

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

DECEMBER 10,
2020

3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	George Hull, Chair, NGEC Technical Subcommittee
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: George Hull, Jeffrey Gordon, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Momo Tamaoki, Jennifer Bastian, Phil Meraz, Troy Hughes, Joe Paul, Steve Hewitt, Blair Slaughter, Michael Kraft, Melissa Shurland, Tammy Krause, Dave "Emeritus" Warner, Industry Members: Dick Bruss, Josh Coran, Paul Jamieson, Richard Curtis, Ed Golitko, Fabio Cussigh, Kevin Sudano, Kirk Frederickson, Stephen Mark, Julie Desrosier, Matt Sibul, Steve Ojalvo, Jeff Schultz, Brandon Teal, Donald Sandala, Darrell Smith, Paul Arnone, Richard Stegner, Jack Madden
ABSENTEES	Ray Hessinger, Marci Petterson, Mathew Simmons, Jason Biggs, Mike Jenkins, Tarek Omar, Mike Murray, Art Peterson, Larry Salci, Oscar Bermudez

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.

Steve Hewitt noted that this week was a busy week in that he has welcomed several new industry members to the NGEC. It is great to see interest in the NGEC and its work continues to grow!

2.

Review Meeting Agenda – George Hull, Amtrak:

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

3.

Review Action Items – Steve Hewitt, NGEC Program Manager:

Requesting Background 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 for copies – hard copy or electronic version. If hard copies, let Steve know where to send them and how many.

Update: A DRAFT Updated two-pager was approved on 12-9-20 by the Finance and Administration subcommittee and has been sent to the Executive Board for its consideration. The plan is to have it available in January 2021 and to be distributed prior to the NGEC Virtual Annual Meeting 2-23-21.

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

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.

Task Complete

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

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

Developing a TSSSA spec/menu/template:

On 10-15-20, George Hull reported that there was no update on this activity as of yet.

Next Update: As appropriate

University of Nebraska High Speed Wireless Study – current phase:

On 10-29-20, Hamid Shari-Kashani reported that they are continuing to progress the current phase in which they are studying frequency performance issues for the different band widths. They are looking to find a way to resolve saturation. Their focus is on 160 Mega Hertz. They are looking at their previous modeling to see if they can adapt it for 160 Mega Hertz.

Any questions or input from members can be sent to Hamid.

4. Approval of the Minutes from 11-12-20– George Hull, Amtrak:

On a motion offered by Phil Meraz, IDOT, and seconded by Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, the minutes from 11-12-20 were approved as presented.

5. Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 12-10-20 – Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans:

On 12-10-20, 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 is scheduled for December 15. The updated FDR documents for Cab Car Safety Appliances and Clearance are in review. The new emergency egress windows are being installed on cars in California and Illinois.

Workstation table testing for the new economy table has been successfully completed and work is ongoing to address Buy America compliance. 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 for final review and submittal to FRA. The IDOT 238.111 test runs are pending test date confirmation from Amtrak.

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 now twelve CALTRANS cars at the Stockton Facility. Five IDOT cars were shipped to Chicago during the second week of November.

6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as of 12-10-20 – George Hull, Amtrak:

CAF Cars – 2 sleeper cars delivered – down to the last 11.

Acela – the first prototype is in testing in Pueblo and the second is in testing on the North East Corridor (NEC)

Long Distance Diesel-Electric Locomotives - they are progressing well – 13 are in production with the first in final stage.

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

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

As of earlier this week (week of 12-7-20) – this procurement remained in the cone of silence.

8. Update: Connecticut DOT rail car Procurement – Marci Petterson, CTDOT:

Marci was unavailable for this call (12-10-20), but emailed Steve Hewitt, following the call, to say that CtDOT is in the process of reviewing proposals.

9. Update: Document Control Management as of 12-10-20 – Tammy Krause:

On 12-10-20, Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes:

I am sending out an email to the members of the Propulsion, Electrical, Electronics on Trains and VTI WGs requesting their contact information. If you are a member of one of these groups and do not get an email from me, please let me know.

The Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group met on 12/8/2020 to review the most recent draft of the Best Practices document, (PRIIA 305-200 – Recommended Practices). We made it through about half. We are meeting on 12/15/2020 to (hopefully) finish the review. After that, the document final DRAFT version will be compiled.

10.

Proposing the establishment of a working group to address specification weight issues –Tammy Krause:

I have asked for the creation of a new WG to investigate the proper weights for the various car types. We need to have some realistic weights for the equipment because the proposed weights in the current specifications always becomes an issue.

11.

Establishing the “weight” working group – George Hull:

After some discussion, acting on Tammy Krause’s recommendation, George Hull, as Chairman of the Technical subcommittee formally established a Technical Working Group to look at the issue of weight.

Jeff Gordon, FRA, volunteered to lead and coordinate the group and stressed the importance of having members from the manufacturing industry as a part of the group. Their input is critical to the process.

Momo Tamaaki, Caltrans, also weighed in on the importance of establishing this working group and stressed the need for OEM involvement.

Volunteers are asked to contact Jeff Gordon over the next two weeks at Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov

George Hull asked for this to be an agenda item on the next Technical subcommittee call – asking that it be organized by the next call (12-24-20).

Timeline for completion is not yet established. Jeff suggested, and Tammy Krause agreed that the group should develop a document that can be updated as the NGE C specifications are revised and updated over time.

12.

NGEC 2021 Annual Meeting – Steve Hewitt:

Steve Hewitt reminded the Technical subcommittee members that the NGE C 2021 Annual Meeting will be held “virtually” rather than in person. While this is unfortunate, it is necessary due to COVID 19 concerns.

A date and a time have been established – it will take place on 2-23-21 from 11:30am-1:30PM Eastern. (Note: It has since been changed to ending at 2:00PM.)

All members of the NGE C have been invited to attend the Meeting and a calendar notice was sent to all via Outlook. As of 12-10-20 – over 70 NGE C members have accepted the meeting appointment.

An agenda is being developed and will be sent out along with more formal registration (FREE) instructions and meeting format.

8.

Other Issues:

With no other issues forthcoming, Technical subcommittee Chair, George Hull ajourned the meeting at 3:23PM Eastern.

Next Call: 12-24-20– 3:00pm Eastern

Decisions and Action Items

Requesting Backgrounder educational document:

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Maintaining Industry Participation List: There are over 200 industry participants. This past week the NGEN welcomed three new members.

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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 12-10-20, Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans, provided the following update:

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Document Control Update and action taken – 12-10-20:

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For more information, please contact Hamid Sharif (HSHARIF@UNL.EDU)

Next Update: 12-24-20

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – 12-10-20:

As of 12-10-20, Metro-North continued to be in the procurement “Cone of Silence”.

Next Update: 1-7-21

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

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Next Update: 1-7-21

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Next call: 12 24-20

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

December 10, 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 11-12-20 | George Hull |

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 5. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement | Momo Tamaoki |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 7. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 8. Update: Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement | Marci Petterson |
| 9. 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 – Updated DRAFT Recommended Practice document | |
| 10. Proposing the establishment of a working group to address specification weight issues | Larry Salci/Tammy Krause |
| 11. Establishing the “weight” working group – appointing members | George Hull |
| 12. NGEN 2021 “virtual” Annual Meeting | Steve Hewitt |
| 13. Other | All |
| 14. Review this meeting: | Steve Hewitt |
| a) Decisions | |
| b) New Action Items | |

Next Call –12-24-20 at 3:00pm Eastern