

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 17,
2020

3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>George Hull, Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	<i>Core Team Members: George Hull, Jeffrey Gordon, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Jon Mullin for Momo Tamaoki, Ray Hessinger, Marci Petterson, Jennifer Bastian, Phil Meraz, Troy Hughes, Jason Biggs, Joe Paul, Steve Hewitt, Art Peterson, Melissa Shurland, Mike Murray, Larry Salci, Dave "Emeritus" Warner, Hamid Sharif-Kashani Industry Members: Richard Curtis, Steve Ojalvo, Joe Kenas, Kevin Myles, Martin Bloedt, Jack Madden, Tom LaMano, Josh Coran, Greg Gagarin, James Michel, Craig McKeen, Ed Golitko, Bill Saddler, Paul Arnone, Richard Stegner, Paul Jamison, Jeff Schultz</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Momo Tamaoki, Mike Jenkins, Byron Comati, Blair Slaughter, Mike Kraft, Tarek Omar, Oscar Bermudez, Tammy Krause</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.

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 410 copies (Electronic or hard copies) have been distributed.

Contact Steve Hewitt at 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 with the intent of updating it and making it current.

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.

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement as of 9-3-20:

On 9-3-20, Marci Petterson reported that they continue to finalize answers to the questions received. One was a request for an extension which they are considering.

Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – as of 9-3-20:

On 9-3-20, Ray Hessinger reported that they remain in the "cone of silence" period, but there is "light at the end of the tunnel".

Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – 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 Advanced Civil Speed Enforcement System (ACES) 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.

On the Locomotives (ACL 42):

The 10th unit is being assembled with the fuel tank as the first item.

The first 2 units are through some phase of the painting process.

Another milestone will be attained on 9-15-20 "we will be out there to inspect the first unit".

On the Intercity Passenger Car procurement:

This procurement remains in the "cone of silence".

4. Approval of the Minutes from 9-3-20– George Hull, Amtrak:

On a motion offered by Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, and seconded by Phil Meraz, Iowa DOT, the minutes from 9-3-20 were approved as presented.

5. Appointing a Vice Chair of the NGENC Technical subcommittee – George Hull, Amtrak:

In accordance with the NGENC By-Laws, George Hull appointed Joe Paul, Amtrak as Vice Chair of the Technical subcommittee filling the vacancy created by George assuming the Chair effective with Charlie King's retirement from Amtrak.

6. Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 9-17-20 – Jon Mullin for 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, Diagnostic Systems and Safety Appliances are scheduled for the week of September 28 in Sacramento. IDOT Café Car releases are ongoing with design reviews continuing through September. The Café Car IDR has been approved.

Travel to Europe from the U.S. for testing is being investigated in order to support workstation table testing. The first Maintainability Demonstration took place in Stockton last week. 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 report is in work. The IDOT 238.111 test runs on the IDOT corridors are expected to begin end of September or early October.

54 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 first IDOT cars shipped end of July and the second shipment occurred August 28.

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. Status/Timeline for developing TSSSA Primer/Template – George Hull, Amtrak:

George 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.

8.

Status Update: Electronics on Trains Working Group as of 9-17-20 – Steve Hewitt for David Brabb:

The NGEC 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.

Steve Hewitt pointed out to David Brabb when he submitted his report that he would ask Tammy Krause, Document Control Manager to reach out to David to make sure that the NGEC procedures are being followed in revising/updating the specification. Steve has sent a message to Tammy and asked that she reach out to David but has not heard back from her yet.

9.

Status: University of Nebraska High Speed Wireless Study – next phase - Hamid Sharif-Kashani:

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.

10.

Update: Document Control Management as of 9-17-20 – Steve Hewitt for Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause was not available for today's call and did not provide an update.

Steve Hewitt provided the most recent update which Tammy presented to the Executive Board on 9-8-20:

Status: Completion of Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 – Revision B – Timeline for completion.

This specification update has been fully approved by the subcommittee and the Executive Board, however extensive reformatting to be consistent with all NGEC specifications was needed and is in process. As of 9-8-20, the reformatting was in the hands of the Technical writer and nearly complete.

Status: DMU spec update – Timeline for Tech SC review

As of 9-8-20, Tammy reported that all Technical working groups except one (Structural) have provided comments on the changes under consideration (DCRs) of which there were 70.

Status: Updating list of Technical working group members

All but one working group have provided a list of members – Tammy is waiting on the Structural working group on this item as well.

Status: Equipment Acquisition & Ownership WG – Updated DRAFT Recommended Practice document

As of 9-8-20, Tammy reported that Revision 4 of the "Recommended Practices" document was near completion and would be sent to the working group members on 9-11-20. That has not happened, so it can only be assumed that it is near completion and still in the hands of the Technical Writer.

11.

Other Issues:

Steve Hewitt reported that the NGEC executive Board received good news on 9-16-20. The FRA and Amtrak have executed a 36 month no-cost NGEC grant agreement extension. This will ensure that the work of the NGEC will continue through 9-30-2023. The current agreement would have expired on 9-30-20. The NGEC will use existing funding to continue its work through the extended grant period.

Steve Hewitt also expressed his appreciation (on behalf of the NGEC) and well wishes to Charlie King who has served these last several years as Chair of the Technical subcommittee and Vice Chair of the NGEC executive Board. Charlie will be retiring from Amtrak effective COB on Friday 9-18-20.

Ray Hessinger, NGEC executive Board Chairman expressed his well wishes to Charlie as well and thanked him for his work with the NGEC.

Both Steve and Ray thanked George Hull (Chair) and Joe Paul (Vice Chair) for their willingness to step into these roles on the

Technical subcommittee and to George for also assuming the role of Vice Chair of the NGEC Executive Board.

With no further business forthcoming for today's call, George Hull adjourned the meeting at 3:22PM Eastern.

Next Call: 10-1-20– 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 for copies – hard copy or PDF. If hard copies, let Steve know where to send them and how many.

On 9-17-20, Steve Hewitt reported 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 around 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 9-3-20:

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, Diagnostic Systems and Safety Appliances are scheduled for the week of September 28 in Sacramento. IDOT Café Car releases are ongoing with design reviews continuing through September. The Café Car IDR has been approved.

Travel to Europe from the U.S. for testing is being investigated in order to support workstation table testing. The first Maintainability Demonstration took place in Stockton last week. 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 report is in work. The IDOT 238.111 test runs on the IDOT corridors are expected to begin end of September or early October.

54 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 first IDOT cars shipped end of July and the second shipment occurred August 28.

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 9-8-20:

Status: Completion of Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 – Revision B – Timeline for completion.

This specification update has been fully approved by the subcommittee and the Executive Board, however extensive reformatting to be consistent with all NGEC specifications was needed and is in process. As of 9-8-20, the

reformatting was in the hands of the Technical writer and nearly complete.

- Status: DMU spec update – Timeline for Tech SC review

As of 9-8-20, Tammy reported that all Technical working groups except one (Structural) have provided comments on the changes under consideration (DCRs) of which there were 70.

- Status: Updating list of Technical working group members

All but one working group have provided a list of members – Tammy is waiting on the Structural working group on this item as well.

- Status: Equipment Acquisition & Ownership WG – Updated DRAFT Recommended Practice document

As of 9-8-20, Tammy reported that Revision 4 of the “Recommended Practices” document was near completion and would be sent to the working group members on 9-11-20. That has not happened, so it can only be assumed that it is near completion and still in the hands of the Technical Writer.

Electronics on Trains Working Group activities as of 9-17-20:

The NGECE 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.

Steve Hewitt pointed out to David Brabb when he submitted his report that he would ask Tammy Krause, Document Control Manager to reach out to David to make sure that the NGECE procedures are being followed in revising/updating the specification. Steve has sent a message to Tammy and asked that she reach out to David but has not heard back from her yet.

Next Update: 10-15-20

University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study as of 9-17-20:

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: 10-15-20

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – 9-3-20:

As of 9-3-20, Metro-North continued to be in the procurement “Cone of Silence”.

Next Update: 10-1-20

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement – 9-3-20:

Marci Petterson reported that they continue to finalize answers to the questions received. One was a request for an extension which they are considering.

Next Update: 10-1-20

Amtrak Equipment Procurement 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.

On the Locomotives (ACL 42):

The 10th unit is being assembled with the fuel tank as the first item.

The first 2 units are through some phase of the painting process.

Another milestone will be attained on 9-15-20 "we will be out there to inspect the first unit".

On the Intercity Passenger Car procurement:

This procurement remains in the "cone of silence".

Next Update: 10-1-20

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: 10-1-20

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

September 17, 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 9-3-20 | George Hull |
| 5. Appointing Technical subcommittee Vice Chair | George Hull |
| 6. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement | Momo Tamaoki |
| 7. Status/Timeline for TSSSA Primer/Template | George Hull |
| 8. Status Update: Electronics on Trains Working Group | Steve Hewitt |
| 9. Status: University of Nebraska High Speed Wireless Study – next phase | Hamid Sharif-Kashani |
| 10. Update: Document Control Management | Tammy Krause |
| - Status: Completion of Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 – Revision B – Timeline for completion. | |
| - Status: DMU spec update – Timeline for Tech SC review | |
| - Status: Updating 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 –10-1-20 at 3:00pm Eastern