

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

JUNE 20, 2013

3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Dale Engelhardt, Vice Chair NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: Dave Warner, Dale Engelhardt, Michael Burshtin, Andrew Wood, Kevin Kesler, Melissa Shurland, Sara Sarkhili, Jeff Gordon, Anand Prabhakaran, Charles Poltenson, Jack Madden, Stan Hunter, Allan Paul, Curtis McDowell, Jeff Schultz, Ron Adams (Ron also served as proxy for Phil Meraz on this call), Camren Cordell, Steve Hewitt Industry Participants: Randy Thomure, Paul Jamieson, Steve Morrison, Josh Coran, James Michel
ABSENTEES	<i>Mario Bergeron, Darrell Smith, Tammy Krause, Greg Gagarin, Vincent Brotski, Devin Rouse, Charles Bielitz, Michael Coltman, Brian Marquis, Art Peterson, Kevin Lawson, Phil Meraz, Missy Wilbers, Larry Salci, Shayne Gill</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.

In the absence of subcommittee chair Mario Bergeron, Vice Chair Dale Engelhardt, Amtrak, called today's meeting to order and asked Steve Hewitt to take the roll.

Steve called the roll and 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 of the Agenda – Dale Engelhardt:

Dale Engelhardt provided a brief overview of today's meeting agenda and asked Steve Hewitt to review action items.

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 **218** registered industry participants.

Requesting Backgrounder educational document: Backgrounders have been extremely well received. Backgrounders remain available and all are encouraged to use them – educate your own leadership as well as legislators. Subcommittee members should contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com if they would like to receive hard copies of the NGENC Backgrounder document. Please provide a mailing address and the number of copies being requested. **Status:** AASHTO has ordered a sixth printing (500 more copies) of the Backgrounders. Keep those orders coming...

Natural Gas Conference Report: As soon as the report from the Natural Gas Needs conference is released, Melissa Shurland will provide it to Steve Hewitt for distribution to the subcommittee members. **Status:** Melissa Shurland reported that the first draft is currently under review by the attendees of the conference. Once it has been finalized, the report will be distributed publicly. Melissa expects this to occur in around two or three weeks.

Updating ECP Standards: Status: Paul Jamieson reminded participants that the next call will be tomorrow (June 21, 2013) at 11:00am EDT during which the group will review the entire effort to date. Anyone who would like to participate in this effort should contact Paul Jamieson or Jeff Gordon.

Working/Review Group – Developing Commuter Equivalent of NGENC Bi-Level Specification:

Working/Review Group – Developing Commuter Equivalent of NGENC Bi-Level Specification: This effort (not an official

NGEC effort) continues with Kevin Kesler, FRA, in the lead. kevin.kesler@dot.gov . **Status:** Kevin Kesler reported that the group met again, via conference call, on June 11, 2013. They are developing a report to be sent to the Executive Board of the NGEC and to the APTA commuter rail CEO's. Once this has occurred, there will be two options for the group – continuing as an ad hoc group or ending the group's activities with the distribution of its report.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the June 6, 2013 Technical subcommittee call – Dale Engelhardt:

On a motion offered by Allan Paul, NCDOT, and a second by Kevin Kesler, FRA, the Minutes of the June 6, 2013, conference call meeting of the Technical subcommittee, were approved without exception.

5. Report from the Accessibility Working Group (AWG) – Melissa Shurland:

Melissa Shurland reported that she, Mario Bergeron, and Kevin Kesler participated in the Accessibility Policy Group (APG) kickoff webinar meeting held on June 10, 2013. Members of the APG present included; Bill Bronte, Caltrans (who also had Ron Pate's proxy Washington State DOT), Gary Talbot, Amtrak, and Calvin Gibson, FRA.

Melissa, Mario and Kevin provided an overview of the document, to the APG members, (prepared by the AWG and Technical subcommittee) which provides guidance on potential ADAAG Applicability to Passenger Rail.

Kevin Kesler and Melissa Shurland were tasked with the action items of developing milestones and to compile a list of items from the guidance document identifying the items in categories: feasible; not feasible, or potentially feasible.

The intent is to send the list to the APG and the AWG with a due date of August 15, 2013 for submittal to the Executive Board. The APG recognized that they would not be able to determine technical feasibility, so they are asking for technical subcommittee involvement through the AWG in regards to feasibility.

The intent, as described by Melissa, was to identify areas of feasibility to assist the Access Board as it begins its update in September. Melissa also noted the possibility of future updates to the specifications.

Dave Warner, Amtrak, asked Melissa for clarification because the intent of the ADAAG effort has never been to turn items identified in the guidance document into changes to the specification.

After a brief discussion of the intent, Dave noted that previous minutes expressed clearly what the intent was, and that we should defer to what the minutes have stated.

Steve Hewitt commented that he echoed Dave Warner's view on the intent, and clarified further that prior minutes noted that the intent was to have the APG review the guidance document, and make recommendations to the Executive Board for submittal to the Access Board as it begins its update in September, 2013.

Kevin Kesler concurred, stating "this is our (NGEC) chance to influence the Access Board and help them do the right thing."

6. Update: Document Control – Dave Warner/Steve Hewitt:

Dave Warner, Amtrak, submitted the following report for inclusion in today's minutes:

"The Summary Sheet for Trainset Specification Revision A has been sent to the entire subcommittee. Our goal is to vote on accepting it on our July 18 phone call. This revision brings the Trainset Specification up to the same level of basic corrections and updates at Bi-Level Rev. C.

Approximately 1/3 of the DMU Specification initial release chapters have been completed. The major part of the effort—aside from finding the time among the many demands of the Bi-Level PRIIA procurement offices in California—is getting all of the metric conversions done properly.

If the summertime document management plans work out, there should be smooth transitions in technical writing tasks from the DMU Initial Release to Single Level Rev. A to Trainset Rev. A to Bi-Level Rev. D."

7.**Status: Locomotive Procurement –IDOT:**

In the absence of a representative from Illinois DOT, Kevin Kesler, FRA, provided a brief update. Kevin noted that things are on track. There are only a few issues that still need to be worked out among the state partners and the FRA, and he anticipates the RFP release will be on schedule.

Dale Engelhardt asked about options having to do with long distance trains.

Kevin commented that the intent is to include options for a locomotive that Amtrak can use for long distance service.

8.**Next Steps: Digital Trainline Communication effort – Dale Engelhardt:**

Dale Engelhardt reported that there were five responders to the request for assistance in this effort. He noted that Kevin Kesler was one of those respondents.

Tammy Krause, Amtrak, has researched existing Standards here in the US and in Europe. Two vendors have also been contacted – one being Nomad.

Different operation systems have been investigated, and all have some form of quality problem. This, Dale noted, is not unusual when dealing with relatively new technology.

One connector supplier has been identified—and no one is trying to sell a particular vendor's product—which appears to hold reasonable promise.

The first order of business will be for the committee, headed by Tammy Krause, to develop a Requirements Document (RD) that will serve the industry now, and into the future.

The RD, when complete, will be submitted to the Electrical Working Group of the Technical subcommittee. Once this is complete it will go to the full Technical subcommittee and then on to the Executive Board – per the normal process.

Once a hardware and software specification has been approved, it will be offered to APTA to become a national standard.

Kevin Kesler thanked Tammy and Dale for their good work on this important topic.

Dale noted that he will do the best he can to accelerate this process, and he'll work on the timeline with Tammy Krause, but emphasized that he cannot say for sure how long this effort will take.

Other (1):

Dale Engelhardt raised the issue of the next specification to be developed by the Technical subcommittee. He reminded all members that the next specification to be developed will be the Dual Mode Locomotive. The plan has been to wait until the Diesel-electric locomotive award specification was completed so that it would serve as the basis for the Dual Mode specification.

Dave Warner noted that some work on the Dual Mode has been done "in the background" by NYSDOT and other agencies in the area. This means that once the Diesel-electric award spec is out, the turnaround time for developing the Dual Mode should be quick.

Dale emphasized that his intent in raising this topic today was to remind subcommittee members that it's getting close to the time for the Dual Mode Specification "to be worked on and processed" so, be ready.

Other (2):

Steve Hewitt announced that Ron Adams, Wisconsin DOT, was participating on his last Technical subcommittee call, as he heads into retirement from Wisconsin State service. Steve wanted to express his thanks to Ron for his hard work in helping to make the Technical subcommittee so successful and productive. Steve expressed his best wishes to Ron and stated that he will be missed.

Kevin Kesler stated that he "echoed Steve's sentiments" and wished Ron well in his future endeavors. He also

expressed the hope that, whatever lies in Ron's future he may, at some point, come back to the subcommittee.

Others on the call wished Ron well and expressed their thanks.

It was also announced by Leanna Wall, Wisconsin DOT, that there will be a retirement celebration for Ron at the Milwaukee Amtrak train station at 4:30pm on July 16th. Leanna will provide Steve Hewitt with details, and Steve agreed to send a notice "to the world" to let people know about the celebration and invite those who can to attend.

Adjourn:

With no further business to come before the subcommittee, today's conference call meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 pm EDT.

Next conference call – July 18, 2013 – 3:00pm EDT

Decisions and Action Items

Working/Review Group – Developing Commuter Equivalent of NGEC Bi-Level Specification: This effort (not an official NGEC effort) continues with Kevin Kesler, FRA, in the lead. kevin.kesler@dot.gov. The most recent call was held on June 11, 2013. A report is being prepared and, when complete, will be sent to the NGEC Executive Board and APTA's Commuter Rail CEOs. Beyond the distribution of the report, the next step(s) for this ad hoc group is undetermined.

As soon as the report from the Natural Gas Needs conference is released, Melissa Shurland will provide it to Steve Hewitt for distribution to the subcommittee members. The report is under review by conference attendees, and it is anticipated to be ready for public distribution in two or three weeks.

The Trainset Revision A Summary Sheet was distributed on June 19, 2013, to all Technical subcommittee members for review. The expectation is that the Technical subcommittee will consider the summary sheet for approval on the July 18, 2013 call.

Updating ECP Standards: remains as a standing action item. The next status teleconference is scheduled for June 21 at 11:00 AM

Digital Trainline Communication effort: A five member committee, with Tammy Krause, Amtrak, as the lead, has been formed to prepare a requirements document. Once the RD is prepared it will be submitted to the Technical subcommittee's Electrical Working Group for its review and input.

Technical subcommittee members are reminded that the development of the Dual Mode specification is the next spec to be taken up by the subcommittee. This should occur relatively soon – once the Diesel-electric locomotive award specification is completed. Turnaround time for developing the Dual Mode spec will be short.

Wisconsin DOT will provide Steve Hewitt with information in regards to Ron Adams' retirement celebration scheduled for July 16, 2013 at the Milwaukee Amtrak station at 4:30pm. Steve will distribute the information to all NGEC Board members and the entire technical subcommittee and industry participation list. All who are able to attend are encouraged to join Ron and celebrate his retirement from state service.

The July 4th Technical subcommittee call is canceled due to the holiday – the next call will take place on July 18th.

ATTACHMENTS



PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting

June 20, 2013

The agenda for the meeting is below:

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|---|------------------|
| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review meeting agenda | Dale Engelhardt |
| 3. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 4. Approve Minutes of June 6, 2013 | Dale Engelhardt |
| 5. Report from the Accessibility Working Group | Melissa Shurland |
| 6. Document Control update | Dave Warner |
| 7. Status/Update: Locomotive Procurement | IDOT |
| 8. Update: Digital Trainline Communication effort | Dale Engelhardt |
| 9. Review this meeting: | Steve Hewitt |
| a) Decisions | |
| b) New Action Items | |

***Technical Sub Committee Conference Call Meeting:
Thursday June 20, 2013 3:00 EDT: 1-866-209-1307 / passcode 6486648#***

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

Next Technical Subcommittee Call: 7-18-13 at 3:00pm EDT