

# SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

OCTOBER 11, 2012

3:00PM EDT

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Mario Bergeron, Chairman, S305 Technical subcommittee</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Core Team Members:</b> <i>Mario Bergeron, Dave Warner, Michael Burshtin, Andrew Wood, Vincent Brotski, Kevin Kesler, Melissa Shurland, Anand Prabhakaran, Nico Lindenau, Ryan Swick, Jeff Gordon, Michael Coltman, Stan Hunter, Curtis McDowell, Jack Madden, Charles Poltenson, Jeff Schultz, Phil Meraz, Ron Adams, Steve Hewitt, <b>Industry Participants:</b> Richard Curtis, Steve Morrison, Bill Saddler, Richard Stegner, Tim Buchanan, Paul Jamieson, Tim Zimmer, Walt Stringer, Tom Hunt, Robert Doyle</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<i>Dale Engelhardt, Darrell Smith, Tammy Krause, Greg Gagarin, Devin Rouse, Charles Bielitz, Brian Marquis, Camren Cordell, Allan Paul, Kevin Lawson, Art Peterson, Eric Curtit, Larry Salci, Missy Wilbers, Shayne Gill</i>

## DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

Chairman Mario Bergeron called today's meeting to order and asked Steve Hewitt to take the roll.

Steve Hewitt took the roll and it was established that a quorum was present.

Industry participants are asked, as always, to email a notification of their attendance to Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).

### Review of Action Items:

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:** Steve Hewitt reported that this remains an ongoing action item. There are currently **207** registered industry participants.

**APTA Standards update:** In regard to the update of APTA standards, Kevin Kesler and Martin Schroeder are preparing meeting information and should have a call announcement before the next Technical subcommittee call.

**Updating ECP Standards:** Paul Jamieson reported that there was nothing new to add at this point other than that they have added a few more participants in this effort.

### Approval of the Minutes of the September 27, 2012 Technical subcommittee call – Mario Bergeron:

On a motion by Kevin Kesler, FRA, and a second by Jack Madden, NYSDOT, the Minutes of the September 27, 2012, conference call meeting of the Technical subcommittee, were approved without objection.

### Update: Document Control Management – Dave Warner:

Dave Warner, Amtrak, provided the following report for inclusion in the minutes:

*"Bi-Level Revision C.1 was approved at the Portland, Maine, Executive Board meeting in September. There has been delay in getting the final version posted due to a number of unforeseen events, including Camren Cordell's change of employer to Jacobs Engineering. As soon as a completed, signed version is available, it will be posted on the website.*

*Work on the Diesel Multiple Unit specification has also slowed for the same reasons as mentioned above. Hopefully it will be done within two weeks.*

*Camren's change of employer has required Amtrak to begin the process to create a new contract (on behalf of PRIIA) for her services. I'm working on creating the package that has to be submitted to Amtrak's chain of command for*

*approval. At this point I cannot provide a time when this will be complete, and/or if the managers within Amtrak who are responsible for approving a contract will do so. In the meantime, we're limiting the non-Bi-Level car work Camren is doing."*

**Review: Status of proposed revisions to process for approving Accessibility features – policy vs. technical –Dave Warner:**

Dave Warner provided the following update on proposed revisions to approval of ADA DCRs for inclusion in the minutes of today's call:

*"I have created a rough draft of a revised procedure to handle accessibility-related DCRs based on the request to separate policy aspects from the technical aspects. The draft will be provided to the Accessibility Working Group in advance of its next meeting, during which it needs to be discussed."*

Mario Bergeron asked if the Accessibility Working Group (AWG) has an upcoming meeting scheduled. Dave said, at this point in time there is no AWG meeting scheduled. Later in the call, Melissa Shurland, FRA, and team leader of the AWG, got on the line and agreed to make sure the proposal, when received, is distributed to all AWG members and to arrange a call of the group. Dave Warner agreed to provide Melissa with the draft proposal "by noon tomorrow" (October 12, 2012).

Further, Melissa and Kevin Kesler, FRA, agreed that the AWG would review the proposal, and be ready to report on its consideration of the proposal on the next Technical subcommittee call (October 25, 2012).

**Report from the Accessibility Working Group (AWG) - Melissa Shurland:**

- a. Status: SOW for outside consultant-communications DCRs

Melissa Shurland reported that there have been "lengthy discussions within the AWG...because it is totally about communications and providing modern methods" for the disabled community. Melissa is currently polling the AWG members to see if they agree with the proposed DCRs for communications, and if so, they (the DCRs) will be moved through the current approved DCR process, and, in doing so, "will develop language for communications for the specification" mostly related to "dual mode communications."

Melissa added "outside consultant help would come later" if it is determined that there is a need for it. She did, however, note that outside consultant services will be needed for a number of other Accessibility issues.

- b. Status: Building Code Regulations issue

Melissa reported that the Chief Counsel has not yet made a determination, as draft guidance is still in the OST review process. A couple of revisions were provided in an earlier review, so the revised version is now in final OST review. Once finalized it will go to the Chief Counsel and a determination will be made.

Once that determination is made, Melissa will bring it to the Technical subcommittee.

Chairman Bergeron asked when Melissa thought this would occur, and Melissa responded that because it has been through the review process once, and only a few changes were made, it should not take long to complete this review. She believes "we are very close to getting guidance out."

Responding to Chairman Bergeron's inquiry as to what the chances are that the guidance will be issued by the time of the next Technical subcommittee call, Melissa responded that there was a "50-50" chance.

The discussion then turned to where the issuance of the guidance would go once a determination has been made. Would it be sent to the subcommittee or go to the Executive Board? Melissa thought that the Executive Board would be the NGEC body that would be provided with the determination (guidance).

**Review/Report: DOE/FRA Workshop on Natural Gas options held October 1-2, 2012 – Kevin/Melissa:**

Kevin Kesler reported that the workshop held on October 1 and 2, 2012, was a great success. He noted that it was well beyond his expectations. Going into the workshop Kevin had the goals of learning “what is going on now, (with research into the use of natural gas for locomotive propulsion) what is expected in the future, and to go away with some action items.” He added that he was surprised to find just how much work has already been done in this area. The workshop included presentations on a “broad spectrum” of topics including what has gone on in the past; what is going on in the present, and what is anticipated for the future.

Further, Kevin reported that the sessions were very well attended with representation from Amtrak, the Class1 railroads, FRA, DOE, and all of the locomotive manufacturers. He said all of those involved have programs of their own looking at options for natural gas, and that they recognize the need to look ahead especially in light of the tremendous price differential. (About 30%).

The next step is to have monthly conference calls/webinars with reports on programs that are going on and to provide opportunities for discussion of new ideas - all with the expectation of “getting to real world impacts.”

During the workshops the group voted on a variety of research topics ranging from economics to engine design. “There will be a full research agenda.” Kevin asked that anyone from the Technical subcommittee who is interested in participating on the conference calls to send Melissa Shurland an email at [Melissa.shurland@dot.gov](mailto:Melissa.shurland@dot.gov) or to Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).

A discussion followed in regards to how this effort relates to passenger locomotives and how it links to the NGEC.

Kevin Kesler responded that “there is no reason why passenger trains can’t benefit – especially short haul.” He added that passenger rail has not been ruled out as a possibility in the future.

Kevin also emphasized that it was not intended that this would be brought into the NGEC as one of its items rather it is an opportunity to let members of the industry and the NGEC know about the research effort, and to give them a chance to participate if interested.

In response to additional questions/comments in regards to the passenger rail area, and the potential use of CNG, Melissa Shurland responded that “CNG is the most viable for passenger rail...it is what the task force may look at - CNG and LNG - as a test.”

Kevin Kesler added that it has more potential for commuter operations, “but maybe corridor operations” as well. “Not sure yet”.

**Planning for the NGEC Annual Meeting – February 21, 2013 – Washington, DC – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt reminded all Technical subcommittee members and industry participants that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual NGEC meeting will take place on February 21, 2013 at the Washington Court Hotel, Washington DC. It is anticipated that AASHTO will have a block of rooms reserved (most likely at the Hyatt Regency Hotel) for NGEC members and support staff. Further information to follow. If there is to be a room rate for industry members, Steve will follow up with that info as well. To ensure that there is a large enough meeting room secured, and for purposes of preparing appropriate name badges and the right number of meeting packets, anyone who plans to attend should register their intentions with Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com) by December 1, 2012. As more info concerning hotel room rates and availability is confirmed, Steve will keep all subcommittee members apprised.

Attendance at this third Annual Meeting is encouraged.

**Other:**

Chairman Bergeron asked Steve Hewitt to provide a brief update of the Executive Board Members’ “assignment” to develop individual “vision” statements for what they see the NGEC doing in the future, or, as NGEC Chair Bill Bronte says “what does the NGEC want to be when it grows up?”

Steve summarized that the voting members were given this task by Chairman Bronte in Portland, Maine at the September 20, 2012 face to face meeting. Thus far 11 of 14 Board members have provided their vision statements to Steve Hewitt who is compiling them into one document with no attribution as to who submitted what statement. The intent is to have the completed set of statements compiled by tomorrow (October 12, 2012)

so that Steve can send the document to Mr. Bronte with enough time for review prior to next Tuesday's (October 16, 2012) Executive Board conference call. Steve fully expects that a review and discussion of the statements will be an agenda item for that call. Steve also expects that Mr. Bronte will ask him to distribute the compilation of the statements to all Board members prior to the call. The ultimate goal is for the Board to come to a consensus on a vision statement for the NGEC.

Chairman Bergeron noted that he was looking forward to seeing the statements and, once the Board has had its discussion, at the appropriate time, he will put this on the agenda for a Technical subcommittee call.

Chairman Bergeron also noted that the Structure and Finance Task Force (SFTF), chaired by Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT, was quite active as well in looking at the future of the NGEC and developing an action plan for moving forward. Mario noted that he will contact Eric Curtit at some point in the near future and ask him to provide the Technical subcommittee with an update on the SFTF activities.

**Adjourn:**

With no further business to come before the subcommittee, today's conference call meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00pm Eastern.

**Next conference call – October 25, 2012 – 3:00pm Eastern**

**Decisions and Action Items**

Melissa Shurland will let the subcommittee know when a decision has been made and guidance has been released by the Chief Counsel on the issue of using architectural standards. She will also look into the possibility of informing Amtrak legal prior to the announcement.

Language for Dual Mode communication is being developed and she is polling AWG members to determine if DCRs for communications are warranted. If so, the DCRs will go through the current process within the AWG and then on to the Technical subcommittee.

In regard to the update of APTA standards, Kevin Kesler and Martin Schroeder are preparing meeting information and should have a call announcement before the next Technical subcommittee call

The FRA/DOE Natural Gas research effort: This effort will be ongoing. The group will begin holding monthly conference call/webinars with a "full research agenda". Any subcommittee member interested in participating on the calls should contact Melissa Shurland or Steve Hewitt.

Updating ECP Standards: Paul Jamieson reported that the effort is moving forward with Amtrak engaged as well as members of the NGEC. He reported that they have added a few more participants in the effort. He will continue to keep the subcommittee apprised.

Review of the current Accessibility features of the DCR process in regard to policy vs. technical: Dave Warner is developing a proposal. He plans to have a draft ready for AWG review by noon on Friday, October 12, 2012. Melissa Shurland will distribute the draft proposal to all AWG members and call for a meeting to discuss it. The expectation is that the AWG will report back to the Technical subcommittee on the results of its review by the next call (October 25, 2012)

Steve Hewitt will continue to keep subcommittee members apprised as logistics for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual NGEC meeting are firmed up. All of those who are interested in attending the meeting should register their intention with Steve Hewitt by December 1, 2012, so that he has an accurate head count to provide to AASHTO.

At a future conference call of the subcommittee, Chairman Bergeron will ask Eric Curtit to provide an update of the activities of the SFTF.

At an appropriate time after the Board has reviewed and discussed its members' vision statements for the future of the NGEC, Chairman Bergeron will have an agenda item on a subcommittee call to provide Board feedback on the vision statements to subcommittee members.


**ATTACHMENTS**



**PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting**

**October 11, 2012**

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 September 27, 2012  | Mario Bergeron                |
| 5. Update: Document Control Management  | Dave Warner                   |
| 6. Status: Proposed revisions to process for approving Accessibility features – policy vs technical | Dave Warner                   |
| 7. Report from the Accessibility Working Group  | Melissa Shurland              |
| a. Status: SOW for outside consultant: communications DCRs  |                               |
| b. Status: Building code regulations acceptability  |                               |
| 8. Review: DOE/FRA workshop on Natural Gas options held October 2-3-2012.                           | Kevin Kesler/Melissa Shurland |
| 9. Planning for: NGEC Annual Meeting – February 21, 2013 Washington, DC                             | Steve Hewitt                  |
| 10. Review this meeting:  | Steve Hewitt                  |
| a) Decisions  |                               |
| b) New Action Items   |                               |

***Technical Sub Committee Conference Call Meeting:  
Thursday October 11, 2012 3:00 EST: 1-866-209-1307 / passcode 6486648#***

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