

# SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

OCTOBER 1, 2020 3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>George Hull, Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Core Team Members:</b> <i>George Hull, Jeffrey Gordon, Matthew Simmons, Momo Tamaoki, Ray Hessinger, Marci Petterson, Jennifer Bastian, Joe Paul, Steve Hewitt, Art Peterson, Curtis McDowell, Blair Slaughter, Michael Kraft, Melissa Shurland, Mike Murray, Tammy Krause, Dave "Emeritus" Warner, Oscar Bermudez</i> <b>Industry Members:</b> <i>Jack Madden, Craig McKeen, Paul Arnone, Paul Jamison, Rich Bowie, Norman Forde, Kirk Klug, Alexander Epstein, Peter Basile, JD Daniel, William Willauer, Fran Nelson, Craig McKeen, Josh Coran, Joe Kenas, Tom LaMano, Ed Golitko, Kevin Carmody, Dick Bruss, Jonathan Michel, Steve Morrison, Bill Saddler, Richard Curtis, Richard Stegner</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<i>Jason Biggs, Phil Meraz, Troy Hughes, Mike Jenkins, Tarek Omar, Larry Salci</i>

## DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

### 1.

Incoming Chairman George Hull, Amtrak, called today's meeting to order and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

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](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).**

### 2.

#### **Review Meeting Agenda – George Hull, Amtrak:**

Chairman Hull provided a brief overview of today's meeting agenda.

### 3.

#### **Review Action Items – Steve Hewitt, NGENC Program Manager:**

##### **Requesting Backgrounder educational document:**

As reported previously, the two-pager has been updated and is available in hard copy and/or PDF versions. To date about 420 copies (Electronic or hard copies) have been distributed.

Contact Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com) for copies – hard copy or electronic version. If hard copies, let Steve know where to send them and how many.

The two-pager is currently under review by the NGENC Finance and Administrative subcommittee for its annual update.

**Maintaining Industry Participation List:** There are around 200 industry participants.

##### **Status: Accessibility Requirement Guidelines (advanced NPRM)– Melissa Shurland, FRA:**

On 8-20-20, Melissa Shurland 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 NGENC technical subcommittee informed as the process is completed.

**Next Update: As appropriate**

##### **Status Update: Electronics on Trains Working Group as of 9-17-20:**

The following update was provided for inclusion in the minutes of 9-17-20 by David Brabb:

*The NGENC Electronics subcommittee had a web conference on Tuesday, September 8th. We have received the final comments/edits*

to the latest PRIIA 305 DTL Hardware specification. After implementing the comments/edits, we plan to issue revision 2020B before our next scheduled web conference on September 29th. In that meeting we plan to discuss the next step in the specification development process which likely will be the addition of firmware specs/info to the DTL doc.

On 9-17-20, Steve Hewitt pointed out that he has asked Tammy Krause, Document Control Manager, to reach out to David Brabb to make sure that the NGEC procedures are being followed in revising/updating the specification.

**On 10-1-20**, Steve Hewitt received and reported on the working group's activities as provided by David Brabb:

*The Electronics working group had a meeting Tuesday, September 29th. We are issuing the 305 -919 DTL Hardware spec to our group for final comments on it. We will then begin adding the firmware specs to the same DTL Hardware spec. This will then lead to the next round of edits/comments by our small group.*

*We will then do as Tammy Krause said and submit the hardware spec to your big group (the full Technical subcommittee) and follow what is needed to get it complete (approved).*

*Finally, further down the road we will address the 305 - 920 software spec.*

*Our next web-call is scheduled for October 27th.*

**Status/Timeline for developing TSSSA Primer/Template:**

On 9-17-20, George Hull reported that there was nothing new on this item – as “things are just getting settled here at Amtrak” with all the changes that have occurred.

**Next Update: As appropriate**

**Status: University of Nebraska High Speed Wireless Study – next phase:**

On 9-17-20, Hamid Sharif-Kashani reported that FRA had approved the next phase of this study and they have begun work on the issue of spectrum saturation and are looking into how to utilize other available frequencies and developing models for both voice and data.

**Next Update: 10-29-20**

**4. Approval of the Minutes from 9-17-20– George Hull, Amtrak:**

On a motion offered by Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, and seconded by Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans, the minutes from 9-17-20 were approved as presented.

**5. Status: NGEC 36 month No-Cost Grant Agreement Extension – Approved/Executed – Steve Hewitt:**

As reported on the last call, the 36-month no-cost grant agreement extension has been executed by the FRA and Amtrak. This enables the NGEC to use the remaining available funds to continue its work through 9-30-23. This is a positive development as it will ensure that the committee will be able to maintain and update its specifications, monitor the various procurements taking place across the country and across the border in Canada using NGEC specifications as a base line.

The next step is to have the NGEC re-authorized by Congress in the next surface transportation authorization bill. This would be the successor to the FAST Act. The current status is that the FAST Act which was to expire on 9-30-20 has been extended for 12 months. This means that the NGEC, which was initially established and authorized in PRIIA, and was then reauthorized in the FAST Act, carries forward as well.

When the new Congress convenes, efforts to enact a long-term surface transportation bill will resume, and, while the NGEC itself cannot advocate, individual states, members of the industry and various state coalitions and organizations, and Amtrak can request and advocate for the NGEC to be reauthorized for the length of the next bill.

In the current effort, several organizations, including the States for Passenger Rail Coalition (SPRC) pushed for the NGEC and have provided proposed legislative language for scope and funding for the NGEC. Amtrak also included the NGEC as a part of their overall requests noting that it is one of their activities should be continued. Additionally, AASHTO also weighed in by including the NGEC in its reauthorization principle. All of this needs to happen again because, as noted previously, the new Congress will now start over once they have convened.

**6.****Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 9-30-20 – Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans:**

*Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete and the structural test plans have been reviewed and are in revision. Reviews for Vending Cars, Cab Car Interiors, and Diagnostic Systems are taking place this week in Sacramento. IDOT Café Car releases are ongoing with design reviews continuing through September. The Café Car IDR has been approved.*

*Workstation table testing is occurring this week in Spain and will be witnessed virtually by Caltrans and IDOT. NEC testing for standard coach is complete and comments to the report are being clarified with FRA. Caltrans 238.111 testing is complete, and the final report is in work. The IDOT 238.111 test runs on the IDOT corridors are expected to begin early October.*

*58 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. System-level FAIs and the Complete Coach FAI are now approved for the standard coach. There are nine cars delivered to the Stockton facility. The third IDOT shipment is currently being prepped at Siemens in Sacramento.*

*The project teams continue to monitor potential production and schedule impacts due to the coronavirus and are receiving frequent updates from SCOA and Siemens.*

**7.****Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

Ray Hessinger reported that the Metro-North procurement continues to move forward but remains in the "Cone of Silence"

**8.****Update: Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement – Marci Petterson, Ct DOT:**

They have sent out answers to the second round of questions. (These came from the from the second addendum).

They have sent out a 3<sup>rd</sup> addendum with questions (9-25-20). This addendum includes clarifications on previous questions. It includes an air sanitation system to address COVID concerns and any other similar issues they may come in the future. It also included a 2-week extension – responses due by 11-2-20.

**9.****Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull, Amtrak:**

On the Locomotives:

There are 12 units in various stages of production with 2 in the final stages.

On the Amfleet Replacement:

It continues to progress, but it is also currently in the "Cone of Silence" phase.

**10.****Update: Document Control Management as of 10-1-20 – Tammy Krause:**

*I have assembled a spreadsheet of all the proposed changes for the DMU specification Revision A. This includes all the proposed changes that were sent to the Working Groups. The spread sheet includes accepted and rejected comments. This is the chance for the entire TSC to review all the comments. Please review the spreadsheet and if you have any comments on the WGs decisions, please let me know. Can you please send me any questions, comments, requests for clarifications etc. by the next TSC meeting (10/15/2020)? I will send the comments to the head of the involved WG and ask that they be available to discuss them on the 15<sup>th</sup>. I will be asking Steve to send this spreadsheet out after the meeting.*

*The formatting of the Trainset specification is continuing. I am still missing the Structural WG member list. Most of the WG member lists were given to me as mailing lists. I am going to send an email to the member lists requesting the members contact information. The Equipment Acquisition & Ownership Recommended Practices Document will be number 305-200.*

Steve Hewitt asked Tammy about the timeline for the Technical subcommittee consideration of approval of the DMU specification Revision A. Steve asked if the next Technical subcommittee call (10-15-20) would be a time for discussion of the summary of changes and the following call (10-29-20) would be when the vote may occur, depending on what questions and/or comments came up in the discussion on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Tammy agreed that this would be the anticipated timeline.

**11.  
Other Issues:**

With no other issues forthcoming, George Hull adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:25PM Eastern.

**Next Call: 10-15-20– 3:00pm Eastern**

**Decisions and Action Items**

**Requesting Backgrounder educational document:**

As reported previously, the two-pager has been updated and is available in hard copy and/or pdf versions. To date about 410 copies have been distributed.

Contact Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com) for copies – hard copy or PDF. If hard copies, let Steve know where to send them and how many.

On 10-1-20, Steve Hewitt reminded members that the two-pager is currently under review by the NGEC Finance and Administrative subcommittee with the intent of updating it and making it current. The work on this will be completed by January 2021.

**Maintaining Industry Participation List:** There are over 200 industry participants.

**AAR TAG Committee on LED Headlights Update:**

On 6-25-20, Tarek Omar reported that Phase 3 and 4 are complete and they are working on the final report. Tarek hopes to be able to share the report with this group soon.

On 8-20-20, Tarek Omar noted that the LED testing is complete except for ice melting – which will need to wait a few months on. Steve Hewitt asked if he should remove this item as a regular update. It was agreed that he would take it off as a monthly standing agenda item and will make a note to check in with Tarek in December 2020.

Next Update: December 2020 or as appropriate

**PRIIA Multi-State Procurement Update 10-1-20:**

**Multi-State Car Procurement - Caltrans (Lead State):** Progress reports from the lead state will be provided on each subcommittee call.

*Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete and the structural test plans have been reviewed and are in revision. Reviews for Vending Cars, Cab Car Interiors, and Diagnostic Systems are taking place this week in Sacramento. IDOT Café Car releases are ongoing with design reviews continuing through September. The Café Car IDR has been approved.*

*Workstation table testing is occurring this week in Spain and will be witnessed virtually by Caltrans and IDOT. NEC testing for standard coach is complete and comments to the report are being clarified with FRA. Caltrans 238.111 testing is complete, and the final report is in work. The IDOT 238.111 test runs on the IDOT corridors are expected to begin early October.*

*58 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. System-level FAIs and the Complete Coach FAI are now approved for the standard coach. There are nine cars delivered to the Stockton facility. The third IDOT shipment is currently being prepped at Siemens in Sacramento.*

*The project teams continue to monitor potential production and schedule impacts due to the coronavirus and are receiving frequent updates from SCOA and Siemens.*

**Document Control Update as of 10-1-20:**

Tammy Krause provided the following update on 10-1-20:

*I have assembled a spreadsheet of all the proposed changes for the DMU specification Revision A. This includes all the proposed changes that were sent to the Working Groups. The spread sheet includes accepted and rejected comments. This is the chance for the entire TSC to review all the comments. Please review the spreadsheet and if you have any comments on the WGs decisions, please let me know. Can you please send me any questions, comments, requests for clarifications etc. by the next TSC meeting (10/15/2020). I will send the comments to the head of the involved WG and ask that they be available to discuss them on the 15<sup>th</sup>. I will be asking Steve to send this spreadsheet out after the meeting.*

*The formatting of the Trainset specification is continuing. I am still missing the Structural WG member list. Most of the WG member lists were given to me as mailing lists. I am going to send an email to the member lists requesting the members contact information. The Equipment Acquisition & Ownership Recommended Practices Document will be number 305-200.*

Following the meeting on 10-1-20, Steve Hewitt sent out the DMU Summary of Changes to all NGENC Technical subcommittee for review and comment. All comments should be sent to Tammy Krause in advance of the next call (10-15-20).

#### **Electronics on Trains Working Group activities as of 10-1-20:**

On 10-1-20, Steve Hewitt received and reported on the working group's activities as provided by David Brabb:

*The Electronics working group had a meeting Tuesday, September 29th. We are issuing the 305 -919 DTL Hardware spec to our group for final comments on it. We will then begin adding the firmware specs to the same DTL Hardware spec. This will then lead to the next round of edits/comments by our small group.*

*We will then do as Tammy Krause said and submit the hardware spec to your big group (the full Technical subcommittee) and follow what is needed to get it complete (approved).*

*Finally, further down the road we will address the 305 - 920 software spec.*

*Our next web-call is scheduled for October 27th.*

Next Update: 10-29-20

#### **University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study as of 10-1-20:**

The FRA approved the next phase of this study and they have begun work on the issue of spectrum saturation and are looking into how to utilize other available frequencies and developing models for both voice and data  
Please contact Hamid Sharif-Kashani if you would like more information on this effort.

Next Update: 10-29-20

#### **Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – 10-1-20:**

As of 10-1-20, Metro-North continued to be in the procurement "Cone of Silence".

Next Update: 10-29-20

#### **Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement – 10-1-20:**

CtDOT has sent out answers to the second round of questions from the second addendum.

They have sent out a 3<sup>rd</sup> addendum with questions (9-25-20). This addendum includes clarifications on previous questions. And includes an air sanitation system to address COVID concerns and any other similar issues they may come in the future. It also included a 2-week extension – responses by 11-2-20.

Next Update: 10-29-20

#### **Amtrak Equipment Procurement as of 10-1-20:**

As of 9-3-20:

On the Acela:

The first two "prototypes" continue in different phases of testing.

Trainset #1 is in Pueblo and has been consistently hitting 165 mph.

Trainset #2 is at Penn Coach Yard for testing and is working through various access issues. #2 has the instrumented wheels under it. Today (9-3-20) the Philadelphia Fire Department came out and assisted Amtrak in some testing – simulating a rainstorm to test the trainset to ensure that it is watertight.

As of 10-1-20:

On the Locomotives:

There are 12 units in various stages of production with 2 in the final stages.

On the AmFleet Replacement:

It continues to progress, but it is also currently in the “cone of silence” phase.

Next Update: 10-29-20

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

The intent of this effort is for states to submit their comments to the Access Board Docket on the Accessibility Requirement Guidelines (advanced) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Amtrak has submitted its comments already. Once the comments “have come back”, the Technical subcommittee will compare them with the NGEN specifications to ensure compliance.

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 NGEN technical subcommittee informed as the process is completed.

Next Update: As appropriate

**Developing a TSSSA spec/menu/template:**

On 7-23-20, Charlie King reported that this item remains “on the stove” and should be completed over the next couple of months. Completion of the DRAFT primer has been slowed by issues the more immediate workload from the procurements underway and issues related to COVID 19.

Next Update: As appropriate

**Next call: 10-15-20**

By Computer: <https://stephenhewitthewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>

by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 126-073-1531

**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://stephenhewitthewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>

by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 126-073-1531

**October 1, 2020**

The agenda for the meeting is below:

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Roll Call   | Steve Hewitt    |
| 2. Review Meeting Agenda   | George Hull     |
| 3. Review Action Items   | Steve Hewitt    |
| 4. Approve Minutes from 9-17-20  | George Hull     |
| 5. Status: NGEC 36 month No-Cost Grant Agreement Extension – Approved/Executed                           | Steve Hewitt    |
| 6. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement  | Momo Tamaoki    |
| 7. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement  | Ray Hessinger   |
| 8. Update: Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement  | Marci Petterson |
| 9. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements   | George Hull     |
| 10. Update: Document Control Management  | Tammy Krause    |
| - Review: DMU specification summary of changes as reviewed/commented on by Technical working groups      |                 |
| - Status: Completion of Technical formatting of Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 – Revision B |                 |
| - Status: Finalizing updated list of Technical working group members                                     |                 |
| - Status: Equipment Acquisition & Ownership WG – Updated DRAFT Recommended Practice document             |                 |
| 11. Other  | All             |
| 12. Review this meeting:   | Steve Hewitt    |
| a) Decisions   |                 |
| b) New Action Items  |                 |

***Next Call –10-15-20 at 3:00pm Eastern***