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# SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 10, 2015

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> <i>Eric Curtit, Mario Bergeron, Beth Nachreiner for Michael Lestingi, Darrell Smith, Ray Hessinger, John Oimoen, Ron Pate, Bruce Roberts, Arun Rao, Michael Jenkins, Brian Beeler II</i> <b>Support Staff:</b> <i>Steve Hewitt, Shayne Gill, Jason Biggs, Tammy Krause, Vincent Brotski, Jeff Gordon, Larry Salci</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<b>Board Members,</b> <i>Michael Lestingi, Tammy Nicholson, Paul Worley, John Rosacker, Tim Hoeffner,</i> <b>Support:</b> <i>Dave "Emeritus" Warner, Allan Paul, Bryan Hong, Momo Tamaoki, Nico Lindenau, Dale Engelhardt, Patrick Centolanzi, Sal DeAngelo</i>

## DECISIONS MADE

1.

**Welcome –Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:**

Chairman Curtit, opened today's meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

2.

**Roll Call –Steve Hewitt, Manager, S305 NGEC Support Services:**

Steve Hewitt called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

3.

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

Steve Hewitt reviewed the open action items not covered under today's agenda and noted the status update of all items would be in the minutes for the record.

## Action Items Status Update

**Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report:** The Mid-West State DOTs met on 10-21-15 with their legal representatives in attendance as well, to go over agreements for the distribution of equipment (cars and locomotives) throughout the Mid-West. At the meeting they began to lay out the terms and conditions that will ultimately lead to a fleet maintainer and fleet manager.

**Status:** An update on progress being made will be covered under agenda item 5.

**514 Subcommittee update:** On the last call, two items were highlighted:

Accepting the CIP document: The Board received the DRAFT CIP on 10-13-15 and, today, (10-27-15) formally accepted the 2016 CIP, as presented, and previously approved by the 514 subcommittee.

Darrell Smith, Amtrak will add the approval date (10-27-15) to the CIP document and send it to Steve Hewitt for posting to the website.

Jeremy Jewkes will remove the DRAFT watermark from the memorandum, and send it to Steve Hewitt as well for posting to the website.

**Status:** The approval date (10-27-15) was added, the memorandum was finalized and the CIP and Memo were sent to AASHTO for posting.

A 514 activity update will be provided under agenda item 9.

**The Finance and Administrative subcommittee continues to look at potential funding options and strategies for the future of the NGEC:** (ongoing) The subcommittee continues its progress and expects to meet its deadline of having a recommendation package ready for NGEC Executive Board by the end of October. The subcommittee last met on 10-28-15 to review its draft report and recommendations for submittal to the Executive Board.

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**Status:** An update and timeline for submittal of recommendations to the Executive Board will be provided by Darrell Smith under agenda item 6.

**Dual Mode Locomotive (DC 3<sup>rd</sup> Rail) specification Approval:** RCC, Tammy Krause reported on 10-27-15 that the review of the specification is ongoing and the target date for Board approval remains mid-November 2015 (before Thanksgiving).

**Status:** Larry Salci has begun his review of the Dual Mode (DC 3<sup>rd</sup> Rail) Locomotive Specification and, initially the Review Panel meeting had been scheduled for 11-19-15 to consider his report with recommendations with Board approval anticipated for 11-24-15. However, due to schedule conflicts and constraints on time the Review Panel call and Board approval will be pushed back by a week or two. Larry Salci, Eric Curtit, and Steve Hewitt will set a new schedule for completion of the report and its approval by the Review Panel and, subsequently, the Board.

**Technical subcommittee approval of 305-912 Revision B:** The subcommittee approved Revision B on 9-24-15. 305-912 Revision B was distributed to the NGEN Executive Board on 10-13-15, having previously been approved by the Technical subcommittee.

On the last call – 10-27-15 - the Executive Board approved PRIIA 305-912 Revision B as presented.

Tammy Krause, Amtrak, will put the document in final form with the release date included and send to Steve Hewitt.

**Status:** Awaiting signed version.

**NGEC Annual Meeting – 2016:** The NGEN's 2016 Annual Meeting will take place on February 19, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Washington Capitol Hill. Steve Hewitt will send an appointment notice to all NGEN members to hold the date. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the AASHTO SCORT Washington DC meeting taking place on February 17 and-18, 2016.

**Status:** A notice has gone to all calendars. Steve Hewitt awaits further instructions from AASHTO with regard to the hotel block rate and reservation information for the NGEN members.

**Next Executive Board Call:** Chairman Curtit determined that due to the Thanksgiving Holiday and schedule conflicts – the 11-24-15 Executive Board call will be canceled. **The next call will take place on 12-8-15.**

**4. Approval of the Minutes from the 10-27-15 conference call – Eric Curtit:**

On a motion made by, and a second by, the minutes from the 10-27-15 Executive Board conference call were approved without exception.

**5. Progress Report: Mid-West States – John Oimoen, IDOT:**

John Oimoen, IDOT, provided a brief update on the progress of the Mid-West states section 6 activities:

The states are in the final stages of finalizing a multi-state ownership agreement. Attorneys for the states are meeting today (11-10-15) and it is anticipated that a final draft will go to the states over the next week or week and a half.

The next major issue to be resolved is that of insurance.

The two RFPs (fleet manager and fleet maintainer) have not yet been finalized for release.

Shayne Gill, AASHTO, suggested that IDOT contact Karen Hedlund with regard to the insurance issues. The NEC states are working on this issue and working with Karen.

John Oimoen thanked Shayne for the suggestion and said that Karen had been one recommendation that IDOT had gotten previously and they do expect to contact her.

Larry Salci mentioned that he spoke recently to Karen – and "it is good that she is plugged in."

John thanked Larry for "helping us in getting down the path."

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**6.**

**Status Update: Finance and Administrative subcommittee – Darrell Smith, Amtrak:**

Darrell Smith, Amtrak, reported that the Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) is finalizing its future funding options recommendations to be submitted to the Executive Board. The FASC is meeting next Wednesday (11-18-15) to review, and hopefully, finalize the report and recommendations for submittal to the Board. With the Board meeting for 11-24-15 being canceled, it is expected that the FASC recommendations will be considered on the call to be held on 12-8-15.

Darrell noted that the FASC has looked at a number of options, and its recommendations will be based upon the NGEC continuing as it is. The "chicken and egg questions" of what the NGEC will be when it grows up, what it will look like, and what it will cost, are still questions yet to be resolved. Darrell recommended that Board members think about this over the Thanksgiving holiday and expect to resume these discussions going forward.

Bruce Roberts asked for clarification as to what the FASC is circulating for review within the subcommittee, and Darrell responded that it is the FASC recommendations for funding options to keep the NGEC, as currently constituted, alive beyond the expiration of the current grant agreement (9-30-17).

**7.**

**Status Update: Bi-Level Car Procurement – Bruce Roberts, Caltrans:**

Bruce Roberts, Caltrans, provided a brief update on the activities related to the bi-level car procurement:

RFCs – three open items remain.

There are 7 hot list Design Review (non-car shell) items open.

FAIs are moving forward – with a couple having been pushed back from October into November.

The car shell re-design remains the biggest issue yet to be resolved. They continue to work through issues related to the model, analysis and criteria for car shell re-design.

On 11-12-15 there will be a meeting among the Caltrans, IDOT, and FRA to review an interim report on the manufacturers' analysis.

With these issues remaining open – there is no timeline for final re-design and the production schedule continues to slip.

**8.**

**Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement – John Oimoen, IDOT:**

John Oimoen, IDOT, provided the following update on the progress of the Diesel-electric locomotive procurement:

Things are moving along well.

FDR follow-up action items are now closed. The balance of submittal drawings have now been received, as well.

The FAI for the truck frame was held on 10-8-15 and went well.

The FAI for carbody was held on 10-20-15, and has action items prior to closure.

The FAI for the Prime Mover (Engine and alternator together) is planned for 11-12-15 in Sacramento.

The FAI for the complete truck assembly is planned for 11-17-15 in Sacramento.

A planning meeting to review the compression test process is planned for 12 -1-15 in Sacramento.

The kick-off for the first monthly Quality Assurance (QA) review is planned for 11-18-15 in Sacramento.

Two more draft DCRs are being processed by the JPEs. The total will be Seventeen draft DCRs, which are being prepared by Rich Stegner who has contacted Tammy Krause.

The Follow up Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) continues working on an on-going basis on the action items from AAR Standard vehicle qualification testing and acceptance.

The Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) planning team is reviewing logistics for fueling locations.

The locomotive weight has reduced to 271,684 lbs (+/-).

The calculated P2 force is within specified limits. Weight is being closely monitored each month.

**9.**  
**Status Update: 514 subcommittee – Jason Biggs, WSDOT:**

Jason Biggs, WSDOT, reported that with the major update (CIP) having been accepted, the 514 subcommittee is gearing up for minor updates. The spreadsheet from Amtrak to the states will be distributed in December.

States should be prepared to provide projections and identify budget restrictions.

A meeting invitation has gone out to the states to for the reconciliation meeting – 11-18-15.

The next meeting of the 514 subcommittee will take place on 11-16-15.

The 514 subcommittee continues to work with the States Amtrak Intercity Passenger Rail Committee (SAIPRC) on a list of policy issues identified in the major update. Policy runs through SAIPRC.

Beth Nachreiner, FRA, asked for clarification on the date for FY17 estimates.

Darrell Smith responded that March 31, 2016 is the timeline for all estimates for FY17.

Mario Bergeron commented that it is important for state projections that the bi-level car timeline be identified as the two go together.

**10.**  
**Update: GAO study – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt provided a status of the GAO study of the NGEC with regard to FRA grant oversight.

The GAO team has twice participated on Technical subcommittee calls since it me with the Executive Board several months ago. The team will be attending subcommittee calls once a month to listen and provide an update on their activities.

As of the last call (11-5-15) the team was still in the "design phase" of the study, and had begun its interview process. In recent weeks they have interviewed Nico Lindenau and Larry Salci as well as Washington State DOT representatives. They have begun to reach out to the Technical subcommittee working group chairs and to active industry members of each of those working groups. GAO team leader, Maria Wallace, reported that they plan to interview Jeff Gordon, Wynne Davis and Sal DeAngelo, FRA, in the coming weeks.

Jeff Gordon, FRA, confirmed that the meeting with the GAO team is today (11-10-15).

The Technical subcommittee will get its next update from the GAO team on its call on 12-3-15.

**11.**  
**Other Issues – All:**

With no other issues forthcoming for today's meeting, Chairman Curtit adjourned the call at 11:56AM Eastern.

**The next call is December 8, 2015**

**Decisions/Action Items**

**Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report:** The states are in the final stages of finalizing a multi-state ownership agreement. Attorneys for the states are meeting today (11-10-15) and it is anticipated that a final draft will go to the states over the next week or week and a half. The next major issue to be resolved is that of insurance. The two RFPs (fleet manager and fleet maintainer) have not yet been finalized for release.

**514 Subcommittee update:** The 514 subcommittee has begun work on minor updates; continues to work through policy issues with the SAIPRC. The next call is scheduled for 11-16-15.

**The Finance and Administrative subcommittee continues to look at potential funding options and**

**strategies for the future of the NGEC:** (ongoing) The subcommittee is finalizing its report and recommendations on future funding options, and will meet on 11-18-15 to consider approval and submittal to the Executive Board. Board consideration is anticipated to occur on 12-8-15.

**Dual Mode Locomotive (DC 3<sup>rd</sup> Rail) specification Approval:** Larry Salci has begun his review of the Dual Mode (DC 3<sup>rd</sup> Rail) Locomotive specification. Due to schedule conflicts, the report will not be before the Review Panel until early December, with Board approval to follow by mid to late December.

Steve Hewitt will cancel the 11-19-15 (previously scheduled) Review Panel call and work with Eric Curtit and Larry Salci to reschedule it.

**Technical subcommittee approval of 305-912 Revision B:** The subcommittee approved Revision B on 9-24-15. 305-912 Revision B was distributed to the NGEC Executive Board on 10-13-15, having previously been approved by the Technical subcommittee.

On 10-27-15 the Executive Board approved 305-912 Revision B as presented.

Tammy Krause, Amtrak, will put the document in final form with the release date included and send to Steve Hewitt.

**NGEC Annual Meeting – 2016:** The NGEC's 2016 Annual Meeting will take place on 2-19-16 at the Hyatt Regency Washington Capitol Hill. Steve Hewitt will send an appointment notice to all NGEC members to hold the date. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the AASHTO SCORT Washington DC meeting taking place on 2-17-18-2016.

As of 11-10-15, Steve Hewitt is awaiting further instructions from AASHTO with regard to the hotel block rate and reservation information for the NGEC members.

#### ATTACHMENTS



**S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call  
November 10, 2015  
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern  
Call in number: 888 585-9008 conference access: 559-120-127**

#### Agenda

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|---|---------------|
| 1. Welcome and Open the Meeting                           | Eric Curtit   |
| 2. Roll Call  | Steve Hewitt  |
| 3. Action Items Status Review                             | Steve Hewitt  |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from the October 27, 2015 Call     | Eric Curtit   |
| 5. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6           | Tim Hoeffner  |
| 6. Status Update: Finance and Administrative subcommittee | Darrell Smith |

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7. Status Update: Bi-Level Car Procurement

Bruce Roberts

8. Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement

John Oimoen

9. Status Update: 514 subcommittee

Ron Pate

10. Update: GAO study

Steve Hewitt

11. Other

All

**Next Call: November 24, 2015**

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