

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER, 24
2015

3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Mario Bergeron, Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: Mario Bergeron, Jeff Gordon, Momoko Tamaoki, Allan Paul, Jack Madden, Marci Petterson, Jennifer Bastian, Phil Meraz, Troy Hughes, Michael Burshtin, Andrew Wood, Jonathan Hines, Jay Gilfillan, Art Peterson, Curtis McDowell, Larry Salci, Steve Hewitt, Dave Warner (Emeritus) Industry Members: Pat Sheeran, Paul Jamieson, Bill Slater, Steve Morrison, Al Bieber, Josh Coran, Richard Curtis, Tom Hunt, Lew Hoens, Tom Sisler, Al Engel Guests: Maria Wallace, Swati Deo, Derry Henrick
ABSENTEES	<i>Dale Engelhardt, Jason Biggs, Charlie Poltenson, Tammy Krause, Vincent Brotski, Nico Lindenau, Jeff Schultz, Devin Rouse, Anand Prabhakaran, Charles Bielitz, Michael Coltman, Brian Marquis, Patricia Llana, Shayne Gill</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.

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

After calling the roll, Steve 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 Meeting Agenda – Mario Bergeron:

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

Steve Hewitt noted that agenda item 8 should precede item 7 to preserve appropriate order and flow. Steve had inadvertently listed the two items in the wrong order. The Chair agreed to the change.

3.

Review of Action Items that are not on the agenda – Steve Hewitt:

Steve Hewitt reviewed the open action items, providing a brief update on only those items that were not to be specifically covered on the agenda:

Maintaining Industry Participation List: Status: There are currently **257** registered industry participants.

Requesting Backgrounder educational document: The updated Backgrounder remains available upon request. Please contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com if you want to receive Backgrounders. Provide the quantity requested and an address for sending them to.

Updating ECP Standards: This is an ongoing item which the Technical subcommittee is tracking – it is anticipated that status updates will take place on every other call.

Paul Jamieson provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes:

“Two of the four emulation cars have successfully completed the third 120 day inspection. The other two emulation cars are scheduled for their third 120 inspection but have been delayed due to extra service implemented by Amtrak to support the Pope's US visit.

The cab car electronic locomotive brake control modification to support the ECP testing is being finalized at the Amtrak Bear facility.

The test waiver request submitted to the FRA has been posted to the docket under FRA2015-0078. The comment period is ongoing.

The technical team met on September 17, 2015 in the APTA offices to review the schedule and activities required to

meet the Q3 2016 dynamic testing. The technical team reviewed the standards that need to be issued prior to the dynamic test. The test waiver committee will hold its first web meeting on October 1 to discuss the expectations / responsibilities through the testing phase of the project.

As a side note, APTA PRESS Mechanical committee will be establishing a brake equipment sub-working group. The brake equipment working group will address brake equipment and brake related concerns including updates to the existing PRESS mechanical safety standards and recommended practices."

4. Approve Minutes from September 10, 2015 – Mario Bergeron:

On a motion by Allan Paul, NCDOT, and a second by Jack Madden, NYSDOT, the Minutes from the 9-10-15 Technical subcommittee conference call meeting were approved without objection.

5. Document Control Update – Steve Hewitt for Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause was not available for today's call but asked Steve Hewitt to report that she continues to process DCRs for both the locomotive and the bi-level car procurements.

6. Specification 305-912 reference document changes – discussion –Jack Madden:

Jack Madden provided a background and context of the proposed changes to the PRIIA reference Specification 305-912.

Through the process of developing the Dual Mode specification, it was noted that several changes to 305-912 (Environmental conditions document) were needed to accurately reflect specifics of the area in which the locomotives were going to operate.

After some discussion with regard to these specific changes, a fair number of additional proposed changes, were suggested, including the need to change the cover page to include all PRIIA Rail Rolling Stock as opposed to the current title referencing the Bi-Level Rail Rolling Stock.

Eventually, there were too many changes suggested to make them on the fly during the meeting, and it was agreed that Tammy Krause would prepare an updated DRAFT of 305-912 Revision B for distribution to all Technical subcommittee members in advance of the 9-10-15 subcommittee call.

This task was accomplished and the revised document was sent to all subcommittee members just prior to the call on 9-10-15. During that call it was agreed that members should have ample time to review and comment on the revisions and thus it was agreed that consideration of approval would be tabled until the next call scheduled for 9-24-15 (today). Comments were to be submitted to Tammy Krause and Jack Madden.

Jack reported that no additional comments or suggested changes have been submitted since the distribution of the current DRAFT.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion/comments.

With no comments forthcoming, Chairman Bergeron called for a motion to approve and asked Jack Madden to provide the wording so that the motion would accurately identify the document under consideration.

Jack offered the following wording:

The motion is to approve PRIIA Specification 305-912 Operational and Environmental Conditions for PRIIA Rolling Stock Revision B.

7. Technical specification consideration of approval of revised Specification 305-912 Rev B – Mario Bergeron:

With the wording in place, the Chair called for a motion to approve.

Jeff Gordon, FRA offered a motion to approve PRIIA Specification 305-912 Operational and Environmental Conditions for PRIIA Rolling Stock Revision B.

The motion was seconded by Phil Meraz, Iowa DOT.

With no further discussion forthcoming, Chairman Bergeron asked Steve Hewitt to poll the voting members:

Mario Bergeron, Amtrak – aye
Jeff Gordon, FRA – aye
Momoko Tamaoki, Caltrans – abstain – having not had a chance to review the document
Allan Paul, NCDOT – aye
Jack Madden, NYSDOT – aye
Marci Petterson, CtDOT – aye
Jennifer Bastian, IDOT – aye
Phil Meraz, Iowa DOT – aye
Troy Hughes, MODOT – aye

With a quorum having been established and members present voting in the affirmative with the exception of California which abstained, Chairman Bergeron determined that consensus has been achieved and the motion is approved.

Steve Hewitt will send the revised document, as approved, to the NGEN Executive Board Chair and request that he begin the Board process for approval.

Chairman Bergeron expressed special thanks to Jack Madden, and the Locomotive team for all its work in getting the Dual Mode Specification developed and in revising specification 305-912 as well. A lot of work has gone into this and it is greatly appreciated.

This now closes the loop with the specification that is referenced in the Dual Mode Specification (and others) being updated and consistent. Mr. Salci who will be reviewing the Dual Mode Specification for compliance with the Requirements Document will see 305-912 referenced and as a part of his review would be looking at that spec as well, and now it will be consistent and accurate.

Mario then asked Mr. Salci to “remind us of your timeline for reviewing the Dual Mode Spec.

Larry commented that he had agreed to begin his review by the first week in October and expected that the process would be complete (including Executive Board consideration) in mid-November, 2015 - before Thanksgiving.

This timeline works for New York and, specifically for Jack Madden who retires from NYSDOT shortly after. Jack confirmed he will still be a NY State employee at the end of the timeline described by Mr. Salci.

Jack has put so much work into this effort, the Chair would like to see it adopted formally before Jack has retired from state service.

8.

Accessibility Working Group/RVAAC related issues update – Melissa Shurland:

In the absence of Melissa Shurland, FRA, there was no update from the Accessibility Working Group or on RVAAC related issues today.

9.

Update: Procurements:

Bi-Level Cars – Momoko Tamaoki:

Momoko Tamaoki, Caltrans, provided a brief update on the bi-level car procurement activities:

There is no update on FAIs since the last report. Two are scheduled for 9-29-30-2015.

With regard to the car shell compression issue – the contractors issued an analysis on 9-12-15. The results show that design and modeling were the major causes of the failure. The contractors will submit a proposed approach and strategy for the redesign on 10-1-15.

Design Review hot list open items – there are currently 10 open items remaining. The redesign effort, however, will result in a design review meeting to go over the re-design. This date has not yet been determined.

The schedule is now under review until the redesign approach and strategy is fully understood. It is hoped that a

schedule revision will be forthcoming next month.

RFCs – there are two remaining open RFCs.

Diesel-electric Locomotive – Jennifer Bastian:

" *Locomotive up-date:*

- a) *The invoices for milestone C (Invoice #7 & #8, associated with 12 ea. IDOT Option Locomotives) are being processed by IDOT*
- b) *FDR follow-up action items continue for closure. One item remains and we anticipate closure by next week, pending receipt of the balance of submittal drawings, which are expected next week, as well.*
- c) *The FAI for the diesel engine was held on 9/22 and went well. The FAI for the Prime Mover (Engine and alternator together) is planned for October in Sacramento.*
- d) *Manufacturing for the first locomotive carbody continues. The integral fuel tank and the underframe has been completed and welding of the truck frames continues. The truck frame FAI is planned for October 8.*
- e) *The follow-up weld process review was held on September 15-16.*
- f) *One more draft DCR has been processed by the JPEs. Now we have fifteen draft (DCRs) are being prepared and Rich Stegner has contacted Tammy Krause, to send a list re-capping the DCRs and will begin drafting DCRs asap.*
- g) *Follow up Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) continue working on an on-going basis for the action items from the AAR Standard vehicle qualification testing and acceptance. AAR's David Cackovic is the facilitator.*
- h) *The Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) planning team is reviewing logistics for fueling locations.*
- i) *The locomotive weight is 272,000 lbs (+/-) and the calculated P2 force is still within specified limits. Weight is being closely monitored."*

10.

Progress report: Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) / UREA Working Group - Jennifer Bastian:

Jennifer Bastian reported that the DEF working group has not met since the last subcommittee call. They are still working on fueling station locations and methodology. The next meeting of the working group is scheduled for 10-6-15.

11.

AAR Committee Update – Jeff Gordon:

Jeff Gordon, FRA, provided a background and context for the establishment of this committee which is an AAR committee led by Dave Cackovic, who is the lead for Standards development for AAR.

The committee was formed as new passenger equipment is to be coming on line on freight rail tracks, and the intent is to ensure and satisfy the safe operation of the new equipment on the host railroad tracks.

At the kickoff meeting a number of teams were formed to look at various aspects of equipment. The number of teams first established has now been reduced.

All teams have met at least once with the Vehicle Track Interaction (VTI) team being the most active.

The overall concept is to integrate the work of all of the teams into a single document.

Jeff will provide ongoing progress reports to keep the subcommittee informed.

AAR is coordinating the effort and FRA is participating.

12.

GAO-Overview/discussion of its S305 NGEC review effort – Maria Wallace/Derry Henrick/Swati Deo:

Swati Deo, GAO, opened the discussion, thanking the Chair for the opportunity to participate on today's call. Swati noted that listening today has been helpful to them.

Swati provided a background on the GAO and on this project in particular.

The GAO is an independent non-partisan agency which works for Congress. Its assignments/projects can come from several sources. This project came at the request of Representatives Capuano and Lipinski.

The request is to look at several items:

The FRA is responsible for the oversight of the multi-state procurements that are underway, and in ensuring compliance under the terms of the RFPs.

Ensuring sustained speeds of 125mph.

A review of the procurement process, and how FRA could improve its performance and accountability.

While the GAO team is still in the process of designing the study, it is endeavoring to understand the NGEC processes, and talk to as many participants as possible. The GAO has talked with several members already and has participated on an NGEC Executive Board call as well. The team is interested in learning more about the NGEC's technical subcommittee processes – and in understanding what is working well and how the process could be improved.

Swati mentioned that the GAO team would like to get some input from the industry as well as other members of the subcommittee, and would like to understand the different aspects of being a voting or non-voting member, as well as the technical expertise brought to the subcommittee activities.

She turned to the three questions that were sent to Steve Hewitt and subsequently distributed to all subcommittee members prior to the call today (below):

1. *Describe the roles and responsibilities of FRA, state, and industry representatives on the Technical Subcommittee. To what extent are there differences (e.g., roles of voting and non-voting members)?*
2. *How did the Technical Subcommittee decide on the key performance requirements for the bi-level car and locomotive specifications? For example, the diesel-electric locomotive requirements document lists performance goals, such as developing a vehicle suitable for operation up to 125 mph and fuel capacity of 1800 gallons.
 - a. *How were differences in opinion on the specific elements included in each technical specification resolved?**
3. *In your view, what has worked well with the processes to develop and review technical specifications? What, if any, issues have been identified and what improvements could be made?*

Chairman Bergeron asked if the GAO team was expecting to get answers to these questions today.

Swati noted that they would like to get some input, but if members would like to submit responses in writing that would also be fine. She would defer to the Chair as how to best proceed.

Chairman Bergeron commented that "we have been at this (the NGEC) since 2010" and it may be helpful for the GAO team to talk to Steve Hewitt "to break the ice" and "go over the basic structure of the Committee," and then, potentially follow up with interviews with the Technical subcommittee's working group chairs.

Steve Hewitt mentioned that he was interviewed by the GAO already and has had ongoing interaction with them via email providing information on the NGEC structure, voting procedures, document management processes etc.

Steve noted, however, that the NGEC is a complex organization and learning about it and comprehending all aspects in one interview probably is not reasonable to expect, and that he would be more than willing to talk some more to the team and to provide any additional information they need.

Steve agreed that the working group chairs could certainly provide additional information and some details on the technical aspects of the activities of specification development as well as on document management issues.

When asked if all of the questions submitted by the GAO would be well answered by the working group leaders, Steve said that parts of those questions could be answered by the working groups, but the policy level information would come from the Board. Referencing question #1, Steve noted that he would be able to provide the general description of the differences in voting and non-voting members and the roles and responsibilities as identified in the NGEC By-Laws and Operating procedures.

Steve noted that some of the points in the other questions could be answered from several perspectives. He reminded the GAO team that the NGEC Executive Board sets the policies and "owns" the Requirements documents. Thus policies such as going to speeds of up to 125 mph would be a Board decision.

Mario Bergeron explained that he Requirements documents are and the requirements within them become the

charge of the Board to the Technical subcommittee as they develop vehicle specifications. The Technical subcommittee develops the specifications based on the requirements identified by the Board in the Requirements documents.

He added that system and subsystem performance requirements were a function of the specification writers and responses would depend on the level of detail the GAO wanted.

Mario reiterated, "you are welcome to talk to Steve more and with the working group leaders as well" providing they agree. Steve can work with you and provide you with contact information.

Mario also extended an invitation to the GAO team to come back to attend future subcommittee calls "at some frequency that works for you"... "to check in on how we are doing with you."

Maria Wallace, GAO, thanked the Chairman and noted that they hope to talk to many of the players and the various types of members as they proceed.

Maria asked Larry Salci, consultant to the NGEC – especially with regard to the Specification Review process, if he would be available for an interview. Larry said he's be pleased to talk with the GAO team, and contacting him by email would be the best way to arrange a call. Maria has Larry's email information from the NGEC member list provided by Steve Hewitt previously, and they will reach out to Larry.

Mario also suggested that Steve Hewitt provide the contact information for Tammy Krause, Amtrak, who serves as he Revision Control Coordinator for the NGEC.

Steve agreed to provide that information as well as info for the working group chairs as needed, and, he can, potentially assist in arranging calls between the GAO and working group leaders.

It was agreed that the GAO will follow up with Steve Hewitt on several fronts – including making arrangements for being on the agenda of a future Technical subcommittee call(s) probably in a few months (GAO's timeline), and answering any questions or providing clarification on any questions the GAO may have as they progress their study efforts.

**13.
Other Issues – All:**

Jack Madden, NYSDOT, raised the issue of the PTC implementation deadline (12-31-15) and expressed concern that if the deadline is not extended by Congress, freight railroads will shut down by 1-1-16, as will commuter rail operators.

Jack asked Mario what Amtrak would do.

Mario responded that "On the NEC, where we own most of the track, we are ready. On tracks owned by the host railroads, conversations are taking place."

Adjourn: With no other issues to come before the subcommittee today, at approximately 3:56PM Eastern, Mario Bergeron adjourned today's Technical Subcommittee conference call meeting.

Next Call: October 8, 2015 – 3:00pm Eastern

Decisions and Action Items

RVAAC: RVAAC presented its recommendations for improved access on rail vehicles to the Access Board on July 29, 2015. Melissa will keep the Tech SC apprised as deliberations conclude. (Ongoing)

Updating ECP Standards: remains as a standing action item and as activities occur. A report was provided today and Paul Jamieson will continue to provide status updates to the subcommittee. (Ongoing)

Maintaining Industry Participation List: This remains an ongoing action item. There are currently **257** registered industry participants. (Ongoing)

Backgrounder educational document: The updated Backgrounder remains available upon request. Please contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com if you want to receive Backgrounders. Provide the quantity requested and an address for sending them to.

DEF Working Group: The working group continues to look at fueling station locations and delivery and handling methodologies. The next meeting is scheduled for 10-6-15.

The PRIIA Dual Mode (DC 3rd Rail) Passenger Locomotive Technical Specification – DRAFT Revision2 was approved by the Technical subcommittee on 8-19-15 and will be put in final form with changes as noted during today's meeting, by Tammy Krause. Once in final form, Steve Hewitt will transmit it to Eric Curtit on behalf of Mario Bergeron and the Technical subcommittee and request that the Board begin the process for formally adopting the specification. (Ongoing)

The Technical subcommittee on, 8-19-15, voted to recommend that the Executive Board make a change to the Dual Mode (DC 3rd Rail) Passenger Locomotive Requirements document Revision A to reduce HEP from 1000kw to 800kw in Section 2.6 Electrical.

On 9-1-15, the Executive Board approved the change to the Requirements document as recommended by the Technical subcommittee. Tammy Krause will finalize the document with the changes. (Ongoing)

Specification 305-912 reference document changes: The subcommittee on 8-19-15 agreed to a series of updates/revisions to the 305-912 document. Tammy Krause will capture those changes and revise the document accordingly. A draft revised document was distributed to the full Technical subcommittee and members were asked to review it and submit comments/changes to Tammy Krause in advance of the 9-24-15 Tech SC call.

On today's call (9-24-15) the Technical subcommittee approved PRIIA Specification 305-912 Operational and Environmental Conditions for PRIIA Rolling Stock Revision B.

It will now be transmitted to the NGEC Board Chairman to begin Executive Board approval process.

AWG report: Oregon State University and Amtrak have signed NDA and work will begin on the study of the drawings. (Ongoing)

AAR Committee: Next update due October 22, 2015.(Ongoing)

GAO project: The GAO team participated on today's call (9-24-15). Follow ups will be coordinated with Steve Hewitt. Some of those follow-ups include: responding to the three questions posed to the subcommittee – providing clarification on the subcommittee membership types, NGEC processes and structure; coordinating potential interviews with the subcommittee working group leaders; and scheduling follow up participation on technical subcommittee calls in the future.

ATTACHMENTS



The NGEC will provide national leadership in standardization, acquisition, financing and management of passenger rail equipment.

PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting

September 24, 2015

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 10, 2015 | Mario Bergeron |
| 5. Document Control Update | Tammy Krause |
| 6. Specification 305-912 reference document changes – discussion | Tammy Krause/Jack Madden |
| 7. Accessibility Working Group/RVAAC related issues update | Melissa Shurland |
| 8. Technical subcommittee consideration of approval of revised Specification 305-912 | Mario Bergeron |
| 9. Update: Procurements | |
| a. Bi-level Cars | Momo Tamaoki |
| b. Diesel-electric locomotive | Jennifer Bastian |
| 10. Progress report: Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) / UREA Working Group | Jennifer Bastian |
| 11. AAR Committee Update | Jeff Gordon |
| 12. GAO – Overview/discussion of its S305 NGEN review effort | Maria Wallace/Derry Henrick/Swati Deo |
| 13. Other Issues | All |
| 14. Review this meeting: | Steve Hewitt |
| a) Decisions | |
| b) New Action Items | |

***Technical Sub Committee Conference Call Meeting:
Thursday September 24, 2015 / 3:00 Eastern / 1-866-209-1307 / passcode 6486648#
Please call in a few minutes early so all is in attendance for Roll Call.
Thank you
Next Call – 10-8-15 at 3:00pm Eastern***