Ed Golitko, Joe Kenas, Bill Saddler</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Matthew Simmons, Troy Hughes, Mike Kraft, Mike Murray, Rebecca Anger, Charlie King, Larry Salci, Blair Slaughter, Tarek Omar</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.

Chairman George Hull, Amtrak, called the meeting to order and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll of core team members.

After calling the roll, Steve Hewitt confirmed the presence of a quorum.

As always, industry participants are asked to email a notification of their attendance to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

2.

Review Action Items – Steve Hewitt, NGEC Program Manager:

2021 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:

The 2021 version of the NGEC two-page backgrounder/educational document has been released and is available electronically or in hard copy by request. Contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

About 615 electronic copies have been distributed to date.

The Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) has begun its efforts to develop the 2022 version of the NGEC two-pager. Suggested changes/updates by subcommittee members were discussed on the FASC last call held on 10-13-21. They will meet again on 11-10-21 to further discuss proposed changes and possibly finalize their recommendations.

Maintaining Industry Participation List: There are 202 industry participants.

Any updates or changes to this list should be sent to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

This procurement remains in the "cone of silence" period.

Next Update – as appropriate

Establishing a working group for Interior Attenuation Specifications (Cellular issues):

On 7-22-21, George Hull talked about the need to address issues related to cellular capabilities on trains. Previously, it was thought the Electronics on Trains working group would be a home for this effort. George asked if that was the right place or should a separate working group be established to address these issues.

Steve Hewitt mentioned that Tammy Krause had talked to David Brabb, team leader of the Electronics on Trains working group and the thought is that it is a fit and they will add it to their list of activities.

Action: George asked Tammy to provide a list of issues that the Electronics on Trains is addressing and its priorities to better understand the volume of work. Tammy will include this action in her Document Control Update.

On 10-7-21, David Brabb, Team Leader for the Electronics on Trains Technical Working Group provided the following response:

As far as the Interior Attenuation Specifications (Cellular issues), we had discussed this in the group and with Tammy. We think it would be more appropriately handled by folks that design the mechanical/materials specified in the car design signal attenuation due to glass and metals specified in the designs, are the issues. However, we would be open to taking a shot at it if needed.

Based on this response – the Chair will take this up at a later date to determine if this should be assigned to the Electronics on Trains working group or another more appropriate group.

University of Nebraska High-Speed Wireless Study – Hamid Sharif-Kashani:

Hamid reported that work is continuing with the results of propagation modeling on the 160Mega Hertz channel and performance modeling on different channels including propagation and velocity in different rail environments (such as going through tunnels). Two abstracts were produced for presentation.

For any questions or more information, please contact Hamid Sharif-Kashani at hamidSharif@UNL.edu.

Next Update – 12-9-21

3. Approval of the Minutes from 10-14-21– George Hull, Amtrak:

On a motion by Jennifer Bastian, Illinois DOT, and a second by Ed Engle, Iowa DOT, the 10-14-21 minutes were approved as submitted.

4. Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 10-28-21 – Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans:

On 10-28-21, Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Carshell final design has been approved and the first cab structures are in production. Remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final submittal and review stage and the cab car Clearance information has been submitted to Amtrak. IDOT Café Car FDRs are in the closure stage and Galley open items are being addressed.

The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is scheduled to resume in November and the compression test report is in work. The FAI for the cab Side Window is occurring this week in Canada.

94 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT and Caltrans cars are being prepared for Conditional Acceptance and revenue service while open items are being addressed.

5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:

On 10-28-21, Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, reported that Metro-North continues with the initial design review of various components.

6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull:

George Hull provided the following updates on 10-28-21:

On the Acela 21 – The first one should be out of Hormel in the next couple of weeks to go to Wilmington, DE. For testing.

On the ACL 42 Locomotive – progress is continuing with some Cab Signal and PTC issues being resolved – it will soon be advanced to testing.

The first units should be in service by the end of the year.

On the intercity passenger rail trains – they continue to be in the initial design review phase.

7. Update: Working Group on Weight Issues – Jeff Gordon, FRA:

On 10-28-21, Jeff Gordon, FRA, reported that he has not yet rescheduled the call that was canceled last month. He expects to reschedule it next week likely to take place by the second week in November.

**8.
Update: Document Control Management - Tammy Krause:**

On 10-28-21, Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes:

Document control has been focused on completing the list of Proposed DCRs for the DMU from Stadler. All the comments were reviewed over the past several TSC meetings. Steve Hewitt sent out the final list and status of the DCRs last week. I did receive one correction – 'DCR#172: Final Language: Text currently says, "carbon steal". Correct the spelling to "carbon steel".', and I have made the correction. Hopefully, the changes are approved today and will be submitted to the Executive Board prior to their meeting on 11/2/2021. I continue my weekly meetings with the Technical Writer, and she is ready to complete the DMU specification after it is approved by the Executive Board.

Set Timelines/next steps for Tech subcommittee approval of the Trainset rewrite:

Steve Hewitt asked about the Trainset re-write and its status. Tammy responded that the only changes to this specification beyond what had previously been approved were to the format (for consistency with all PRIIA specs) and the addition of a couple of paragraphs.

Steve asked if these changes will be ready to be discussed on the next technical subcommittee call (12-9-21) and Tammy responded that they will.

Update: Electronics on Trains working group activities:

David Brabb provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes which Steve Hewitt read into the record:

We had our call this past Tuesday. The results of the call were that 1. we need 3 talking points and issues clarified by Siemens. And 2. we have one that Tammy is helping with. These are found in the notes document sent out yesterday.

Once these issues are clarified/resolved, 305-919 DTL Hardware Spec. revision will be issued. We will begin the outline for the 920 DTL Software Spec., and begin listing questions for the group, this month.

Our next call is planned for November 30th at 3pm eastern.

Steve Hewitt asked for clarification on the next steps. Tammy Krause responded that the 305-919 hardware specification will come from the working group to the technical subcommittee and that it will follow the Trainset specification re-write consideration.

**9.
Consideration of technical subcommittee approval of the DMU DCRs – George Hull:**

After some discussion regarding DCR #84 - clarification was provided and there is no change to the DCR summary sheet as presented.

A motion to approve the summary of changes to proceed to the Executive Board and its Review Panel was offered by Jennifer Bastian, Illinois DOT, and was seconded by Ed Engle, Iowa DOT.

With no further discussion forthcoming, George Hull asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll of voting members:

George Hull, Amtrak – in favor
Jeff Gordon, FRA – in favor
Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans – in favor
Curtis McDowell for NCDOT – in favor
Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – in favor
Ed Engle, Iowa DOT – in favor
Jennifer Bastian, IDOT – in favor
Jennifer Bastian as proxy for MODOT – in favor
Jason Biggs, WSDOT – in favor
Mike Jenkins, Oregon DOT – in favor

With a quorum having been established and all votes having been cast in the affirmative, Chairman Hull determined that consensus has been achieved and the changes, as approved, will be sent on to the NGEN Executive Board Chairman Ray Hessinger.

George Hull thanked the members of the subcommittee for their hard work in adjudicating the DMU DCRs and noted that he was pleased to get this accomplished and moving forward to the Executive Board.

10. Upcoming Technical subcommittee call schedule – Steve Hewitt:

Steve Hewitt reminded members that due to the fact that both of the scheduled November calls land on holidays (Veterans Day and Thanksgiving) there will be no technical subcommittee calls in November. The next call will take place on 12-9-21.

11. Other – All:

No other business was brought forward.

12. Adjourn:

With no other business forthcoming on today's call, George Hull adjourned the meeting at 3:38pm.

Next Tech subcommittee Call: 12-9-21– 3:00pm Eastern

Decisions and Action Items

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Update:

The Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) has begun its efforts to develop the 2022 version of the NGEC two-pager. They will meet again on 11-10-21 to further discuss proposed changes as possibly finalize their recommendations.

Maintaining Industry Participation List: There are 202 industry participants.

There have been several updates/changes to the list that have been provided to Steve Hewitt and those changes were made. Any further updates or changes should be sent to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 10-28-21:

On 10-28-21, Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Carshell final design has been approved and the first cab structures are in production. Remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final submittal and review stage and the cab car Clearance information has been submitted to Amtrak. IDOT Café Car FDRs are in the closure stage and Galley open items are being addressed.

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On 10-28-21, the subcommittee approved the DMU DCRs for submittal to executive Board Chairman Ray Hessinger and the DMU Review Panel.

On the Trainset re-write – it is ready to go – it has been reformatted to be consistent with other PRIIA specifications and there are two additional paragraphs. These changes should be presented to the technical subcommittee on the 12-9-21 call.

Update: Electronics on Trains working group activities:

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Working Group on Weight Issues as of 10-28-21:

The last scheduled call was canceled as the strawman that was to be developed was not yet complete. Jeff Gordon reported that he has not yet scheduled the next call but expects to schedule on by the second week in November.

If interested in participating on this working group, contact Jeff Gordon at Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov or Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

Next Update – 12-9-21

Establishing a working group for Interior Attenuation Specifications (Cellular issues):

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Next Update: 12-9-21

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement –10-28-21

Metro-North continues to hold their initial design review meetings.

Next Update: 12-9-21

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

As of 10-28-21, this procurement remains in the "cone of silence" period.

Next Update: As appropriate

Amtrak Equipment Procurement as of 10-28-21

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Next Update: 12-9-21

Establish process and timeline for Tech SC review of Access Board NPRM Accessibility Guidelines and compare with current NGEC Specifications

On 8-20-20, Melissa Shurland, FRA, reported that the comment period ended on 7-14-20 (after having been extended to that date) and the Access Board is now processing those comments received. Melissa stated, "we are in a holding pattern to see what the comments were and what the Access Board's disposition of them will be." Melissa will keep the NGEC technical subcommittee informed as the process is completed.

In January 2021 Melissa Shurland informed Steve Hewitt that there still was no update from the Access Board on this activity – it remains in a holding pattern.

Next Update: As appropriate

NGEC 2022 Annual Meeting:

The 2022 NGEC Annual Meeting will take place in person on 2-25-22 at the Hyatt Regency, Capitol Hill, Washington DC. An agenda and other meeting information and materials will be forthcoming as the date draws near.

Technical subcommittee schedule:

Due to the fact that the subcommittee calls for November fall on holidays (Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day) there will be no calls this month. The next call will take place on 12-9-21.

Next call: 12-9-21

ATTACHMENTS



Our Vision: The NGEC will provide national leadership in standardization, acquisition, and management of passenger rail equipment.

PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting

Web Ex video/audio information:

By Computer: <https://stephenhewitthewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>

by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 126-073-1531

10-28-21

The agenda for the meeting is below:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 10-14-21 | George Hull |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement | Gurleen Boparai |
| 5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 7. Update: Working Group on Weight Issues | Jeff Gordon |
| 8. Document Control Management | Tammy Krause |
| - Overview Final DMU DCR Change Summary | |
| - Set timelines/next steps for Technical subcommittee approval of the Trainset Rewrite | |
| - Update: Electronics on Trains working group activities | |
| 9. Consideration of Technical subcommittee approval of the DMU DCRs | George Hull |
| 10. Upcoming Technical subcommittee call schedule | Steve Hewitt |
| 11. Other | All |
| 12. Review this meeting: | Steve Hewitt |
| 13. Adjourn | George Hull |

Next call – 12-9-21