

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

AUGUST 1, 2013

3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Dale Engelhardt, Vice Chair NGEC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: Dale Engelhardt, Tammy Krause, Dave Warner, Vincent Brotski, Michael Burshtin, Andrew Wood, Kevin Kesler, Melissa Shurland, Anand Prabhakaran, Sara Sarkhill, Jack Madden, Allan Paul, Art Peterson, Phil Meraz, Kevin Lawson, Missy Wilbers, Larry Salci, Steve Hewitt Industry Participants: Paul Jamieson, Tom Hunt, Lew Hoens, Jonathan Michel, Steve Morrison, Richard Curtis, Eric Wilde, Josh Coran, Scott Braverman
ABSENTEES	<i>Mario Bergeron, Darrell Smith, Greg Gagarin, Devin Rouse, Charles Bielitz, Nico Lindenau, Michael Coltman, Brian Marquis, Stan Hunter, Camren Cordell, Curtis McDowell, Charles Poltenson, Jeff Schultz, Shayne Gill</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.

In the absence of Chairman Mario Bergeron, Dale Engelhardt, subcommittee Vice Chair, 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 **221** 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 NGEC Backgrounder document. Please provide a mailing address and the number of copies being requested. **Status:** AASHTO has completed 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 group had met this week and had no major comments to the draft report. She intends to send the draft to Steve Hewitt following this call. Steve will disseminate it to the Technical subcommittee for input. Members having comments should send them directly to Melissa Shurland. Melissa.shurland@dot.gov

Updating ECP Standards: Status: 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. No update today.

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

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. Kevin Kesler is meeting with APTA

this week to discuss this effort. A report will be developed and submitted to the APTA CEOs and NGEC Board when it is ready. Kevin will keep the subcommittee apprised of this progress being made. **Status:** Kevin Kesler has a call into Gavin Frazier, APTA , who has been identified as the APTA point of contact for this effort.

Trainset Revision A Summary Sheet: Rev A was approved by the Technical subcommittee on the July 18, 2013 call. **Status:** Steve Hewitt sent the Summary Sheet to Executive Board chair Bill Bronte with a request that he re-convene the Trainset Review Panel on the July 23rd Board call, and that he task it with developing a report with recommendations. Steve also asked that Dave Warner be included in the effort as support for the Review Panel to answer any questions that it may have. On July 23, 2013, Chairman Bronte re-convened the Review Panel, filling two vacancies with new members (LeAnna Wall, Wisconsin DOT and Jason Biggs, Washington State DOT). Chairman Bronte also asked AASHTO to amend its contract with consultant Larry Salci to include the tasks necessary for the trainset review. Once this has occurred and the Board approves the amended tasks, the Panel will begin its review.

Digital Trainline Communication effort: The Digital Trainline effort is underway. On the last call we learned that the subgroup had held its first meeting and was to beginning to draft a requirements document and Executive Summary. The group was also preparing a schedule with timelines. **Status:** a schedule with timelines is being developed, as is a draft Executive Summary. These will be ready for discussion on the next Technical subcommittee call – August 15, 2013.

Tech SC review of ADAAG Document with feasibility Categories: A timeline and action plan was agreed to on the last Tech SC call:

July 18 – Dale Engelhardt to contact each of the Technical Working Group leaders and ask them to reconvene their members and begin review of the document.

August 8 – All comments/changes are to be submitted by the Technical working groups to Melissa Shurland, FRA.

August 12 – A revised version with changes incorporated by Melissa will be sent to the full Technical subcommittee through Steve Hewitt.

August 15 – The regular Technical subcommittee call will take place with a discussion on the revised document on the agenda.

Status: The schedule remains in place and the next key date is for comments to go to Melissa on August 8, 2013.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the July 18, 2013 Technical subcommittee call – Dale Engelhardt:

On a motion offered by Jack Madden, NYSDOT, and a second by Art Peterson, IDOT, the Minutes of the July 18, 2013, conference call meeting of the Technical subcommittee, were approved without exception.

5. Accessibility Working Group Update – Melissa Shurland:

Melissa Shurland reported that, to date, she has not received any comments from the Technical subcommittee's working groups on the ADAAG Document with feasibility Categories.

Melissa also reported that she has spoken to the Access Board about the NGEC engaging them as they begin their review of rail regulations. The Access Board was very receptive to hearing from the NGEC. They are interested in hearing about the NGEC activities in regard to accessibility, including enhancements in the specifications and also they would like to hear from the NGEC on what we think in regard to items that are not in the PRIIA specs. (Our wish list)

The first meeting of the Access Board's review of rail regs is now scheduled for October. At that meeting, the FRA will make a presentation on the NGEC and on the FRA efforts in this area. "Our hope (Melissa's) is to have it completed soon to talk about it and share it with the Technical subcommittee."

FRA (Melissa and Kevin Kesler) are working on a list of items describing what the NGEC has done. Any input to the Access Board will come from the NGEC Executive Board. Melissa feels this is "a great opportunity for us to influence the new guidelines." Melissa pointed out that the FRA is on the Access Board, and this will help to ensure that strong consideration is given to input from the NGEC.

Dale Engelhardt agreed to contact each of the technical working group leaders to be sure they provide Melissa with their feedback "along the way."

Kevin Kesler asked if there was anyone on the call who wanted to share initial feedback they have gotten from their review of the ADAAG Document with feasibility Categories.

Jonathan Michel, Railplan, commented that they are reviewing the document and will re-submit a document to Melissa for feedback by the August 8th deadline.

**6.
Document Control Update – Dave Warner:**

Dave Warner provided the following report for inclusion in today's minutes:

"The DMU Initial Release specification is posted on the AASHTO web site. Work has begun on updating the Single Level specification to Revision A. As Steve mentioned earlier, following last week's approval of the Trainset Revision A, it has been sent to the Executive Board, which, along with AASHTO, is presently getting the Review Panel stood up for its review."

**7.
Status/Update: Locomotive Procurement - IDOT:**

Art Peterson reported that there have been a number of calls held this week, with a lot of questions by the partnering states. This has delayed the release of the RFP "a bit." The questions are ones that that need to be resolved by the states procurement and legal officials. Art expects the delay of the RFP release to be "maybe a week or two."

**8.
Other:**

Jack Madden, NYSDOT, reported to the subcommittee that Metro North Railroad (MNR) has issued an RFI for procuring electric locomotives and dual mode locomotives and rail cars. The due date for responses to the RFI is September 30, 2013.

He reported, too, that MNR is soliciting for a consultant to assist in the development of a third rail dual mode and electric locomotive spec. Both of these specs may well be incorporated in the same document.

Regular conference calls are taking place with NYSDOT and Connecticut DOT (and Dave Warner) on the calls with MNR.

MNR will base the specs on the PRIIA 305 spec in content and format. It is anticipated that the "as awarded" IDOT spec and the MNR spec will give the PRIIA Technical subcommittee a solid foundation for the development of its Dual Mode Locomotive specification.

Dale Engelhardt asked if Jack knew what the schedule was. Lew Hoens, MNR, commented that he expects the RFP to be on the street in about a year.

Kevin Kesler commented that he felt this was "good news that a second property is either using our specs or at least referencing them." He wondered if the subcommittee could "offer assistance...it would be good if there was collaboration."

Dave Warner commented that collaboration is already happening. "We are joining in on the calls." Both Dave Warner and Jack Madden are on the calls and represent PRIIA. The team is also reaching out to Vermont AOT as they are potentially in need of Dual Mode Locomotives as well.

Jack emphasized that the goal is that the trajectory of the development of the MNR Dual Mode and the "as awarded" IDOT specification "will intersect in a time close to one another."

Kevin Kesler wondered what happens when a property changes our specs? What is that process?

Jack clarified for Kevin that MNR "is not under any obligation to use our specification and once it is changed it is not a PRIIA spec." However, he also reminded Kevin that the intent is that whatever MNR develops, PRIIA can use to advance their Dual Mode spec in very short order. "It could easily become the PRIIA dual mode spec."

Kevin again pressed the potential issue "as they edit a PRIIA spec and have changes, we need a process to check in and submit it to our NGEC library...maybe a process could be developed."

Dave Warner reminded Kevin that a Specification utilization process is already in place on the 305 website. Whenever a property uses a PRIIA spec it is asked to fill out a form that describes its use of the spec, etc.

Jack Madden interjected the fact that, in this case, there is not a PRIIA dual mode spec out there – MNR is using Rev A of the Locomotive as a "jumping off point to develop a dual mode spec." This, ultimately will benefit the PRIIA effort by providing it with a dual mode spec that it could easily develop as a PRIIA spec when it begins that process.

Jack also noted that it is anticipated that any differences will be small between MNR and PRIIA. Jack is "confident that they will come up with a draft that we can use."

Dave Warner reiterated "They (MNR) are helping us get our dual mode spec done quickly."

Jack agreed to keep the subcommittee apprised of the progress being made as the MNR effort moves forward.

Adjourn:

With no further business to come before the Technical subcommittee today, the meeting chair adjourned the call at approximately 3:40pm EDT.

Next conference call – August 15, 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. Kevin Kesler has reached out to Gavin Frazier who has been identified as APTA's point of contact for this effort. Kevin will keep the subcommittee apprised of the progress being made.

Melissa Shurland will be providing Steve Hewitt with the Natural Gas Conference Report later today (August 1, 2013). Steve will then disseminate it to the members of the Technical subcommittee.

Note: This action has now been completed – the report was sent to Steve after the Technical subcommittee call and he has sent it out to all subcommittee members asking that comments go to Melissa Shurland.

Kevin Kesler and Melissa Shurland are preparing a list of things that the NGEC has done in regard to accessibility. This will ultimately be provided to the Access Board.

Updating ECP Standards: remains as a standing action item. The next full group teleconference is scheduled for July 26 at 11:00 AM. Anyone wishing to get involved in this effort should contact Paul Jamieson or Jeff Gordon. Updates on this action item being tracked by the Technical subcommittee will be provided every other call.

Digital Trainline Communication effort: The Digital trainline subgroup held its first meeting and has begun drafting a req. document and Executive Summary. On the next Tech SC call a schedule with timelines and a draft Executive Summary will be discussed.

Tech SC review of ADAAG Document with feasibility Categories: Comments are due to Melissa by August 8, 2013. Dale Engelhardt agreed to reach out to the Technical working group leaders to ask them to provide their feedback to Melissa as they do their review.

Jack Madden, NYSDOT, will keep the subcommittee updated on the status of the Metro North Dual Mode specification as it is developed.

- a) Decisions
- b) New Action Items

***Technical Sub Committee Conference Call Meeting:
Thursday August 1, 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: 8-15-13 at 3:00pm EDT