

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

OCTOBER 14 2021 3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>George Hull, Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: <i>George Hull, Jeffrey Gordon, Ray Hessinger, Jennifer Bastian, Gurleen Boparai, Ed Engle, Jason Biggs, Mike Jenkins, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Marci Petterson, Joe Paul, Steve Hewitt, Larry Salci, Tarek Omar, Anand Prabhakaran, Hamid Sharif-Kashani, Blair Slaughter, Larry Salci, Tammy Krause, Industry Members:</i> <i>Richard Curtis, Rich Stegner, Josh Coran, Paul Jamieson, Rich Bowie, Jack Martinson, Edward Golitko, David Warner, Marco Weber, Steve Ojalvo, Glenn Gough, Kevin Sudano, William Loebke, James Michel, Fran Nelson, David Brabb, Stephen Mark, Jack Madden</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Matthew Simmons, Troy Hughes, Mike Kraft, Mike Murray, Rebecca Anger, Charlie King, Melissa Shurland</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.

Chairman George Hull, Amtrak, called the meeting to order and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll of core team members.

After calling the roll, Steve Hewitt 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 Action Items – Steve Hewitt, NGENC Program Manager:

2021 NGENC Backgrounder educational document:

The 2021 version of the NGENC two-page backgrounder/educational document has been released and is available electronically or in hard copy by request. Contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

About 615 electronic copies have been distributed to date.

Update:

The Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) has begun its efforts to develop the 2022 version of the NGENC two-pager. Suggested changes/updates by subcommittee members were discussed on the FASC call held yesterday (10-13-21). They will meet again on 11-10-21 to further discuss proposed changes as possibly finalize their recommendations.

Maintaining Industry Participation List: There are 203 industry participants.

Any updates or changes to this list should be sent to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

This procurement remains in the "cone of silence" period.

Next Update – as appropriate

Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:

Metro-North continues to hold their initial design review meetings.

They conducted an on-site visit to the Siemens factory in Sacramento during the week of 9-20-21. The purpose was to see the facility and to review some of the systems that Siemens wants to keep the same in the Dual Mode Locomotive as those in the Charger. Some of those items were resolved with Metro-North accepting the Siemens recommendations.

Next Update - 10-28-21

Amtrak Equipment Procurement as of 9-30-21

On the Acela 21 – work continues on qualification and testing.

On the Intercity Passenger Rail Trainset (Amfleet) – it is progressing well. It is in the initial design review stage.

On Long Distance Locomotive – There are two in Wilmington doing testing. Another one is ready to ship, and one is behind that

Next Update – 10-28-21

Establishing a working group for Interior Attenuation Specifications (Cellular issues):

On 7-22-21, George Hull talked about the need to address issues related to cellular capabilities on trains. Previously, it was thought the Electronics on Trains working group would be a home for this effort. George asked if that was the right place or should a separate working group be established to address these issues.

Steve Hewitt mentioned that Tammy Krause had talked to David Brabb, team leader of the Electronics on Trains working group and the thought is that it is a fit and they will add it to their list of activities.

Action: George asked Tammy to provide a list of issues that the Electronics on Trains is addressing and its priorities to better understand the volume of work. Tammy will include this action in her Document Control Update.

Update:

On 10-7-21, David Brabb, Team Leader for the Electronics on Trains Technical Working Group provided the following response:

As far as the Interior Attenuation Specifications (Cellular issues), we had discussed this in the group and with Tammy. We think it would be more appropriately handled by folks that design the mechanical/materials specified in the car design signal attenuation due to glass and metals specified in the designs, are the issues. However, we would be open to taking a shot at it if needed.

Based on this response – the Chair will take this up at a later date to determine if this should be assigned to the Electronics on Trains working group or another more appropriate group.

NGEC 2022 Annual Meeting:

The 2022 NGEC Annual Meeting will take place in person on 2-25-22 at the Hyatt Regency, Capitol Hill, Washington DC. An agenda and other meeting information and materials will be forthcoming as the date draws near.

Working Group on Weight Issues as of 9-30-21:

The last scheduled call was canceled as the strawman that was to be developed was not yet complete. Jeff Gordon reported that he has not yet scheduled the next call but will do so in the near future.

If interested in participating on this working group, contact Jeff Gordon at Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov or Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

Next Update: 10-28-21

3.

Approval of the Minutes from 9-30-21– George Hull, Amtrak:

On a motion by Ed Engle, Iowa DOT, and a second by, Curtis McDowell for NCDOT, the 9-30-21 minutes were approved as submitted.

4.

Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 10-14-21 – Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans:

On 10-14-21, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car shell final design has been approved for production. Remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final submittal and review stage and the cab car Clearance information has been submitted to Amtrak. IDOT Café Car FDRs are in the closure stage and Galley open items are being addressed.

The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is in process in Germany with testing planned to resume in November and the cab car compression test report is in work. FAIs for cab car Side Window and Cab Rear Door are scheduled for late October and early November.

Ninety-four cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT and Caltrans cars are being prepared for Conditional Acceptance and revenue service while open items are being addressed.

5.

Update: University of Nebraska High-Speed Wireless Study – Hamid Sharif-Kashani:

Hamid reported that work is continuing with the results of propagation modeling on the 160Mega Hertz channel and performance modeling on different channels including propagation and velocity in different rail environments (such as going through tunnels). Two abstracts were produced for presentation.

For any questions or more information, please contact Hamid Sharif-Kashani at hamidSharif@UNL.edu.

6.

Update: Document Control Management - Tammy Krause:

Continue the Review of the DMU Specification DCRs:

Tammy Krause walked through the remaining Chapter 4 DCRs.

After the completion of the Chapter 4 review, Steve Hewitt asked Tammy what issues/items remain unresolved from previous chapter reviews. Tammy then went back and walked through the remaining unresolved items. After some discussion, a recommendation on each was achieved.

Next steps:

It was agreed that Tammy Krause will update the document and provide a complete and clean summary of all changes with the recommendations as determined during the review process. Tammy will have the updated summary ready for Steve Hewitt to send to all Technical subcommittee members no less than one week in advance of the next call which will take place on 10-28-21.

On that call, (10-28-21) the intent will be for the voting members of the subcommittee to consider approval of the final summary of changes document. If approved, it will be transmitted to the Chairman of the Executive Board who will then formally reconvene the DMU Review Panel and ask that Larry Salci, Review Panel Consultant, complete his review of the approved DCRs against the DMU Requirements Document for compliance, and develop a report with recommendations for Review Panel consideration. Once the Review Panel has approved the report and its recommendations, they will transmit it to the Executive Board for its consideration.

The intent is to complete the DMU specification update by the end of this calendar year.

At the conclusion of the DCR review, Anand Prabhakaran pointed out that Stadler had some good ideas regarding the use of Aluminum that should be considered at a future date. Anand noted that the current structure of the PRIIA DMU Specification prevented consideration of some of those proposed changes but moving forward both the proposed changes and appendix G should be considered. Anand added that he would be happy to take a look at the Aluminum issue and Appendix G. He also noted that he would welcome a representative from Stadler to join the Structural Technical Working Group which Anand is the team leader of.

Stadler representatives: Please reach out to Anand Prabhakaran at anand@sharma-associates.com if interested in joining the Structural Technical Working Group.

Steve Hewitt acknowledged that the Executive Board was aware of the Stadler recommendations but preferred to first complete the process of updating the DMU specification in accordance with its current specification requirements.

The Board is now in the process of developing its priorities for the work plan for 2022 and recognizes that carbody material types is something that should be discussed further.

7.

Other – All:

Steve Hewitt noted that the NGEN Technical subcommittee calls in November both land on holidays – Veterans Day and

Thanksgiving. Steve has already removed the Thanksgiving Day call and suggested that the Veterans Day call be canceled as well since most state members are off that day. With the concurrence of the Chair – George Hull – the 11-11-21 call will be canceled. The subcommittee will meet on 10-28-21 and then next meet on 12-9-21.

Given this fact, Steve urged state members to be sure to participate on the 10-28-21 call so that the DMU specification DCRs can be considered for approval to send to the Board.

8. Adjourn:

With no other business forthcoming on today's call, George Hull adjourned the meeting at 3:56pm.

Next Tech subcommittee Call: 10-28-21– 3:00pm Eastern

Decisions and Action Items

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Maintaining Industry Participation List: There are 203 industry participants.

There have been several updates/changes to the list that have been provided to Steve Hewitt and those changes were made. Any further updates or changes should be sent to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

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Document Control Update -10-14-21:

On 10-14-21, the subcommittee completed its review of the Stadler DCRs.

Next steps:

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Next Update: 10-28-21

Establish process and timeline for Tech SC review of Access Board NPRM Accessibility Guidelines and compare with current NGEN Specifications

On 8-20-20, Melissa Shurland, FRA, reported that the comment period ended on 7-14-20 (after having been extended to that date) and the Access Board is now processing those comments received. Melissa stated, “we are in a holding pattern to see what the comments were and what the Access Board’s disposition of them will be.” Melissa will keep the NGEN technical subcommittee informed as the process is completed.

In January 2021 Melissa Shurland informed Steve Hewitt that there still was no update from the Access Board on this activity – it remains in a holding pattern.

Next Update: As appropriate

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ATTACHMENTS



Our Vision: The NGEN will provide national leadership in standardization, acquisition, and management of passenger rail equipment.

PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting

Web Ex video/audio information:

By Computer: <https://stephenhewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>

by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 126-073-1531

10-14-21

The agenda for the meeting is below:

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| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 9-30-21 | George Hull |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement | Gurleen Boparai |
| 5. University of Nebraska High Speed Rail Study | Hamid Sharif-Kashani |
| 6. Document Control Management - Continue the Review of DMU specification DCRS | Tammy Krause |
| 7. Other | All |
| 8. Review this meeting: | Steve Hewitt |
| 9. Adjourn | George Hull |

Next call – 10-28-21