

# SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

DECEMBER 20,  
2012

3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Mario Bergeron, Chairman, S305 Technical subcommittee</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Core Team Members:</b> Mario Bergeron, Dale Engelhardt, Tammy Krause, Dave Warner, Vincent Brotski, Michael Burshtin, Andrew Wood, Kevin Kesler, Melissa Shurland, Stan Hunter, Curtis McDowell, Jack Madden, Art Peterson, Phil Meraz, Melissa Wilbers, Ryan Swick, Steve Hewitt, Larry Salci <b>Industry Participants:</b> James Michel, George Mekosh, Bill Saddler, Tom Hunt, Lew Hoens, Walt Stringer, Paul Jamieson
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<i>Darrell Smith, Greg Gagarin, Devin Rouse, Anand Prabhakaran, Charles Bielitz, Nico Lindenau, Michael Coltman, Brian Marquis, Camren Cordell, Allan Paul, Charles Poltenson, Kevin Lawson, Ron Adams, Shayne Gill</i>

## DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

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

Steve called the roll and it was established that a quorum was present.

As always, industry participants are asked to email a notification of their attendance to Steve Hewitt at [Shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:Shewitt109@aol.com)

### **Review of Action Items:**

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 **206** registered industry participants.

**APTA Standards update: Status:** Kevin Kesler previously had provided a brief update on the last call reporting that he and Martin Schroeder are working on defining the charge and establishing a review group. Kevin reported today that there was nothing new to report at this time.

**Updating ECP Standards: Status:** On the last call it was reported that a teleconference was planned for December 11, 2012 for a status review. Paul Jamieson provided the following report for inclusion in the minutes:

*"A Status call was held on 11 December 12 to review assignments and update directions for the various tasks.*

*Next teleconference is scheduled for Friday, 25 January 13 at 9:00 AM EST. If you want to be included in the group, please send an email to Jeff Gordon or Paul Jamieson.*

*Working group's website will be sponsored by APTA and should be available by mid-January. Only registered working group members will have access.*

*Preliminary FRA – APTA discussions will occur in January to define the process for equipment approval.*

*9 CFR 229 Subpart E has a notice in the Federal Register of 19 December 12 that extends the submittal date for safety critical equipment currently in-service or under development to 09 February 13 for consideration to not meet the new requirements in this subpart."*

**Executive Board Member Vision Statements:** At an appropriate time after the Board has reviewed and discussed its members' vision statements for the future of the NGEN, Chairman Bergeron will have an agenda item on a subcommittee call to provide Board feedback on the vision statements to subcommittee members. **Status:** The Executive Board met on December 11, 2012. Bill Bronte discussed the background and perspective he used

to develop a "strawman" vision statement, and gave an overview of comments received in reaction to his "strawman". Steve Hewitt was asked to send those comments out to all Board members and the members were given until COB on December 21, 2012 to provide additional comments. After this, Steve Hewitt and Bill Bronte will take the comments and using track changes develop a revised statement. It is intended that the Board will consider the revised statement for approval on the next Board call – January 8, 2013.

**Diesel-electric locomotives procurement update:** Kevin Kesler is keeping the subcommittee updated as to the progress of the locomotive procurement. On the last call Kevin reported that a lead state has not been determined as of yet, and emphasized that a lot of work is going on and progress is being made, but there is still more to be done. He will continue to keep the subcommittee apprised. Today Kevin noted that there still has not been a decision made, but work continues towards that end.

**Volunteers for technical support for assessment of accessibility recommendations: Status:** This is to be covered on today's agenda.

**The Twin Loop DCR proposal:** On the last call it was agreed that comments on the revised version were due to Dave Warner by COB on Monday, December 10, 2012. Once all comments were received, Dave Warner would send a final draft of the complete package (flow chart and text) to Steve Hewitt by cob on Tuesday, December 11, 2012. Steve will send it to all subcommittee members. On the December 20, 2012 Technical subcommittee call it is anticipated that a vote on approval of the proposal will be taken. **Status:** The revised text and flow charts were sent out on December 11, 2012 as agreed. Discussion and possible approval are on today's agenda.

**Comments on the Chief Counsel's Guidance distributed prior to the last call:** Comments were to go to Melissa Shurland and a number of AWG actions were identified (see below) and a status update is a part of today's agenda.

- Define the gaps in 49CFR part 38 – defining when the architectural standards apply to supplement 49 CFR part 38
- define the effort to get there
- define the help "we'll" need
- provide a skeleton of the framework

#### **Approval of the Minutes of the December 6, 2012 Technical subcommittee call – Mario Bergeron:**

On a motion offered by Art Peterson for Illinois DOT, and a second by Jack Madden, NYSDOT, the Minutes of the December 6, 2012, conference call meeting of the Technical subcommittee, were approved without objection.

#### **Report from the Accessibility Working Group (AWG) -Melissa Shurland:**

- a. Status: AWG "volunteers" for the Statement of Need  
Melissa Shurland reported that no one has contacted her about volunteering to assist in this effort. She urged members to review the Statement of Need and volunteer to assist. Melissa explained that "we need the support to help us better understand the feasibility and impacts."
- b. Status: Questions and/or comments received on the guidance  
Provided by the Chief Counsel in regard to using architectural standards  
  
Melissa reported that no one had contacted her in regard to the guidance issued. No questions or comments have been received.
- c. Status: progress made by AWG in:  
  
Melissa reported that the AWG has formed a smaller "core team" to look at applicability and will start first with part 38. The "core team" has 6 members and includes FRA and Amtrak "experienced folks".  
  
The team expects to complete the first part in time to present their findings at the Annual meeting.  
  
After further discussion and Chairman Bergeron's request that the Technical subcommittee review the presentation before it is given at the February 21, 2013 NGEC Annual Meeting, Melissa stated that she thought they would have an initial report completed by January 21, 2013 and would brief the Technical subcommittee on the next call after that. (February 2, 2013)  
  
Chairman Bergeron noted that he was somewhat surprised that no comments on the guidance had been submitted, but thought that it may be because the AWG will be looking at some of the aspects of it and

will provide a report, people may be waiting until then to comment.

Melissa expressed appreciation for Dave Warner for organizing this effort. She added that it would not have been possible without Dave.

**Update: Document Control – Dave Warner:**

a. General Update

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

*"Most importantly, Jacobs and Amtrak are in the process of discussing the contract to support Camren Cordell's continued participation as our technical writer. Hopefully we'll have an agreement by the next call.*

*Next week I'm planning to create DCRs in support of the Revision A of the Trainset specification to bring it up to the same level of revisions as our other specifications.*

*Otherwise I have nothing more to report. If you are interested in the current status of the other specifications, please look at the minutes from the Dec. 6 meeting."*

b. Review/Discuss Revised Accessibility "Twin Loop" DCR

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

*"The latest text and flowchart for DCR 100-004 was sent to everyone early last week. They had been successfully, and positively vetted by the FRA prior to being sent out. Since then, I have received only one comment from members of the Technical Subcommittee, and that didn't affect the content of the proposed procedure change. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I recommend we are ready to vote."*

Stan Hunter < Caltrans, asked "what document this DCR carries forward?" Dave Warner responded that it is not a vehicle specification it is process management.

Chairman Bergeron noted, "it's the concept of differentiating policy and technical issues pertaining to accessibility."

The Chair asked for questions or comments.

Kevin Kesler, FRA, noted he was happy with the proposal. He had had some earlier concerns which he expressed, but they have been resolved. He had wanted to be sure that if something was rejected it was made clear why. Rejections will now have guidance and "that's what we wanted to see."

Chairman Bergeron added "yes it sets grounds where the Technical subcommittee could reject a proposal."

Kevin Kesler added that it would not be possible to list all examples – "we won't know until we do it and have things run through the system. I fully support the proposal."

Jeff Gordon commented that another aspect of this that should be made clear to those who may not have followed it closely, is "the concept of the Accessibility Policy Group (APG)– which will be appointed by the Executive Board."

Kevin Kesler commented "good point – explaining it clearly – it separates policy from technical issues...with the Executive Board and the new APG handling policy and the Technical subcommittee focuses on the technical feasibilities."

**Consideration of approval of the Accessibility "Twin Loop" DCR – Mario Bergeron:**

With no further comments, Mario Bergeron called for a motion to approve the "so-called" Twin Loop proposal as

submitted – (the version dated December 11, 2012).

Jack Madden, NYSDOT, offered the motion to approve the DCR proposal for Twin Loop Accessibility dated December 11, 2012. The motion was seconded by Phil Meraz, Iowa DOT.

Steve Hewitt polled the voting members present or represented on the call:

Mario Bergeron, Amtrak – aye

Kevin Kesler, FRA – aye

Stan Hunter, Caltrans – aye

Curtis McDowell for Allan Paul, NCDOT – aye

Jack Madden, NYSDOT – aye

Art Peterson for IDOT – aye

Phil Meraz, Iowa DOT – aye

Melissa Wilbers, Missouri DOT – aye

With a quorum having been confirmed and all votes cast in the affirmative, Chairman Bergeron determined that consensus has been achieved and the motion carries.

The next step is that Steve Hewitt will send the approved version to the Executive Board and ask that it be placed on the agenda for the January 8, 2013 Board call for consideration.

**Status: Registering for the NGEC Annual meeting -Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt reminded all members of subcommittee (including industry participants) to send him an email of their intentions to attend the NGEC Annual meeting scheduled for February 21, 2013 from around 8:00am – 5:00pm Eastern at the 20 F Street Conference Center. Thus far approximately 50 attendees are registered – about 12 from the industry. The sooner, the better, for letting Steve know of your intentions to ensure appropriate head count.

All Hotel information has been sent out. The hotel is the Hyatt Regency – the number of rooms in the block is limited and the cutoff date is January 11, 2013.

**Other:**

Kevin Kesler reported to the subcommittee members that “metro link is buying 4 Tier IV compliant locomotives and following our (PRIIA) specification with some additions.”

Mario Bergeron commented “this is good news, we need volume.”

Jack Madden, NYSDOT, “Is it an NGEC spec?”

Kevin, “yes as I understand it they are using the NGEC spec as a baseline>’

Stan Hunter, Caltrans, commented that EMD had confirmed that fact.

Jack Madden asked what the top end speed was. The answer is 125 mph.

Jack then asked if Caltrans could piggy back on the Metro link procurement.

Stan Hunter, Caltrans, commented that "we are looking at it...it could be a starting point" He added that it was a good sign that "the industry is responding to the market and doing their engineering before an RFP goes out, and that has a huge impact... we (NGEC) are having a positive effect."

At this point Mario Bergeron noted that "this all reflects on the good year we have had – lots of good has come from our work... and we can look forward to more in 2013."

Mario then thanked all subcommittee members for their participation and support stating "your support helps us do what we do...your commitment is amazing!"

**Adjourn:**

With no further business to come before the subcommittee, today's conference call meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:50 pm Eastern.

**Next conference call – January 3, 2013 – 3:00pm Eastern**

**Decisions and Action Items**

Volunteers are still being sought for technical support for assessment of accessibility recommendations, especially in interior design and layout. Volunteers should reply to Melissa Shurland, based on the statement of need that has been circulated.

The Twin Loop DCR proposal version dated December 11, 2012 was approved by the Technical subcommittee. The next step is for Steve Hewitt to send it to the Executive Board and ask for it to be considered on its next call - January 8, 2013.

The AWG has formed a core team to look at applicability – primarily on part 38. A report will be completed by January 21, 2013, and the Technical subcommittee will receive a briefing and an opportunity to review it on the February 2, 2013 conference call of the Technical subcommittee. If approved, it will be presented to the Executive Board at the February 21, 2013 Annual Meeting.

Attendance at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual NGEC Meeting: The meeting will take place on February 21, 2013 at the 20<sup>th</sup> F Street Conference Center, Washington, DC. The Hyatt Regency Hotel has a block of rooms reserved for attendees. Information on the block of rooms was sent out previously. The cutoff date for reserving a room at the block rate is January 11, 2013.

For purposes of having a head count, it is important that members register their intentions to attend the meeting by emailing Steve Hewitt.


**ATTACHMENTS**



**PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting**

**December 20, 2012**

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 December 6, 2012  | Mario Bergeron   |
| 5. Report from the Accessibility Working Group  | Melissa Shurland |
| d. Status: AWG “volunteers” for the Statement of Need   | Melissa Shurland |
| e. Status: Questions and/or comments received on the guidance<br>Provided by the Chief Counsel in regard to using architectural standards | Melissa Shurland |
| f. Status: progress made by AWG in:   | Melissa Shurland |
| - Defining the gaps in 49CFR part 38 when the architectural standards<br>apply to supplement 49 CFR part 38                               |                  |
| - Defining the effort to get there and the help needed  |                  |
| - Developing a skeleton of the framework  |                  |
| 6. Document Control   | Dave Warner      |
| c. General Update   | Dave Warner      |
| d. Review/ Discuss Revised Accessibility “Twin Loop” DCR  | Dave Warner      |
| 7. Consideration of approval of the Accessibility “Twin Loop” DCR   | Mario Bergeron   |
| 8. Status: Registering for the NGEC Annual meeting  | Steve Hewitt     |

9. Review this meeting:
  - a) Decisions
  - b) New Action Items

Steve Hewitt

***Technical Sub Committee Conference Call Meeting:  
Thursday December 20, 2012 3:00 EST: 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: January 3, 2013 – 3:00pm Eastern**