

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

MAY 23, 2013

3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Mario Bergeron, Chair S305 Technical subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: Mario Bergeron, Dale Engelhardt, Tammy Krause, Vincent Brotski, Andrew Wood, Kevin Kesler, Nico Lindenau, Jack Madden, (Jack also as proxy for Stan Hunter) Curtis McDowell, Jeff Schultz, (Jeff also as proxy for Art Peterson) Phil Meraz, (Phil also as proxy for Ron Adams) Kevin Lawson, Steve Hewitt Industry Participants: Al Bieber, Al Engel, Steve Fuhrman, Jonathan Michel, James Michel, Lew Hoens, Richard Curtis, Josh Coran, Steve Morrison, Bill Saddler
ABSENTEES	<i>Dave Warner, Darrell Smith, Michael Burshtin, Greg Gagarin, Melissa Shurland, Devin Rouse, Charles Bielitz, Ryan Swick, Jeffrey Gordon, Michael Coltman, Brian Marquis, Anand Prabhakaran, Stan Hunter, Camren Cordell, Allan Paul, Charles Poltenson, Art Peterson, Ron Adams, Melissa Wilbers, Larry Salci, Shayne Gill</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.

Chairman Mario Bergeron, Amtrak, called today's conference call 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 – Mario Bergeron:

Mario Bergeron provided a brief overview of today's meeting agenda. Of note, Mario pointed out that the subcommittee is interested in the progress of the Diesel-electric locomotive procurement, in particular, because as IDOT moves it to the RFP stage, the Technical subcommittee will begin work on developing the Dual Mode Locomotive specification which will be the last specification.

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 **217** registered industry participants.

Requesting Backgrounder educational document: AASHTO has completed a third printing of the Backgrounder. Distribution has been widespread and the document is very well received. Two additional educational documents are being designed by AASHTO. 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 NGECC Backgrounder document. Please provide a mailing address and the number of copies being requested. **Status:** Backgrounders remain available and additional printings will be done by AASHTO as needed. Orders have continued to come in.

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:** Previously, Melissa Shurland reported that the final draft is under review. She is awaiting industry input and, once that has been completed, the report would be ready for distribution shortly thereafter. No specific timetable has been set. Melissa reported today that input is still coming in but she anticipates the report should be ready shortly.

Updating ECP Standards: Status: Paul Jamieson briefed those on the call and provided the following update on ECP Standard Development for inclusion in the minutes. Paul also announced that he was now working with Interfleet, Inc. but would remain as the lead in this effort. **Status:** There is nothing new to report on this

activity this week.

Review of APTA and NGEC Standards: This effort (not an official NGEC effort) will continue with Kevin Kesler, FRA, in the lead. Interested participants who have not received the spreadsheet should contact Kevin Kesler at kevin.kesler@dot.gov. Input from the first call (held March 27, 2013) should also be sent to Kevin Kesler, and any one who was not on the first call, but is interested in getting involved should contact Kevin. A follow-up call will take place on May 20, 2013 at 10:30am EDT. **Status:** Although this is not a formal NGEC activity, we have been tracking it as an action. The most recent call took place on May 20, 2013.

Kevin Kesler, FRA provided a brief update on this Non NGEC effort, stating that the May 20th call was successful and well attended. Since the call, a series of emails have been exchanged providing information. Kevin noted that the intention of this effort is to gather information and pass it along to the NGEC Executive Board as well as the APTA CEO's. Kevin anticipates getting the information compiled and distributed – possibly by the end of this week.

4.

Approval of the Minutes of the May 9, 2013 Technical subcommittee call – Mario Bergeron:

On a motion offered by Kevin Kesler, FRA and a second by Jeff Schultz for IDOT, the Minutes of the May 9, 2013, conference call meeting of the Technical subcommittee, were approved without objection.

5.

Report from the Accessibility Working Group (AWG) – Kevin Kesler:

- a. Review Revised DRAFT Guidelines- ADAAG Applicability to Passenger Rail

In the absence of Melissa Shurland, Kevin Kesler, FRA, reported that the most recent document sent out includes all comments received.

Mario Bergeron provided the history of the guideline document development, and the timeline that it has been on. After an initial draft was distributed and comments were submitted, the comments were included in a revised document, and distributed for additional review and comment by members of the Technical subcommittee. The extended comment period ended on May 16, 2013 and on May 18, 2013 Steve Hewitt sent out the final draft with all comments included.

Mario Bergeron asked if there were any comments or questions from those on the call today. Hearing none, he outlined the next steps. On behalf of Chairman Bergeron, Steve Hewitt will provide the latest version of the Guidelines for potential ADAAG Applicability to Passenger Rail to Bill Bronte (Executive Board Chair) and the other members of the Executive Board today, and ask that Bill include this topic as an agenda item for next week's (Tuesday, May 28, 2013) Executive Board conference call. Steve will also ask Bill to be ready to organize the Accessibility Policy Group (APG) and ask that they begin a review of the Guidelines document.

Kevin Kesler stressed the point that "the guidelines are not meant to be recommendations, they are observations".

The APG would be the body to potentially make recommendations back to the Board following its review of the guidelines.

Mario agreed – "it is a guidance document only."

Jonathan Michel, Rail Plan, asked if there was a point of contact for the APG. Steve Hewitt explained that the APG has not organized itself at this point. The members were named several months ago, but this will be their first assignment, so they have not met yet or established their internal structure. Steve agreed, once the APG has organized and named a point of contact, to provide subcommittee members with that information.

- b. Status: Restroom Configuration effort:

Kevin Kesler reported that the effort to get permission for Amtrak and LTK to come to agreement on a non-disclosure so that the Amtrak drawings can be used "cannot materialize". The effort, however, will go forward, "and we will deal with it."

**6.
Update: Document Control – Dave Warner/Steve Hewitt:**

As Dave Warner was unavailable today, he submitted the following report for inclusion in today's minutes, and asked that Steve Hewitt read it into the record:

"Details and coordination among Casamar Group, AASHTO, and me for managing the technical writing support provided by Camren Cordell, have been completed. Camren has begun to pick up where tasks were left off last autumn—yes, shockingly, it has been that long—with finishing up the final version of the initial release of the DMU specification, followed by the Single Level Revision A."

**7.
Status: Locomotive Procurement – Steve Hewitt for IDOT:**

In his absence, Art Peterson provided a brief update on the status of the diesel-electric locomotive procurement to Steve Hewitt and asked that he read it into the record:

"Progress continues to be made on all aspects of the RFP package including price proposal, terms & conditions, etc. An update call with FRA was held last week (week of May 13, 2013). FRA assistance in a number of areas will be provided."

Progress Report: Digital Trainline Communication – Dale Engelhardt:

Dale Engelhardt, Amtrak, reported that Amtrak is evaluating Digital Train line communications, and he has named Tammy Krause to lead the effort. Amtrak Marketing and IT will be involved in the effort as well.

The group is tasked with identifying existing Digital Train line communications in the US and Europe. By looking at existing systems, the intent is to identify a more universal system for passenger cars in the US. It will be exclusively for passenger interface at this time and will look at operational controls at a later date. Dale has, in fact, specifically instructed Tammy and her team to "not deal with the operation issues at this time."

They will look at systems including such items as Wi-Fi, car to car support, and fixed messaging on display on board – car to car.

Steve Hewitt asked if this topic will be a standing agenda item for once a month to provide a progress report.

Dale replied that he believed once a month would be adequate.

Kevin Kesler, FRA, noted that "this is a very important activity and is the future." He went on to express the view that it is important to identify available technology, what it will do in the future and what are the requirements.

Kevin went on to note that there are several types to look at such as:

High speed - engine control

Monitoring

Door locks

And more...about five levels Kevin surmised.

"It would be", Kevin continued, "a good idea to identify all of the requirements for train line communication functions." Kevin volunteered FRA support in helping to "capture all requirements and to do a matrix of what can be done and what has been done."

Dale Engelhardt thanked Kevin for his offer of assistance and noted that "we have looked at and pulled up some European specs, and we are also looking at systems that are installed in the US...what they are and what the system can handle." He emphasized "It is right to do it, and it is the right time to do it...when ready we will take advantage of Kevin's offer."

Kevin asked if this effort was an NGEC effort or an ad hoc effort, and noted that utilizing industry members would also be of great value.

Dale commented that "right now it is an Amtrak activity where I thought it would be good to bring in the NGEC as

well, but it is not a formal 305 activity.” He added, “it can be a 305 activity if the chair wants it to be, for now it is for informational purposes.”

Kevin Kesler stated, “I would propose that the subcommittee assign this to one of the Technical working groups as a formal Technical subcommittee activity.”

Dale Engelhardt, did not disagree, and added that he has received a number of emails from industry members offering various systems, etc.

Mario Bergeron asked that Steve Hewitt include this discussion in the minutes of today’s call, and, as a part of the minutes, “invite interested industry members to volunteer for this effort, and depending on the response, we may include it as a formal subcommittee assignment.”

Mario noted, too, that, Steve Hewitt should highlight this activity and the invite to industry members in the Action Items matrix that is circulated with all minutes.

All those interested in volunteering to participate or provide information on this activity should send an email to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

Tammy Krause, Amtrak, suggested that, if it is to be an NGEC effort, the electrical technical working group would be an appropriate place for it.

Mario appreciated the suggestion, but emphasized that it is important to see what the response is first and then determine how to handle it.

Bobby Doyle, Progress Rail, suggested that if “we think it will be a PRIIA spec, there should be a way to formalize the process, because changes will occur.”

Mario Bergeron agreed, and reiterated “if we get responses we can progress it forward.”

Bobby Doyle agreed, “walk before we run, see what kind of response we get” and then go from there.

Again Mario commented in agreement. There are a number of ways this can go – as an Amtrak activity, as an NGEC technical subcommittee activity, or something in between. It all depends on the response we get to asking for volunteers to participate in the effort.

It was agreed that this would be an agenda item for the next subcommittee call, where there will be a discussion of the response to the request.

Adjourn:

With no further business to come before the subcommittee, today’s conference call meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:55 pm EDT.

Next conference call – June 6, 2013 – 3:00pm EDT

Decisions and Action Items

Review of APTA and NGEC Standards: This effort (not an official NGEC effort) will continue with Kevin Kesler, FRA, in the lead. kevin.kesler@dot.gov . The follow-up call took place on May 20th. Once input has been compiled, the information will be passed along to the APTA CEOs and the Executive Board of the NGEC.

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. The report is still under review by the industry but should be completed shortly.

The Trainset Revision A Summary Sheet is in process, no definitive date set for release of the summary sheet to the TSC members. The Bi-level Car Revision D is on hold until the trainset Rev A summary sheet is completed.
The Guidelines for Potential Applicability of ADAAG to Passenger Rail has been finalized at the Technical subcommittee and will now be distributed to Chairman Bill Bronte and the Executive Board members along with a request that the APG be organized to review the document. Bill will also be asked to have this topic as an agenda item for the next Board call – May 28, 2013.
As soon as the APG has organized itself, and has determined a point of contact, Steve Hewitt will inform the Technical subcommittee members.
Digital train line communication: Members of the industry interested in volunteering to participate in this effort are asked to let Steve Hewitt know via email to shewitt109@aol.com . If there is a good response, the activity may become a formal NGEC Technical subcommittee activity whereas it is currently an Amtrak activity. This will be an agenda item for the next subcommittee call – June 6, 2013.
Updating ECP Standards: remains as a standing action item. The next status teleconference is scheduled for June 14 at 11:00 AM.
Restroom configuration: The use of an Amtrak drawing will not materialize due to non-disclosure agreement issues. The effort will proceed with LTK developing something close to the Amtrak drawing.

ATTACHMENTS



PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting

May 23, 2013

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 May 9, 2013 Mario Bergeron
5. Report from the Accessibility Working Group Melissa Shurland
 - c. Follow up discussion/review of AWG proposed Guidelines-part 38 & ADAAG's applicability to passenger rail
 - d. Status: Restroom Configuration effort
6. Document Control update Steve Hewitt for Dave Warner
7. Status/Update: Locomotive Procurement Steve Hewitt – (update provided by IDOT)
8. Progress Report: Digital Trainline Communication Dale Engelhardt
9. Review this meeting: Steve Hewitt
 - a) Decisions
 - b) New Action Items

***Technical Sub Committee Conference Call Meeting:
Thursday May 23, 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: 6-6-13 at 3:00pm EDT