

# SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

OCTOBER 23, 2018

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> <i>Eric Curtit, Eric Curtit also as proxy for Mike Jenkins, Charlie King, Ray Hessinger, Michael Lestingi, Amanda Martin, Amanda Martin also as proxy for Arun Rao, Jennifer Bastian for John Oimoen, Allan Paul, Tim Hoeffner, Kyle Gradinger, Brian Beeler II, <b>Support Staff:</b> Steve Hewitt, Jon Dees, Jeff Gordon, Mike Murray, Beth Nachreiner, Larry Salci, Michael Burshatin, Tammy Krause, Patrick Centolanzi, Shayne Gill</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> <i>Ron Pate, John Rosacker, Arun Rao, Mike Jenkins, John Oimoen</i> <b>Support:</b> <i>Jason Biggs, Strat Cavros, Byron Comati, Bernard Reynolds, Mike Murray</i>

## DECISIONS MADE

**1. Welcome –Steve Hewitt for Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:**

Chairman Curtit, Missouri DOT, opened the call and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

**2. Roll Call –Steve Hewitt, NGEC Program Manager:**

Steve Hewitt called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum

**3. Action items Review – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt noted that most open action items are covered under the agenda.

The status of action items not covered by today’s agenda:

**Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – as of 10-23-18:**

No change from the last update provided on 10-9-18. The next call will take place on 11-1-18 with an update to the Executive Board on 11-6-18.

- The group last met on 10-4-18
- The four section Team Leaders provided updates on their sections of the DRAFT being developed – great progress has been made with some teams as far along on their drafts as 80 % complete.
- Team Leaders will continue to work on their section DRAFTS.
- DRAFTS should be distributed for working group members to review and comment on in advance of the next call.
- Each Team leader will be asked to provide a status update on their progress on the next call – 11-1-18.
- Darrell Smith will continue to keep the group informed as his UK Best Practices project progresses.

Next Update 11-6-18

**Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 10-9-18:**

Metro-North is in the middle of the procurement process – it is ongoing. Qualification statements are due to Metro-North and they are in the process of reviewing those statements. He added that NYSDOT is not directly involved in the procurement and it is technically in lock down so Ray is unaware of who has responded. Once this is complete they will develop a short list of qualified firms and they will be provided with all documentation. There is no date announced for issuing the short list or responses to the RFP by those on the short list.

Next update 11-6-18

**4. Approval of the Minutes from the 10-9-18 Conference Call Meetings – Eric Curtit:**

A motion was offered by Allan Paul, NCDOT, and was seconded by Michael Lestingi, FRA, to approve the minutes from 10-9-18 as presented. With a quorum having been established and no objections or exceptions noted, Chairman Curtit determined that consensus had been achieved the minutes of 10-9-18 are approved as presented.

**5. Finance and Administrative subcommittee’s Annual Review of the NGEC By-Laws and Operating Procedures – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:**

Tim Ziethen reported that the annual review of the NGEC By-Laws was completed by Ray Hessinger and Steve Hewitt, and were approved by the FASC on its last call – 10-17-18, and have been distributed in marked-up form to all Board members.

a. Review of proposed changes/corrections – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:

Ray Hessinger provided a brief summary of what can best be described as one fairly substantive change that was missed last year in the By-Laws review (removing a reference on page one to the 514 subcommittee which has moved to SAIPRC) and several punctuation and formatting corrections.

b. Next Steps/Timeline – Steve Hewitt, NGEC Program Manager:

Steve Hewitt reported that the By-Laws require that the Executive Board have the proposed amendments/changes in writing 30 days in advance of a vote. The FASC approved the changes from the subcommittee level on 10-17-18 and Steve distributed the document with the revisions in track changes, to all Board members on 10-18-18. The Board can vote at the next meeting following the 30-day requirement. The date for the meeting following the 30-day requirement is 11-20-18.

**ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

**8.1 Submission and Consideration of Amendments**

*Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by any Committee member and must be submitted in writing to the Chair for consideration. The proposed amendments may be voted upon at the next Executive Board meeting of the Committee that occurs at least 30 days after the submission of the proposed amendment. The Chair shall distribute copies of any proposed amendments at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which such proposed amendment is to be voted upon.*

**8.2 Adoption of Amendments**

*Amendments to these Bylaws shall be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting members.*

**6. Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans:**

Kyle Gradinger provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (10-23-18):

*The three critical Cab Car DCRs (Carbody/Cab Construction, Cab Car Floor Height Transition, and Car Length Over Couplers) have been reviewed and discussed by the NGECC mechanical working group. Two DCRs (Carbody/Cab Construction and Cab Floor Height Transition) were approved by the working group on 10/18/18. The Car Length Over Couplers DCR has been approved by the working group contingent upon the NGECC Executive Board approval of the DCR approval procedural change being suggested by the working group.*

*System-level FDR approvals of the Carbody & Clearance, Water & Waste, HVAC, Gap Filler, Digital Communications, Diagnostic System, Double Sliding Step, Accessible Toilet Room, Safety Appliances and Brakes have been provided to SCOA/Siemens. Remaining actions for Lighting Systems, Trucks and Gangway are being completed with system level approval expected soon. Approval requests have been received for Couplers, Exterior, Trucks and Gangway. Caltrans submittals to FRA for Safety Appliance and Carbody are complete and under review. The package containing the Clearance Envelopes have been submitted to Amtrak for review and approval.*

*The first 8 carshells are in production at Siemens Sacramento Facility and carshell #1 has passed its FAI with minor findings requiring rework. Carshell #2 has undergone component integration and is awaiting final weld quality inspection. Carshells 9 through 12 are in the initial stages of construction with center sills completed. The expansion of the Sacramento production facility is in process and on target for a November completion.*

*The FAI process is underway and FAIs have occurred for the Carshell Complete, Digital Communication System and Battery Charger. Open items are being addressed and the FAIs are revisited for closure by the customer team as needed. The FAI for Lighting is scheduled for October 24 & 25<sup>th</sup> and the Floor Panels FAI is scheduled for November 15.*

## **7.**

### **Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurements – Charlie King, Amtrak:**

RFI – Amtrak engineering is working through the mounds of documents to come up with an RFP for cars.

RFP – Charlie reported that Amtrak is working its way through the RFP. Amtrak has a meeting today (10-23-18) with the FRA and also has items to present to Congress due to the size of the purchase.

No decision has been made on where to go in the selection process. The decision may come in mid-November. Charlie will keep the NGECC Board informed.

## **8.**

### **Update: Document Control – Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (10-23-18):

*There are currently 3 DCRs for the single level equipment being reviewed. Two of these DCRs have been accepted by their working groups. They are currently being reviewed by the entire Technical Subcommittee and will be discussed and hopefully voted on November 1st. These DCRs concern the floor height of the cab and the type of steel used in the cab manufacture.*

*The remaining DCR is more complicated, it concerns the length of the cab car. The mechanical working group is concerned that approving this DCR will lead to longer cars, in general, that will create track clearance issues in the future. Understanding though, that these 7 cab cars themselves are probably not going to cause an issue, could let the DCR be approved. To address this complicated issue the following suggestion has been made:*

*As you may know, the PRIIA spec process allows for changes to be made during the negotiation phase of a contract. The PRIIA specification has a revision level that is locked when the project goes to bid and can be changed during negotiations. Afterwards, the changes are evaluated by the Technical subcommittee and either accepted or rejected. The accepted DCRs are added to the next revision of the PRIIA spec.*

*There is no provision for this same process after the equipment is being manufactured. Jeff Gordon, FRA, and team leader for the Mechanical Working Group, is going to submit a DCR that will allow this process to be done during the manufacturing process. That will allow the length change to the Cab car in this build only, but the change will not carry through to future revisions of the PRIIA spec. For example, the build revision of the bi-level specification is C.4. Revision C was used for the procurement, changes made during the negotiation phase changed the level to C.2 and additional changes during design reviews changed it to C.4. That build specification is locked at C.4. Most of the changes in C.4 were submitted as DCRs and are incorporated in Revision D of the spec.*

Following Tammy's report, Patrick Centolanzi, FTA, asked more about the issue.

Jeff Gordon explained that the idea of the DCR is to avoid a “hodge-podge of geometry” and to create a DCR that would for what is going on after the manufacture of the equipment – it would allow acceptance of a DCR that does not promulgate on to the base specification.

Patrick Centolanzi stressed that his concern is that the gap (about 17” wider) could create a situation whereby the gap could be mistaken by someone who is visually impaired as a door way.

After fairly extensive discussions about whether this could be an issue, and an explanation from Tammy Krause that California will be running train sets with the coupler on the cab car used in emergency situations only.

Tim Hoeffner, Michigan, noted that is still may open up opportunities to marry two trains sets and then the gap could be an issue. Tim feels there needs to be measures taken to ensure ADA compliance.

Kyle Gradinger asked if the concern raised by Patrick is concern about passengers on the platform or on the train mistaking the gap for a door.

Patrick commented that his concern is for the passenger standing on the platform mistaking the gap for a doorway, and that with such a gap (potentially 3 feet) “we must accommodate the visually impaired”.

Eric Curtit, NGECC Chairman, interjected the point that this discussion should be taken up with the Technical subcommittee. The Executive Board, at this point, is discussing a process change, and it has not yet been fully vetted or formulated. Eric suggested that Patrick join the NGECC Technical subcommittee call and raise his concerns here.

Patrick responded that he feels his concerns have been heard.

## **9.**

### **Progress Report/Status updates: Charger Locomotives – Eric Curtit:**

a. Illinois/Mid-West States – Jennifer Bastian, IDOT:

Jennifer Bastian reported that the overall equipment delivery and performance of the new Charger Locomotives has been the best she has seen. She noted that it is her understanding that it has exceeded Amtrak’s expectations.

Operationally, it has been a good procurement.

One area of concern, however, is warranty support and parts availability. The Mid-West states are working with Siemens to correct this situation.

b. Washington State – Ron Pate/Jason Biggs:

Ron Pate and/or Jason Biggs were not available for the call and did not provide a report.

c. California – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans:

Kyle Gradinger agreed with Jennifer that the procurement has been a good one operationally. Caltrans’ concerns are similar to those noted by IDOT – warranty support – and parts availability. Overall, Kyle commented, - “operationally, when they are running, they work great”. He added that engineers enjoy the cab and the acceleration is great – “overall we are very happy with the operation.”

Kyle did mention that there are some glitches with the design of the snow plow – noting that California doesn’t need a snow plow and it is ultimately used for shopping carts and tumble weed which can be problematic under the current design.

d. Amtrak – Charlie King, Amtrak:

Charlie King, Amtrak, echoed the comments made by California and IDOT and noted that Amtrak is measuring the information closely and looking at availability of parts and overall warranty support.

Charlie added that “we need robust part support from Siemens and technical support as well...we need to partner with Siemens and need a good and tight relationship between the states and Siemens and Amtrak, the states and Siemens.”

**10.**

**Request for Topics/presentations that Board Members would like to be briefed on – Eric Curtit:**

Eric reiterated that he (and Steve Hewitt) are looking to make these calls as productive as possible for all Board Members. He asked for additional topics of interest to be sent to himself and Steve Hewitt for future agendas.

**11.**

**Preparing for the 2019 NGEAC Annual Meeting – Hyatt Regency – Capitol Hill, Washington DC – 2-22-19 – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt reported the location and date of the 2019 NGEAC Annual Meeting (see above) and noted that he and Eric will begin to work on a draft agenda. It will start with the standard/required updates to members of the committee, but additional topics of interest can be included. Please send suggestions to Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt.

Allan Paul, NCDOT asked when a DRAFT agenda could be ready for states to submit travel requests. Steve said he thought by the next call or shortly thereafter, he and Eric could have a first draft which states could use for travel requests. Allan noted that NCDOT requires two-month advance notice for a travel request. Steve agreed to be sure that a DRAFT is ready in advance of that timeline.

Eric reminded members to note in their travel requests that the NGEAC will be reimbursing states for all travel expenses related to attending the Annual Meeting.

**12.**

**Next Call – 11-6-18**

**13.**

**Other:**

With no further business forthcoming today, Chairman Curtit adjourned the meeting at 12:07PM Eastern.

**The next conference call is 11-6-18**

**Decisions/Action Items**

**Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 10-23-18:**

**See agenda item 6 in the minutes.**

**The Charger - Diesel-Electric Locomotive and Mid-West Section 6 Plan Update 10-9-18:**

The Section 6 Plan has been accepted by FRA (as previously reported on 7-3-18).

No other updates reported on 10-23-18

**Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 10-9-18:**

Metro-North is in the middle of the procurement process – it is ongoing. Qualification statements are due to Metro-North and they are in the process of reviewing those statements. He added that NYSDOT is not directly involved in the procurement and it is technically in lock down so Ray is unaware of who has responded. Once this is complete they will develop a short list of qualified firms and they will be provided with all documentation. There is no date announced for issuing the short list or responses to the RFP by those on the short list.

Next update 11-6-18

**Document Control Update – 10-23-18:**

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- Darrell Smith will continue to keep the group informed as his UK Best Practices project progresses.

Next Update 11-6-18

#### **Amtrak Locomotive Procurement – 10-23-18:**

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No decision has been made on where to go in the selection process. The decision may come in mid-November. Charlie will keep the NGE Board informed.

Next Update 11-20-18

**Charger Updates from States and Amtrak** – Chairman Curtit has requested a summary update on the Chargers now that they have been placed in service.

#### **Updates: 10-23-18:**

- a. Illinois/Mid-West States – Jennifer Bastian, IDOT:

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- b. Washington State – Ron Pate/Jason Biggs:

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- c. California – Kyle Grading, Caltrans:

Kyle Grading agreed with Jennifer that the procurement has been a good one operationally. Caltrans' concerns are similar to those noted by IDOT – warrantee support – and parts availability. Overall, Kyle commented, - "operationally, when they are running, they work great". He added that engineers enjoy the cab and the acceleration is great – "overall we are very happy with the operation."

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Charlie added that "we need robust part support from Siemens and technical support as well...we need to partner with Siemens and need a good and tight relationship between the states and Siemens and Amtrak, the states and Siemens."

**Request for Topics/presentations that Board Members would like to be briefed on – Steve Hewitt:**

Eric Curtit has asked for this agenda item to request that Board Members inform Steve Hewitt and himself of any topics they wish to be briefed on or they wish to brief other Board Members on. The intent is to be sure these agendas are as productive as possible and provide an exchange beyond only the ongoing updates.

**Please submit topics to Steve Hewitt and Eric Curtit.**

**Preparing for the 2019 NGEN Annual Meeting – Hyatt Regency – Capitol Hill, Washington DC – 2-22-19:**

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**S305 NGEN Executive Board Conference Call**

**October 23, 2018**

**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern**

**Call in number: 888 585-9008 conference access: 559-120-127**

**Agenda**

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| 1. Welcome and Open the Meeting  | Eric Curtit  |
| 2. Roll Call   | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Action Items Status Review  | Steve Hewitt |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 10-9-18  | Eric Curtit  |
| 5. Finance and Administrative subcommittee's Annual Review of NGEN By-Laws | Tim Ziethen  |

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| a. Review of proposed changes/corrections   | Ray Hessinger        |
| b. Next Steps/Timeline  | Steve Hewitt         |
| 6. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement  | Kyle Gradinger       |
| 7. Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurements  | Charlie King         |
| 8. Update: Document Control   | Tammy Krause         |
| 9. Progress Report/status updates: Charger Locomotives  | Eric Curtit          |
| a. Illinois/Mid-West States   | John Oimoen          |
| b. Washington State   | Ron Pate/Jason Biggs |
| c. California   | Kyle Gradinger       |
| d. Amtrak   | Charlie King         |
| 10. Request for topics/presentations that Board Members would like to be briefed on               | Eric Curtit          |
| 11. Preparing for: NGEN 2019 Annual Meeting – Hyatt Regency – Capitol Hill Washington, DC 2-22-19 | Steve Hewitt         |
| 12. Next Call – 11-6-18   | Steve Hewitt         |
| 13. Other   | All                  |

**Next Call -11-6-18**