

# SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 27,  
2014

3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Mario Bergeron, Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Core Team Members:</b> Mario Bergeron, Dale Engelhardt, Kevin Kesler, Allan Paul, Allan Paul also as proxy for Stan Hunter, Jack Madden, Missy Wilbers, Missy Wilbers also as proxy for Phil Meraz, Darrell Smith, Michael Burshtin, Curtis McDowell, Melissa Shurland, Michael Coltman, Steve Hewitt, Nico Lindenau, Sara Sarkhili, Vincent Brotski, Tammy Krause, Rich Stegner (for IDOT) <b>Industry Participants:</b> Randy Thomure, Chuck Wochele, James Michel, Josh Coran, Jonathan Michel, Paul Aichholzer, Walt Stringer, Gene Germaine,
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<i>Marci Petterson, Art Peterson, Charles Poltenson, Jeff Gordon, Stan Hunter, Phil Meraz, Kerri Woehler, Dave Warner, Andrew Wood, Jeff Schultz, Greg Gagarin, Devin Rouse, Anand Prabhakaran, Charles Bielitz, Brian Marquis, Patricia Llana, Camren Cordell, Larry Salci, Shayne Gill,</i>

## DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.

Chairman Mario Bergeron, Amtrak, called today's meeting to order and expressed his thanks to Dale Engelhardt and Dave Warner for "supporting the activities of the subcommittee while I was serving as chair of the NGENC for a little while." He went on to say, "with Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT, becoming chair at the Annual Meeting on Friday, I am pleased to be on this call and back participating more directly."

Chairman Bergeron then asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

After calling the roll, Steve 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](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com)**

2.

**Review of the Meeting Agenda – Mario Bergeron:**

Mario Bergeron provided a brief overview of today's meeting agenda.

3.

**Review of Action Items – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt reviewed the open action items, providing a brief update on those items that were not to be specifically covered on the agenda:

**Maintaining Industry Participation List: Status:** Steve reported that this remains an ongoing action item. There are currently **228** registered industry participants.

**Requesting Backgrounder educational document:** Although the Backgrounder remains available in limited supply it is anticipated that we will be updating it soon to reflect the new Executive Board and leadership changes.

**Updating ECP Standards:** This is an ongoing item which the Technical subcommittee is tracking – it is anticipated that status updates will take place on every other call rather than on each call.

Paul Jamieson provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes:

*"The technical sub working group continues to develop the base performance document. The current issues being addressed include the transition between emulation (BP operation) and ECP operation. For commuter applications that currently utilize snow brake feature is being documented. This sub working group meets weekly to develop the draft language for full committee review.*

*The safety analysis contract has been executed and the first meeting has been held with the contractor. The initial*

*drafts of the Preliminary Hazard Analysis and Safety Risk Model have been submitted and are under review.*

*The test program has been defined. Amtrak and the manufacturers are preparing cost estimates to support this test program. These cost estimates will be used to develop a FRA grant request.*

**Metro North Dual Mode Specification:** Jack Madden, NYSDOT, will continue to keep the subcommittee updated on the status of the Metro North Dual Mode specification as it is developed. (This is an internal New York State process, not an official NGEC effort.) Metro North is continuing its review of the RFI responses.

**Status:** Jack Madden provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes:

*"The Metro North Dual Mode Team met by conference call earlier today. The Team expects to have the draft of the MNR Dual Mode Spec (based upon the PRIIA Diesel-electric Spec) by end of March or early April."*

**4. Approval of the Minutes of the February 13, 2014 Technical subcommittee conference calls – Mario Bergeron:**

On a motion by Allan Paul, NCDOT, and a second by Kevin Kesler, FRA, the Minutes from the February 13, 2014 Technical subcommittee call were approved without objection.

**5. Summary Review: NGEC Annual Meeting - Steve Hewitt:**

Chairman Bergeron commented briefly on the Annual Meeting which took place on Friday, February 21, 2014 in Washington, DC. He noted that "the meeting was very informative and productive...and it gave appropriate recognition to Mr. Bronte – well deserved." He noted that the meeting also served as a "transition from me as chair to Eric Curtit" being elected to serve.

Steve Hewitt provided an overview of the NGEC Annual Meeting with a focus on the key decisions and action items.

Overall, the meeting was very successful and productive. The participation was excellent with about 70 in attendance – including industry members, states, Amtrak, FRA, FTA, APTA and, of course, AASHTO. Members of the full Committee heard updates from all of the NGEC subcommittees, task forces, and working groups and the made some key decisions moving forward. All of the presentations are (or will be) posted to the NGEC website at [www.305ngec.org](http://www.305ngec.org) and Steve also distributed them to the entire email list earlier this week.

Some of the key decisions and action items resulting from the meeting included:

The Committee elected a new Executive Board to a two year term beginning at the close of the Annual Meeting and running through the close of the 2016 Annual Meeting. The election was of states representatives to the Executive Board. Amtrak and FRA seats on the Board are permanent. Amtrak has two seats - Mario Bergeron, as Amtrak CMO, and Gerald Sokol, as Amtrak CFO; and the FRA has one seat – Paul Nissenbaum representing Joe Szabo.

The states elected to serve on the Board for the next two years are:

Michigan DOT – Tim Hoeffner  
Missouri DOT – Eric Curtit  
New York DOT – Ray Hessinger  
California DOT – Stan Hunter  
Illinois DOT – John Oimoen  
North Carolina DOT – Paul Worley  
Wisconsin DOT – Le Anna Wall  
Iowa DOT – Tammy Nicholson  
Oklahoma DOT – Craig Moody  
Washington State DOT – Ron Pate  
Oregon DOT – Michael Jenkins  
Maine DOT – NNEPRA representative - Brian Beeler II

This new Board then elected its officers, and they are:

Eric Curtit – Chair

Mario Bergeron – Vice Chair  
Gerald Sokol – Treasurer  
Ray Hessinger – Secretary

In other key business, the Executive Board accepted the Section 6/Fleet Deployment project Task 1 report as recommended by the Structure and Finance Task Force (SFTF).

The Board then assigned Tasks 2 and 3 to the mid-west states to develop the Section 6 and Fleet deployment plans as grant recipients. This is a change in what was originally proposed. The intent was to have Tasks 2 and 3 done by consultants through the SFTF. The thought now is this effort is better served by the recipient states themselves. The NGECC will remain involved in more of an oversight role with the mid-west states providing updates on a regular basis to the Executive Board – this will be a standing agenda item on Board calls.

The Board also agreed to shift the other functions of the SFTF to the Finance subcommittee. The key item will be the effort to explore financing options for the NGECC and for passenger rail equipment procurement.

There was a report on the activities of the 305-209 (514) working group and it was agreed that this effort is progressing, but has a lot more work to do. It will continue to move forward and will remain as an ongoing standing agenda item on Executive Board calls.

It was also reported during the Annual Meeting that the amended SOW and Budget for a grant agreement extension through June 30, 2015 was in the signature phase. Yesterday (February 26, 2014) I received confirmation that the agreement had been signed. I then distributed that message along with the signed agreement and SOW and Budget to all members of the NGECC.

This was great news and a compliment to all involved as it clearly sends a message that our work is seen as important and necessary. It is also a credit to the NGECC leadership for efficient management of a very small amount of money – relatively speaking - \$4 million in total.

The incoming chair – Eric Curtit – provided an overview of what his plans are for continuing the work of the NGECC.

In part, here is what Eric had to say:

“The NGECC is about results. It is mostly voluntary and includes representatives from Amtrak, FRA, states, the rail equipment industry – it is a huge collaborative voluntary effort! We have developed great specs – five so far – and they are top notch. None of this would have been possible without the help of everyone in this room.”

Eric continued by noting the specification revision/document management process and how efficient it is. He also emphasized that, because of the specifications that have been developed and the standardization efforts “costs have been lowered for ICPR – the bi-level car procurement resulted in a 36% savings from what the anticipated costs were. Our results overall have been great so far.”

“Moving forward we have the resources to go for another 1½ to 2 years as far as funding goes. I will do all I can to manage those resources well and efficiently. We will continue to work on specification review and to help the states with the Section 6 requirements.”

“We will also look at what is the NGECC to become in the future – it all folds in with the 209 effort.”

“We will consolidate the SFTF functions – probably to be housed in the Finance subcommittee.” In general, Eric sees the Committee moving forward, running efficiently, and accomplishing a tremendous amount.

In closing his remarks, Eric emphasized “this is the most rewarding thing I’ve done in my career”, and I think that is a sentiment expressed by many of us involved with the NGECC these past four years.

Mr. Bergeron thanked Steve for the summary and asked for questions or comments.

Jack Madden, NYSDOT thanked Steve for sending out the presentations and noted that he had had a chance to go through them.

Kevin Kesler, FRA, commented “to anyone who could not be there, the message, basically was that a lot has been accomplished, and there is still a lot to do. Revisions for the bi-level spec will be coming in, and everyone on this call should be ready for that activity to address change recommendations as they come in.” Kevin summarized “the bottom line is the Committee is strong, healthy and moving ahead, and I hope you will all continue to be engaged and as on board as you were in the beginning.”

**6.**

**Accessibility Working Group/related issues update - Melissa Shurland:**

a. RVAAC update:

Melissa Shurland reported that there had been an RVAAC call today. The topic was signage in cars. There will be a follow up call on this topic on 3-13-14 at 1:00pm Eastern. Melissa apologized for the call in information that seemed to have been incorrect, and will be sure to get it squared away for the next call.. She noted that Amtrak is going to provide information on signs in its cars. She emphasized that the signage discussions are a great opportunity for members of the NGEC to participate.

The next topic for a conference call is vertical access for multi-level and bi-level equipment. Melissa will provide the call in information for that call as soon as she has it.

b. Status Update: NDA re: single level restroom drawings:

Melissa reported that the NDA agreement had been signed between Amtrak and Oregon State University and the group is waiting now for the transfer of the drawings from Amtrak.

Discussion:

Dale Engelhardt, Amtrak, asked if he the vertical access issue is a duplicative effort. Melissa noted that it was not. It had long been discussed in the AWG – “exhaustively” and it was agreed that they could not recommend features. The AWG does not intend to discuss this topic again. It is to be discussed within the RVAAC with recommendations forthcoming from that group. Melissa emphasized that this makes it even more important to have NGEC members actively participate in the calls for that purpose.

On the issue of the single level restroom drawings, Mario Bergeron commented on the the fact that the NDA had been executed between Amtrak and OSU, and wondered if Dale could “assist in getting the drawings to Melissa.” Dale asked which drawings did they need, and Melissa said she would provide Dale with that information. Chairman Bergeron asked Melissa to cc him on that transmittal.

Kevin Kesler, FRA, commented on the fact that the “RVAAC is plunging into many things we’ve talked about, but not yet resolved. It is most important that the NGEC gets involved and active in this effort. We need to keep engaged.”

**7.**

**Document Control update – Steve Hewitt for Dave Warner:**

Dave Warner was unavailable for today’s call, but provided the following report for inclusion in the minutes:

*“Single Level Revision A specification has been completed, signed, and posted to our NGEC web site. Camren Cordell is now working on updating the Trainset Revision A specification that was approved last December by the Executive Board.”*

**8.**

**Status Update: DTL Specification Development - Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause reported that the DTL technical team met last week and continues to “slog through” the draft document. Assignments have been made to provide sketches and drawings. Tammy noted that Draft version 8 will be issued to the technical team tomorrow morning.

Dale Engelhardt raised the issue of the two efforts being made – the one led by Tammy and the one through the ECP effort. He wanted to be sure that there is coordination between the two efforts “to be sure there is compatibility in what we are doing...we want to get to one cable...to be all on the same page without conflict. We should make sure ECP is in the room.”

Tammy responded that she and Paul Jamieson talk regularly and that Paul is on the DTL calls.

Paul stated that they have looked at com and MU cables and will look deeper into it in ECP. He noted “we may need to reallocate certain signals over time.”

Dale noted that he “just wanted clarification that we are working together and making things compatible.”

Paul agreed and will "see that we coordinate efforts."

Chairman Bergeron pressed the issue of timelines and asked Tammy if there was a new schedule and timeline?

Tammy stated that they have been working on the document and there was so much input "we rearranged the entire document...eventually we will release it. It's very detailed, and more drawings are needed before we can release it."

Dale asked that Tammy work with Stan Hunter on the timing as there is a sense of urgency with his efforts on the bi-level cars.

Mario asked that Tammy provide an updated schedule and timeline on the next subcommittee call in two weeks.

#### **9.**

##### **Update: NGEC procurements:**

**a. Diesel-electric locomotive – Rich Stegner:**

In the absence of Art Peterson, Rich Stegner reported that "IDOT legal is working with the equipment builder and we anticipate a signed contract within the next week or so."

**b. Bi-level Cars – Paul Jamieson:**

In the absence of Stan Hunter, Paul Jamieson reported that they are in the process of Final Design Review now, and that is why Stan is not on the call, nor is Art Peterson.

#### **10.**

##### **Adjourn:**

With no other business to come before the subcommittee today, Mario Bergeron adjourned this conference call meeting of the Technical subcommittee at approximately 3:35pm Eastern.

**Next conference call – March 13, 2014 – 3:00pm Eastern**

### **Decisions and Action Items**

RVAAC conference calls are being held weekly. Information on the RVAAC effort can be found on the Access Board website. Melissa will send further information to Steve Hewitt to send out to all NGEC Technical subcommittee members. Technical expertise is needed and participation is encouraged. On March 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a signage follow-up call. The next call will discuss vertical access. Melissa will provide call in information for both calls. NGEC members are encouraged to participate.

Updating ECP Standards: remains as a standing action item and as activities occur; Paul Jamieson will provide status updates to the subcommittee. (Ongoing)

Maintaining Industry Participation List: This remains an ongoing action item. There are currently **228** registered industry participants. (ongoing)

Jack Madden, NYSDOT, will continue to keep the subcommittee updated on the status of the Metro North Dual Mode specification as it is developed. (This is an internal New York State process, not an official NGEC effort.) "*The Metro North Dual Mode Team met by conference call earlier today 2-27-14). The Team expects to have the draft of the MNR Dual Mode Spec (based upon the PRIIA Diesel-electric Spec) by end of March or early April.*"

Requesting Backgrounder educational document: The "Backgrounder" will be updated to reflect the new Board members and leadership of the Committee. Once updated Steve Hewitt will notify all members of the availability.

The Amtrak and Oregon State University Non-Disclosure Agreement has been signed. Melissa will provide Dale Engelhardt with the information on what drawings are needed and will cc Mario Bergeron on the transmittal. Dale will see to it that the drawings are sent to Melissa.

The DTL working group is meeting every three weeks – Although DTL updates will be provided on every other call of the Technical subcommittee, beginning with the February 27<sup>th</sup> conference call, Tammy has been tasked with providing an updated schedule and timeline on the next subcommittee call – 3-13-14.


ATTACHMENTS



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

**PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting**

**February 27, 2014**

The agenda for the meeting is below:

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Roll Call                            | Steve Hewitt   |
| 2. Review meeting agenda                | Mario Bergeron |
| 3. Review Action Items                  | Steve Hewitt   |
| 4. Approve Minutes of February 13, 2014 | Mario Bergeron |
| 5. Summary Review: NGEC Annual Meeting  | Steve Hewitt   |

- 6. Accessibility Working Group/related issues update  
c. RVAAC update  
d. Status Update: NDA re: single level restroom drawings  
Melissa Shurland
- 7. Document Control update  
Steve Hewitt
- 8. Status Update: DTL Specification Development  
Tammy Krause
- 9. Update: Procurements  
a. Diesel-electric locomotive  
b. Bi-level Cars  
Rich Stegner  
Paul Jamieson
- 10. Review this meeting:  
Steve Hewitt
  - a) Decisions
  - b) New Action Items

***Technical Sub Committee Conference Call Meeting:  
Thursday February 27, 2014 3:00 Eastern 1-866-209-1307 / passcode 6486648#***

***Please call in a few minutes early so all is in attendance for Roll Call.  
Thank you***

***Next Call – 3-13-14 at 3:00pm Eastern***