

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 30
2021

3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>George Hull, Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: <i>George Hull, Jeffrey Gordon, Art Peterson for Jennifer Bastian and for Gurleen Boparai, Ed Engle, Kirk Frederickson for Jason Biggs and as proxy for Mike Jenkins, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Marci Petterson, Steve Hewitt, Larry Salci, Brian Marquis, Blair Slaughter, Larry Salci, Tammy Krause, Industry Members: Richard Curtis, Rich Stegner, Pete Basile, Josh Coran, Paul Jamieson, Guido Vogel, Rich Bowie, Jack Madden, Edward Golitko, David Warner, Marco Weber, Steve Ojalvo, Matt Sibul, Glenn Gough, Paul Arnone, Martin Bloedt, Kevin Myles, Kevin Sudano, John Graham, James Michel, Stephen Mark, David Brabb</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Matthew Simmons, Gurleen Boparai, Troy Hughes, Ray Hessinger, Jennifer Bastian, Jason Biggs, Mike Jenkins, Mike Kraft, Mike Murray, Rebecca Anger, Charlie King, Melissa Shurland, Tarek Omar, 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, 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 575 electronic copies have been distributed to date.

Update: On 9-15-21, the NGENC Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) began its review an updating of the two-pager for 2022. The NGENC has a great story to tell, and many achievements have occurred in 2021 that should be highlighted in the next two-pager. The plan is to have it released by the NGENC Annual Meeting which will be held in-person on 2-25-22 in Washington, DC., at the Hyatt Regency on the Hill.

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.

University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study as of 9-2-21:

Hamid Sharif-Kashani was unavailable for this call, but previously had provided Steve Hewitt with the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes. Steve Hewitt read them into the record:

"We continue our work in studying the characteristics of 160 MHz RF band. We are currently working on design and implementation of a computer simulation model to evaluate a number of path loss predictions to be used in our end-to-end transceiver design. Here, we want to determine the performance of a transceiver design – the transmitter and receiver pair – and through different the RF channel conditions for 160 MHz Our focus is on a model that excels at representing different environment scenarios with high accuracy for this RF band. Hope to share our findings with the group next time. "

For any questions, please contact Hamid Sharif at hamidSharif@UNL.edu.

Next Update: 10-14-21

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.

Still waiting for the list of activities.

NGEC 2022 Annual Meeting:

The 2022 NGEN 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.

3.

Approval of the Minutes from 9-2-21 and 9-16-21– George Hull, Amtrak:

On a motion by Curtis McDowell, for NCDOT and a second by Ed Engle, Iowa DOT, the 9-2-21 and 9-16-21 minutes was approved as submitted.

4.

Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 9-30-21 –Art Peterson for Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans:

On 9-30-21, 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. The IDOT Café Car FDR is in the closeout stage with action items being addressed.

The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is in process in Germany and the compression test report is in work. FAIs for cab car Engineer's seat and windshield occurred on September 22.

94 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT has conditionally accepted 8 coach cars. The 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:

As of 9-20-21:

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

6.

Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull, Amtrak:

On the Long-distance Locomotive procurement there are two in Wilmington doing testing. Another one is ready to ship, and one is behind that.

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

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.

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

Complete the Review of the DMU Specification DCRs:

Tammy Krause summarized where the subcommittee review left off on the last call (9-16-21).

Initially, it was thought that Aluminum was not permitted under the DMU requirements document. The thought was that it required stainless steel. However, research has confirmed that the requirements document did not call for a specific material but left that to the Technical subcommittee for each of the NGEN specifications. It does, however, call for a 40-year life of the car body. The DMU specification does allow for alternative materials to be used if allowed by the buyer, but the 40-year life of the car body requirement would preclude Aluminum.

When presented with the concerns raised at the Technical subcommittee meeting of 9-16-21, over the proposed changes from Stadler which called for Aluminum car bodies, the Executive Board, on 9-21-21, directed the subcommittee to proceed with the adjudication of the remaining DCRs to advance the DMU update without the changes related to the Aluminum materials - for now. Since it would take a policy change by the Executive Board and a re-write of the specification to include Aluminum the Board may wish to take it up in 2022 but does not want this issue to prevent the current specification from being updated in accordance with current NGEN policy and compliance with the requirements document.

As directed by the Board, Tammy Krause, today, (9-30-21) proceeded to walk through the remaining DCRs in the structural section of the specification rejecting (for now) changes related to Aluminum.

After going through a fairly in-depth discussion on many of the remaining DCRs there were a number of the Stadler proposed changes that needed clarification. Stadler subject material experts for those specific changes were not available to respond to these requests for clarification on today's call. Stadler representatives on the call agreed to have the appropriate subject matter experts on the next call to provide clarification and respond to any questions.

With the allotted time for the meeting having been met, it was agreed that the call would end at this point, and the continuation of the adjudication of the remaining Stadler DCRs would resume on the next Technical subcommittee call (10-14-21).

Tammy Krause was asked by Steve Hewitt to update the DCR summary sheet to the point where the Technical subcommittee left off today (9-30-21) and to provide it to him for distribution in advance of the next call.

Steve Hewitt also suggested, and the Chair agreed, that once the adjudication of all of the proposed DCRs has been completed, Tammy Krause would be asked to prepare a final summary of the DCRs, and the decisions agreed to. Tammy would then send that final summary of changes to Steve Hewitt for distribution in advance of the following call at which point a vote could take place.

Adjourn:

With no other business forthcoming on today's call, George Hull adjourned the meeting at 4:01: pm.

Next Tech subcommittee Call: 10-14-21– 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.

Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 9-30-21:

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Document Control Update -9-30-21:

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

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

shewitt109@aol.com

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

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Next Update: 10-14-21

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement –9-30-21

As of 9-20-21 (report provided to the NGEC Executive Board:

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

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

As of 9-30-21, this procurement remains in the "cone of silence" period.

Next Update: As appropriate

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.

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

NGEC 2022 Annual Meeting:

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Next call: 10-14-21

ATTACHMENTS



Our Vision: The NGEC 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

9-30-21

The agenda for the meeting is below:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 9-2-21, 9-16-21 | George Hull |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement | Gurleen Boparai |
| 5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Locomotive Procurement | George Hull |
| 7. Update: Working Group on Weight Issues | Jeff Gordon |
| 8. Document Control Management | Tammy Krause |
| Complete the Review of DMU specification DCRS | |
| 9. Consideration of approval of the DMU summary of changes | George Hull |
| 10. Other | All |

11. Review this meeting:

Steve Hewitt

12. Adjourn

George Hull

Next call – 10-14-21