

# SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

MAY 9, 2013

3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Mario Bergeron, Chair S305 Technical subcommittee</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Core Team Members:</b> Mario Bergeron, Dave Warner, Darrell Smith, Andrew Wood, Vincent Brotski, Tammy Krause, Melissa Shurland, Jeff Gordon, Stan Hunter, Curtis McDowell, Jeff Schultz, Charles Poltenson, Jack Madden, Art Peterson, Phil Meraz, Ron Adams, Melissa Wilbers, Steve Hewitt <b>Industry Participants:</b> Paul Jamieson, James Michel, Tom Hunt, Robert Doyle, Al Engel, Fran Nelson, Joe Moore, Jon Holbrook, Joshua Coran, Steve Morrison, Lew Hoens
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<i>Dale Engelhardt, Greg Gagarin, Anand Prabhakaran, Charles Bielitz, Nico Lindenau, Ryan Swick, Brian Marquis, Camren Cordell, Allan Paul, Jack Madden, Kevin Lawson, Michael Burshatin, Larry Salci, Kevin Kesler, Devin Rouse, Charles Bielitz, Michael Coltman, 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](mailto:Shewitt109@aol.com)**

2.

**Review of the Agenda – Mario Bergeron:**

Mario Bergeron provided a brief overview of today's meeting agenda.

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 **216** 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](mailto: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:** A number of more requests have come in for copies of the backgrounder. Keep them coming. Note: The Backgrounder has been revised to add the Vision statement to its cover, and has now undergone a fourth and a partial fifth printing. Over 400 were distributed this past week at the AASHTO Spring Meeting.

**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:

*"The status call was held on April 26 and these items reported upon by the various team members:*

Administrative Tasks

*APTA and AAR are working upon a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which addresses the utilization of the AAR 00 S4200 ECP standards and establishment of the APTA representation on the AAR committees as a liaison effort.*

*FMECA Statement of Work (SOW) is in preparation for solicitation of proposals for preparation of the safety analysis.*

*APTA is working with the FRA to be the contracting agency for the safety analysis.*

*FRA status report update meeting will be held on May 31 at the APTA offices in Washington, DC.*

Technical Tasks

*Draft performance standard based on AAR S-4200 has been completed and forwarded for the working group review and comment. A conference call will be scheduled to review the submitted comments.*

*26C performance testing will be scheduled to assure that the emulation operation is compatible with the existing pneumatic performance. This testing will be based on a single car test rack and will be jointly conducted between KB-NYAB and Wabtec .*

*Cabling standard based on AAR S-4200 was reviewed and the final draft is scheduled for completion prior to June 14.*

*The technical task subgroup was requested to develop a schedule for the review and updating of the other AAR ECP documents.*

*Next status teleconference is scheduled for June 14 at 11:00 AM.*

**Review of APTA and NGEN Standards:** This effort (not an official NGEN 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](mailto: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 at an as yet undetermined date and time, but Kevin anticipates that it should take place around the third week in May. He will inform Steve Hewitt as soon as he has a date for the call. **Status:** Jeff Gordon noted that he and Kevin Kesler are assembling comments received to this point, and looking at May 20<sup>th</sup> as the next call date. They will work with Steve Hewitt to coordinate the time for the call. This will be taken up off line.

*NOTE: This call has now (as of May 10<sup>th</sup>) been set up. It will take place on May 20<sup>th</sup> from 10-30am to 11:30am EDT. An email appointment was sent out by Steve Hewitt, along with call in information, to all Technical subcommittee members and industry participants.*

**4. Approval of the Minutes of the April 25, 2013 Technical subcommittee call – Mario Bergeron:**

On a motion offered by Charlie Poltenson, NYSDOT, and a second by Curtis McDowell, for NCDOT, the Minutes of the April 25, 2013, conference call meeting of the Technical subcommittee, were approved without objection.

**5. Report from the Accessibility Working Group (AWG) – Melissa Shurland:**

- a. In depth Discussion/ Review: DRAFT Guidelines- ADAAG Applicability to Passenger Rail

Mario Bergeron introduced the topic of the review of the draft guidelines that have been prepared by members of the AWG. He noted that over the past two weeks there has been a comment period in which members of the Technical subcommittee have had an opportunity to review the initial document, and submit their questions and comments. A document with the comments incorporated was distributed earlier today,(around noon EDT) and now is a time for a more in-depth discussion of the document along with the comments provided.

Melissa Shurland, FRA, reported that there were not too many comments submitted considering the number of participants reviewing the document, but there were some of considerable significance.

Melissa noted that, in particular, two comments, submitted together, were of great importance for purposes of clarifying the effort, and the process going forward. These specific comments stated:

*"The document was intended to be a reference guideline only. Any effort to create DCRs from it is not in keeping with what the AWG task was. The Technical subcommittee (TSC) and then the Executive Board should just vote on the document acknowledging that it is a valuable reference to be used in the future. I do not support turning any of these recommendations into DCRs."*

*The TSC meeting minutes referenced possible changes to the bi-level specification being a cause for urgency; the DCR process now doesn't apply to the under-procurement process unless Caltrans and their consortium wish to initiate contract changes."*

After reading these comments, Melissa deferred to the Chair for process determination.

Chairman Bergeron asked Melissa "what is your recommendation?"

Melissa stated "we meant this as a reference document and did not see any" of the sections of the guidelines being used for "changing specifications without doing feasibility studies." Melissa reiterated "Before any of the items are to be considered for DCRs a feasibility study must be done." She added that "most of the comments actually note this when referencing the section of the document". The comment will say "not ready for DCRs yet."

When asked by the Chair how to proceed today, Melissa noted that some of the comments are specific to a section that one of the technical working groups would need to look at, and then report back to the subcommittee. Another option would be to have the full AWG react to the comments.

Mario noted that "our defined steps would be to have it go to the Accessibility Policy Group (APG).

He went on to suggest that "we accept the document here"... "and table it for further discussion in two weeks" on the next TSC call.

Mario then emphasized to Melissa, "you are correct, these cannot be reviewed in isolation from a technical or policy perspective." There needs to be interaction of both the AWG and APG. "We should not turn to the AWG to assess all of the items before engaging the APG." Mario continued, "constraints do make us have a sense of urgency especially with the bi-level procurement" and determining if it may want to make some changes.

Stan Hunter, Caltrans, noted "we are in the middle of a procurement, actually entering the design phase" and, in this document, "there isn't any correlation with recommended enhancements we have in the bi-level". He then asked if there was to be a discussion of the bi-level specification and the enhanced ADA items "we have put in it"?

Melissa responded "when we sent out the initial document we said it did not include the enhanced accessibility features included in the bi-level specification", it only "looked at Part 38 in regard to deficiencies and looked to ADAAG to fill in the blanks". She emphasized "this is a rudimentary review...there are many more items we should look at. The enhanced accessibility features are not included, because they are not in ADAAG".

Stan Hunter, again, noted that he "would like to include, in the comment section, the enhancements we already put in the bi-level so there remains a correlation."

Melissa also noted that this document includes items that may not be feasible on a rail car.

Stan commented for clarification, "so this is an informational document only?"

Melissa responded in the affirmative.

Stan Hunter did point out a place in the draft guidelines where it references Caltrans but should say Caltrans. He asked that this typo be corrected. Melissa agreed to take care of it.

Mario Bergeron summarized "this (discussion) clarifies the intent here. I prefer to bring in the APG for review and direction, next steps and prioritization...I am not suggesting, by any stretch, that we are opening these up for DCRs."

Ultimately, it was agreed that the comment period for the Technical subcommittee was to be extended with questions or comments to be submitted to Melissa Shurland by May 16<sup>th</sup> so that they can be compiled and disseminated to the TSC in advance of the next call scheduled for May 23, 2013.

It was also agreed that Steve Hewitt will report on the status of this issue and timeline in the action items review segment of next Tuesday's Executive Board call.

b. Status: Restroom Configuration effort:

Melissa Shurland reported that FRA counsel has determined that FRA cannot sign a non-disclosure agreement, (NDA) which would enable Amtrak to release some drawings to the AWG for the rest room effort. However, FRA is proposing that Amtrak enter into an NDA with LTK. If this happens, the Amtrak drawing could be used. Melissa will keep the subcommittee apprised as to the progress of this latest effort.

LTK continues to develop a single level drawing. Melissa met with LTK last week and provided guidance on some of the nuances such as where to locate the bathroom. Melissa noted "when we get the Amtrak drawing we will be in a better position to explain."

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

Dave Warner submitted the following report for inclusion in today's minutes:

*"I am coordinating details of day-to-day working with the technical writing support contract between AASHTO and Casamar Group. Once completed, Camren's first tasks will be to complete the final DMU specification, followed by the Single Level Revision A.*

*Work continues on Trainset Revision A and Bi-Level Revision D. There were some last-minute questions on a few trainset DCRs, and that, combined with difficulties to get technical working group members together, has delayed the submission of the Summary Sheet to the Technical Subcommittee. Document managers are working as best they can in between other job responsibilities to get this done, but for now, I'm no longer making estimates that don't get met. As reported two weeks ago, further action on Bi-Level Revision D DCRs is on hold until the Trainset Summary Sheet has been sent to the Technical Subcommittee."*

**7. Status: Locomotive Procurement – Art Peterson for IDOT:**

Art Peterson provided a brief update on the status of the diesel-electric locomotive procurement, noting that "progress is being made". Jim Lindsay and Interfleet Inc. are drafting the RFP. There continues to be coordination among Amtrak, FRA, and the states on various functional specification selections, and it seems like everything is on track for a release of the RFP sometime this summer.

**Progress Report: Digital Trainline Communication – Dale Engelhardt:**

Dale Engelhardt was unavailable for today's call, so this report was tabled until the next Technical subcommittee conference call.

**Other:**

Mario Bergeron brought up two additional items as information for the subcommittee:

On Monday, May 13, 2013 Amtrak will hold a public event at the Siemens Sacramento, Ca. plant where they will "roll out their next generation electric locomotive. Testing the new locomotive will then begin". Mario described this as "quite an exciting event from our perspective...we can now start our next steps to pull trains under the catenary on the NEC... it is, I believe, a noteworthy announcement."

On Saturday, May 11, 2013 it will be National Train Day. The celebration will be national with volunteers around the country at stations celebrating passenger rail. Right now passenger rail is beginning to get a lot of attention, with Amtrak showing record ridership. We should celebrate the increased interest in passenger rail and know that

we contribute to that interest "with all we do in 305 and within Amtrak."

**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 – May 23, 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](mailto:kevin.kesler@dot.gov) . Input from the first call (held March 27, 2013) should be sent to Kevin Kesler and Jeff Gordon, and any one who was not on the first call, but is interested in getting involved should contact Kevin.

The follow-up call will take place on May 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 – 11:30am EDT. Steve Hewitt has sent out a meeting notice to all TSC members.

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 AWG has developed guidelines in regard to Part 38 and its applicability to ADAAG. The guidelines were distributed to the Technical subcommittee on April 24, 2013. All members were asked to review the document and send any questions or comments to Melissa Shurland. Melissa compiled those comments and incorporated them into a revised document sent out to the TSC on May 9<sup>th</sup>. On the TSC call May 9<sup>th</sup> it was agreed that the TSC comment period is extended with comments or questions due to Melissa Shurland by May 16<sup>th</sup> and a discussion of the next version to take place on the May 23<sup>rd</sup> TSC call.

Restroom configuration: FRA counsel has determined that FRA cannot sign a non-disclosure agreement, (NDA) which would enable Amtrak to release some drawings to the AWG for the rest room effort. However, FRA is proposing that Amtrak enter into an NDA with LTK. If this occurs, the Amtrak drawing could be used. Melissa will keep the subcommittee apprised as to the progress of this latest effort.

Digital trainline communication: This is a new topic for Technical subcommittee action. Dale Engelhardt, Amtrak will own the action and report on progress on every other call of the subcommittee. Steve Hewitt will keep it as a standing agenda item for every other call. Dale Engelhardt will provide an update on the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Technical subcommittee call.

Updating ECP Standards: remains as a standing action item. Paul Jamieson gave a status update on today's call (see the minutes). The next status teleconference is scheduled for June 14 at 11:00 AM.


**ATTACHMENTS**



**PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting**

**May 9, 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 April 25, 2013   | Mario Bergeron   |
| 5. Report from the Accessibility Working Group   | Melissa Shurland |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. In depth discussion/review of AWG proposed Guidelines-part 38 &amp; ADAAG's applicability to passenger rail</li> <li>d. Status: Restroom Configuration effort</li> </ul> |                  |
| 6. Document Control update   | Dave Warner      |
| 7. Status/Update: Locomotive Procurement   | IDOT             |
| 8. Progress Report: Digital Trainline Communication  | Dale Engelhardt  |
| 9. Review this meeting:  | Steve Hewitt     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Decisions</li> <li>b) New Action Items</li> </ul>  |                  |

***Technical Sub Committee Conference Call Meeting:  
Thursday May 9, 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: 5-23-13 at 3:00pm EDT***

