

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

DECEMBER 9 2021 3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>George Hull, Chair, NGEC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: <i>George Hull, Jeffrey Gordon, Ray Hessinger, Jennifer Bastian, Troy Hughes, Gurleen Boparai, Ed Engle, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Steve Hewitt, Art Peterson, Tammy Krause, Rebecca Anger</i> Industry Members: <i>Richard Curtis, James Michel Rich Stegner, Josh Coran, Jack Madden, Paul Arnone, Steve Ojalvo, Darrell Smith, Dave Warner, Jeff Schultz, Kevin Sudano, Ed Golitko, Joe Kenas, Bill Saddler, Stephen Marks, Kirk Klug, Dick Bruss, Takase Sasuke</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Matthew Simmons, Jason Biggs, Mike Jenkins, Mike Kraft, Mike Murray, Charlie King, Larry Salci, Blair Slaughter, Tarek Omar, Melissa Shurland, Joe Paul</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, NGEC Program Manager:

2021 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:

The 2021 version of the NGEC 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.

The Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) approved changes to update the NGEC two-pager for 2022. Those recommended changes were submitted to MODOT with a request that their graphic arts office prepare a mock-up for Executive Board review. The goal remains to have the new two-pager published by the NGEC Annual meeting scheduled for 2-25-22.

Maintaining Industry Participation List: There are about 200 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

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.

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.

Update:

On 12-9-21, George Hull decided to ask that the Electronics on Trains add this item to its activities.

Tammy Krause will notify team leader David Brabb.

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.

Next Update – 12-23-21

Electronics on Trains –

David Brabb provided the following update for inclusion in the 10-28-21 minutes which Steve Hewitt read into the record:

We had our call this past Tuesday. The results of the call were that 1. we need 3 talking points and issues clarified by Siemens. And 2. we have one that Tammy is helping with. These are found in the notes document sent out yesterday.

Once these issues are clarified/resolved, 305-919 DTL Hardware Spec. revision will be issued. We will begin the outline for the 920 DTL Software Spec., and begin listing questions for the group, this month.

Our next call is planned for November 30th at 3pm eastern.

Steve Hewitt will request that David Brabb provide an update on the working group's activities on the next call 12-22-21

Next Update – 12-23-21

3.

Approval of the Minutes from 10-28-21– George Hull, Amtrak:

On a motion by Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, and a second by Ed Engle, Iowa DOT the 10-28-21 minutes were approved as submitted.

4.

Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 12-9-21 – Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans:

On 12-9-21, Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Carshell final design has been approved and the first cab structures are in production. The Cab Car Communications System FDR is also now approved. 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 complete with the test report in work and the compression test report is in review with the states and FRA. The FAI for the Cab Carshell occurred this week in Sacramento.

IDOT will start on rail testing of the cars next week. This is to test Wi-Fi, passenger information system and other IT related tests. Crew training will also be done.

99 cars 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: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

On 12-9-21, Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, reported that Metro-North

Ray Hessinger reported that Metro-North has approved all IDR documents. Siemens has begun production and submittals of PDRs.

**6.
Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull:**

George Hull provided the following updates on 12-9-21:

On the Acela 21 – Amtrak continues to work with FRA qualification testing. Trainset 3 is in Philadelphia and the prototype 2 is also in Philadelphia for testing.

On the ALC 42 Locomotive – There are 4 in Wilmington – 2 more are expected to ship there shortly.

On the intercity passenger rail trains – they continue preliminary design review.

**7.
Update: Working Group on Weight Issues – Jeff Gordon, FRA:**

On 12-9-21, Jeff Gordon, FRA, reported that he has not yet rescheduled the next call. He has been “swamped” with work, expects to schedule a call soon.

**8.
Update: Document Control Management - Tammy Krause:**

On 12-9-21, Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes:

Document Control is still working on the DMU specification update. The review board for the specification will meet on Monday to review Larry Salci's report, and hopefully will recommend approval of the changes at the Executive Board meeting of 12-14-21. I continue to meet with the technical writer to keep her up to date with the proposed changes.

Asked by George Hull about the status of the Trainset specification re-write/reformat, Tammy said it was ready to go.

Steve Hewitt then asked what the process would be for approval of the Trainset re-write, Tammy stated that since there were no additional technical changes – those had already been adopted through the full MGEC process – the next step would be for the Executive Board to approve the re-write. Steve asked if it would be ready for consideration by the Board before the end of the year so that the initial update of the Trainset specification could be completed and ready for distribution upon request? Tammy said she thought it would be and would check with the technical writer.

Steve noted that there were two Board meetings left this year – 12-14-21 and 12-28-21, and he would like to have this process completed in that timeframe so that the next issue of discussion car body material changes for the DMU and Trainset specifications could begin from that point.

Tammy stated that she thought it could be done in that timeframe.

**9.
NGEC Annual Meeting – Steve Hewitt:**

The meeting will take place in-person on 2-25-22 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill Washington, DC. Arrangements will also be made for those who are not able to attend to participate virtually.

A DRAFT agenda will be discussed with the NGECE Executive Board on its call next week (12-14-21)

A meeting with AASHTO to discuss/coordinate the various meetings that will take place the week of 2-21-22 is scheduled for 12-13-21 and Steve Hewitt will participate.

Right now, the intent is to hold the meeting in-person, but in deference to travel concerns due to COVID issues, the Chair would like

to also allow for access to the meeting virtually if those capabilities can be arranged.

10. Developing the NGEN Technical subcommittee Annual meeting Presentation – George Hull:

Steve Hewitt reminded George that he would be expected to develop and present a Technical subcommittee progress report PowerPoint for the Annual Meeting. George said he was aware and would like to ask states to provide pictures of equipment for inclusion in his presentation.

Steve said that it would be good to raise that at the Board meeting next week when the states are on the call.

11. Other – All:

Jeff Schultz raised the question of a hybrid locomotive “in the offing” and wondered what the NGEN’s role would be.

A broader discussion ensued with regard to various alternative propulsion types being developed and what, if any, role would the NGEN have.

Several suggestions were made – including: creating a document to help standardize terminology and recognition of various technologies, survey the industry about what technologies are out there and/or conduct a scan of the state of the industry regarding propulsion.

Jack Madden also noted the fact that there was at one time a Technology Task Force (2011 timeframe) and its work can be found on the NGEN website.

The discussion did not result in a solution or immediate action – but is a discussion that will be revisited going forward.

12. Adjourn:

With no other business forthcoming on today’s call, George Hull adjourned the meeting at about 3:40pm.

Next Tech subcommittee Call: 12-23-21– 3:00pm Eastern

Decisions and Action Items

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Update:

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Maintaining Industry Participation List: There are about 200 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.

Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 12-9-21:

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Document Control Update -10-28-21:

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Working Group on Weight Issues as of 12-9-21:

On 12-9-21, Jeff Gordon, FRA, reported that he has not yet rescheduled the next call. He has been "swamped" with work but expects to schedule a call soon.

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 – 1-6-21

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.

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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.

Update:

On 12-9-22, Chairman Hull asked that this effort be assigned to the Electronics on Trains Working Group as he believes it is the best suited working group to address this topic.

Tammy Krause will inform Team Leader, David Brabb on the next Working Group call.

Electronics on Trains Working Group:

David Brabb provided the following update for inclusion in the 10-28-21 minutes which Steve Hewitt read into the record:

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Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement –12-9-21

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Ray Hessinger reported that Metro-North has approved all IDR documents. Siemens has begun production and submittals of PDRs.

Next Update: 1-6-22

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

As of 12-8-21, this procurement remains in the "cone of silence" period.

Next Update: As appropriate

Amtrak Equipment Procurement as of 12-9-21

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Next Update: 1-6-22

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

NGEN 2022 Annual Meeting:

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Next call: 12-23-21

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://stephenhewitthewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>

by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 126-073-1531

12-9-21

The agenda for the meeting is below:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 10-28-21 | George Hull |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement | Gurleen Boparai |

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 7. Update: Working Group on Weight Issues | Jeff Gordon |
| 8. Document Control Management | Tammy Krause |
| - Status: DMU Update | |
| - Discussion/next steps Trainset Specification Rewrite timeline for Tech SC consideration | |
| - Developing Annual Meeting Document Control progress report and a look ahead for 2022 | |
| 9. NGEC 2022 Annual Meeting – 2-25-22 | Steve |
| 10. Developing the NGEC Technical subcommittee Annual Meeting Presentation | George |
| 11. Other | All |
| 12. Review this meeting: | Steve Hewitt |
| 13. Adjourn | George Hull |

Next call – 12-23-21