

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

JANUARY 7, 2021 3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>George Hull, Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: <i>George Hull, Jeffrey Gordon, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Momo Tamaoki, Jennifer Bastian, Ray Hessinger, Jason Biggs, Joe Paul, Steve Hewitt, Blair Slaughter, Michael Kraft, Art Peterson, Larry Salci, Mike Murray, Melissa Shurland, Tammy Krause, Hamid Sharif-Kashani, Dave "Emeritus" Warner, Industry Members:</i> <i>Dick Bruss, Josh Coran, Paul Jamieson, Richard Curtis, Kevin Sudano, Julie Desrosier, Steve Ojalvo, Jeff Schultz, Brandon Teal, Paul Arnone, Richard Stegner, Jack Madden, Kevin Myles, Lew Hoens, Pete Basile, JD Daniel, Bill Saddler, Anthony Lucas, Rich Bowie, Joe Kenas, Martin Bloedt, Steve Morrison, James Michel, Edward Golitko</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Marci Petterson, Mathew Simmons, Troy Hughes, Phil Meraz, Mike Jenkins, Tarek Omar, Oscar Bermudez</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.

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 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 450 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.

Update: The update to the NGENC two -pager is in the final stages of completion. The NGENC Executive Board approved the DRAFT that had previously passed through the Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) pending permissions to use certain photos. Those permissions were obtained, and the new version of this educational document was distributed to the FASC on 1-6-21. They were pleased with the results and made no further changes.

The last items that need to be finalized are inserting the date of release of the Recommended Practices document, and the date of the update to the DMU specification - Revision B.

The intent is to use February 2021 as a placeholder for both of these items, and to hold off on printing the final version until close to the Annual Meeting, when we hope to have completed both the DMU update and the Recommended Practices document.

Maintaining Industry Participation List: There are approximately 200 industry participants.

Update/action: On 1-7-21, Steve Hewitt noted that he will be sending the full industry participant list along with the DRAFT minutes. Steve asked that all members review the list and provide him with any needed corrections.

Status Update: Electronics on Trains Working Group:

The following update was provided by David Brabb on 11-12-20 – Steve Hewitt read it into the record:

We met on Tuesday, November 10th. We are buttoning up the DTL 305-919 Hardware spec. We discussed moving a few items from the original 920 draft to 919 because they are related more to hardware. We plan to stop the current 919 revision now and will add the firmware and the other items discussed when we are able. We are at a stopping point due to contractual issues at this time but

still plan to hold our next meeting on December 15th.

Status Update: The Passenger ECP Final Test Report:

Update: On 11-12-20, Paul Jamieson provided the following update on the ECP Final Test Report – Steve Hewitt read it into the record:

"The Passenger ECP Final Test Report has been submitted to the FRA observer and docket. The docket reference is FRA-2015-0078 for all information that was formally submitted to the FRA. Draft ECP regulatory language was submitted to the FRA observer and the text will appear in a future NPRM.

NGEC technical specification's recommended changes will be submitted separately for inclusion in future revisions. These changes will include the two performance standards APTA PR-M-S-20-17 Emulation Performance Requirements and APTA PR-M-S-21-17 ECP Passenger Performance Requirements are issued and available of the APTA website <https://www.apta.com/research-technical-resources/standards/passenger-rail-equipment-safety-standards/>. An APTA PRESS standard to address ECP Ready requirements, as addressed in the NGEC technical specification, will be issued as APTA PR-M-030-21, and is in final publication preparation.

APTA will be issuing a standard to address passenger vehicle piping requirements. This standard will be APTA PR-M-S-029-21 and is in final publication preparation."

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact Paul at:

Paul E Jamieson, PE Retired
Mobile: 18643236956
jamiespe@outlook.com

Paul also recommended that the NGEC, as one of the project sponsors, may want to post this report on the website.

Steve Hewitt will provide the link to AASHTO and asked that the report be posted on the Technical subcommittee section of the NGEC website.

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.

On 10-15-20, Melissa Shurland reported that there still was no update from the Access Board on this activity.

Next Update: As appropriate

Connecticut DOT rail car Procurement:

CtDOT is in the process of reviewing proposals.

3. Approval of the Minutes from 12-10-20– George Hull, Amtrak:

On a motion offered by Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, and seconded by Curtis McDowell for NCDOT, the minutes from 12-10-20 were approved as presented.

4. Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 1-7-21 – Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans:

On 1-7-21, Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans, provided the following update:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete and the structural test plans are being coordinated with Caltrans, Siemens, and FRA. IDOT Café Car releases are ongoing and the Electrical FDR occurred on December 15. The Galley FDR is expected to be completed by the end of January. The new emergency egress windows are being installed on cars in California and Illinois. Cab Car Lighting and Electrical FDR documents have been reviewed and comments returned to Siemens. The FDR meetings will occur January 7 and 8.

Workstation table testing for the new economy table has been successfully completed and work is ongoing to address Buy America compliance. Business table testing is scheduled for January 12 in Spain. NEC testing for standard coach is complete and the report is accepted by FRA. Caltrans 238.111 testing is complete, and the report has been submitted to Amtrak. The IDOT 238.111 test runs are tentative for mid-January.

65 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. System-level FAIs and the Complete Coach FAI are approved for the standard coach. There are currently twelve Caltrans cars at the Stockton Facility and eighteen IDOT cars in Chicago.

**5.
Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as of 1-7-21 – George Hull, Amtrak:**

CAF Cars – Progressing well – should have a few more completed by the end of the month.

Acela – progressing well with the testing.

Long Distance Diesel-Electric Locomotives - they are progressing well and are on track.

Amfleet replacement procurement remains in the cone of silence, with Amtrak and vendors continuing to be in discussions.

**6.
Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

Ray Hessinger reported that the MTA Board has given its approval for Metro-North to enter into a contract with Siemens for the Dual Mode Locomotives. Metro-North and Siemens are currently in the process of executing the contract and the order to proceed.

Ray also noted that he has reached out to Metro-North to ask for a representative to give a presentation on this procurement during the NGEN Annual Meeting.

**7.
Update: Document Control Management as of 1-7-21 – Tammy Krause:**

On 1-7-21, Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes:

Document Control has been quiet since our last TSC meeting, but here is the update:

- *The Equipment Acquisition and Ownership WG met on 12-8 -20 and 12-15-20 and finished the review of the Best Practices Document. (Recommended Practices 305-200.) All of the final changes have been sent to the Technical Writer.*
- *I am waiting on Stadler Rail to finish reviewing the DMU specification so that we can finish approving the DCRs for it and proceed with the specification. Stadler had asked for an extension of the review time to enable them to make a thorough review.*
- *The Trainset specification finalization will begin as soon as the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices document is complete.*

**8.
Organizing the working group on weight issues – status and action plan – Jeff Gordon, FRA:**

Jeff Gordon, FRA, reported that the working group has been organized. Thus far there are 17 members, including Amtrak as well as car builders such as Siemens, Talgo, Bombardier and Alstom. Jeff added that he is still interested in adding members. Anyone who is interested in participating, should send Jeff an email – Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov and he will add you to the list and the next meeting invite.

The group held a kick-off meeting on 12-22-20 and will hold their next meeting on 1-21—21 from 11:00am -Noon Eastern.

Assignments were given during the first call, and it was agreed that they would develop a stand-alone specification rather than address weight in each vehicle specification. This will allow for changes to be made more easily rather than waiting to address changes when each vehicle specification is updated.

**9.
Status: AAR TAG Committee on LED Headlights – Tarek Omar, FRA:**

Tarek Omar was unavailable, so this item was tabled.

10.
Status: University of Nebraska High Speed Wireless Study – Hamid Sharif-Kashani:

Hamid reported that progress is continuing on the current phase which is studying frequency performance issues in congested areas. The current focus is on developing a theoretical model.

Please contact Hamid if you have any questions or would like more information – hamidsharif@uni.edu

11.
NGEC 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting 2-23-21– Steve Hewitt:

Steve Hewitt reported that the NGEC Executive Board has approved a DRAFT agenda for the NGEC Annual Meeting. The Board has confirmed nearly all speakers and has extended the time for the meeting by a half hour. It will now take place from 11:30am-2:00pm Eastern.

A DRAFT agenda will be distributed along with these minutes. All members planning on attending should register with Steve Hewitt. Well over 70 have accepted the calendar invite, but it is better to have a list of those plan to attend. Registration is free and is mainly to ensure there will be space on the call, and to track attendance as accurately as possible.

Steve provided a brief overview of the meeting agenda and encouraged attendance. This will be the 11th Annual Meeting and the first held virtually.

12.
Preparation of the Technical subcommittee 2020 Progress/Activities Report for the Annual Meeting – George Hull:

George Hull reported that he is just beginning to work on the Technical subcommittee presentation for the Annual Meeting. Steve Hewitt will provide him and the other presenters with a date by which he would like to have the presentations.

All presentations will need to be provided to Steve Hewitt prior to the meeting – AASHTO has agreed to manage the presentations during the meeting and they would need them in advance.

13.
Status/Timeline – developing the TSSSA Primer – George Hull:

George reported that he will try to have a draft to present on the Technical subcommittee call scheduled for 2-4-21.

14.
Other Issues:

With no other issues forthcoming, Technical subcommittee Chair, George Hull adjourned the meeting at 3:31PM Eastern.

Next Call: 1-21-21– 3:00pm Eastern

Decisions and Action Items

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

Update/action: On 1-7-21, Steve Hewitt noted that he will be sending the full list out for a review by members.

Please let Steve know if there are changes that are needed so it can be updated.

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 10-29-20:

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

On 1-7-21, Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans, provided the following update:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete and the structural test plans are being coordinated with Caltrans, Siemens, and FRA. IDOT Café Car releases are ongoing and the Electrical FDR occurred on December 15. The Galley FDR is expected to be completed by the end of January. The new emergency egress windows are being installed on cars in California and Illinois. Cab Car Lighting and Electrical FDR documents have been reviewed and comments returned to Siemens. The FDR meetings will occur January 7 and 8.

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65 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. System-level FAIs and the Complete Coach FAI are approved for the standard coach. There are currently twelve Caltrans cars at the Stockton Facility and eighteen IDOT cars in Chicago.

Document Control Update and action taken – 1-7-21:

On 1-7-21, Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes:

The Equipment Acquisition and Ownership WG met on 12-8 -20 and 12-15-20 and finished the review of the Best Practices Document. (Recommended Practices 305-200) All of the final changes have been sent to the Technical Writer.

I am waiting on Stadler Rail to finish reviewing the DMU specification so that we can finish approving the DCRs for it and proceed with the specification. Stadler had asked for an extension of the review time to enable them to make a thorough review.

The Trainset specification finalization will begin as soon as the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices document is complete.

Working Group on Weight Issues:

This group has been established. It has 17 members from Amtrak, FRA, and OEM's. It met on 12-22-20 to kick off the effort and determined to develop a stand-alone specification for issues related to weight. Members were given assignments, and the next meeting is to take place on 1-21-21 from 11:00-Noon Eastern.

Additional members are welcome. To join this working group, send an email to Jeff Gordon (Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov) and he will add you to the list and send out a meeting invite.

Electronics on Trains Working Group activities as of 11-2-20:

The following update was provided by David Brabb on 11-12-20 – Steve Hewitt read it into the record:

We met on Tuesday, November 10th. We are buttoning up the DTL 305-919 Hardware spec. We discussed moving a few items from the original 920 draft to 919 because they are related more to hardware. We plan to stop the current 919 revision now and will add the firmware and the other items discussed when we are able. We are at a stopping point due to contractual issues at this time but still plan to hold our next meeting on December 15th.

Next Update: 1-21-21

University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study as of 1-7-21:

On 1-7-21, Hamid Shari-Kashani reported that progress is continuing on the current phase which is studying frequency performance issues in congested areas. The current focus is on developing a theoretical model.

For more information, please contact Hamid Sharif (hamidsharif@uni.edu)

Next Update: 2-4-21

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – 1-7-21:

As of 1-7-21, Metro-North is in the process of executing a contract with Siemens for the production of Dual Mode Locomotives.

Metro-North has been invited to provide a presentation on the Dual Mode Locomotive procurement during the NGEC Annual Meeting.

Update: 2-4-21

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement – 12-10-20:

Conn DOT is reviewing proposals.

Next Update: 2-4-21

Amtrak Equipment Procurement as of 1-7-21:

CAF Cars – Progressing well – should have a few more completed by the end of the month.

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On 10-15-20, Melissa Shurland reported that there still was no update from the Access Board on this activity.

Next Update: As appropriate

Developing a TSSSA spec/menu/template:

On 1-7-21, George Hull reported

Next Update: NGEC Virtual Annual Meeting

NGEC 2021 Annual Meeting – Steve Hewitt:

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Next call: 1-21-21

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

1-7-21

The agenda for the meeting is below:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 12-10-20 | George Hull |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement | Momo Tamaoki |
| 5. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |

6. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement Ray Hessinger
7. Update: Document Control Management Tammy Krause
- Status – additional DMU specification changes
 - 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 – Finalizing DRAFT 305-200 Recommended Practices
 - Preparation of the Document Management 2020 Progress Report for the Annual Meeting
8. Status - Organizing working group on specification weight issues – action plan Jeff Gordon
9. Status - AAR TAG Committee on LED Headlights Tarek Omar
10. Status: University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study Hamid-Sharif Kashani
11. NGEN 2021 “virtual” Annual Meeting Steve Hewitt
12. Preparation of the Technical subcommittee 2020 Progress/Activities Report for the Annual Meeting George Hull
13. Status/Timeline – developing TSSSA Primer George Hull
14. Other All
15. Review this meeting: Steve Hewitt

Next call - **1-21-21**