

**DOE TEC Routing Topic Group Conference Call**  
**Thursday, November 9, 2006, 1:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m. EST**

**Conference Call Minutes**

**Chair: Jay Jones (RW)**

**Participants: Scott Field (WIEB), Bob Fronczak (AAR), Judith Holm (DOE/RW), Paul Johnson (ORNL), John Keigley (BNSF), Marsha Keister (INL), Candice Jordan (ECA), Angela Kordyak (DOE), Mel Massaro (DOT/FRA), Doug Osborn (SNL), Alex Thrower (DOE/RW), Cort Richardson (CSG-NE), Ruth Weiner (SNL), Sarah Wochos (CSG/MW)**

**Contractor Support: Ralph Best (BSC), Randy Coppage (BAH), Michele Enders (SAIC), Lee Finewood (BAH), Julie Offner (BAH)**

**Summary:**

The conference call began at 1:00 p.m. eastern standard time on Thursday, November 9, 2006. Jay introduced the contractor support staff at his location. Participants from other locations introduced themselves.

This is a new activity that DOE realizes they need to pursue in identifying a national suite of routes. It was decided several months ago that the best way to identify a suite of routes would be to create a topic group. Jay sent an e-mail about a month ago to all the TEC member organizations asking if they would like to recommend volunteers to serve on this Routing Topic Group. Jay stated that it is important to have representation from all interested TEC member organizations as this topic group will continue to move forward in order to meet the milestones planned over the next year. The success of this topic group will depend on the members' participation in each of the activities outlined in the Task Plan.

**Items Discussed:**

**Logistics of the Routing Topic Group and the Task Plan**

The Task Plan includes several activities that will easily convert to subgroups. Each subgroup will consist of a topic group member lead and other member volunteers. A DOE person or a contractor staff person will sit in on each of the subgroup's calls or meetings. Jay mentioned that he is still looking for a possible DOE co-chair for the topic group.

**Overview of the Task Plan**

The topic group will convene conference calls every two months or more often if necessary. The initial focus of the topic group will be on rail with other modes of transportation such as highway to be addressed at a later time.

Mel Massaro asked if the short-lines to the railhead from some of the plants will be included in the rail focus. Jay confirmed that the short-lines would be included as part of the route identification. Jay stated that this topic group would be primarily looking at the

Class 1 rail lines to Yucca Mountain. Mel Massaro also commented that for the northeast area there may be significant differences as to how many short-lines may be used before reaching a Class 1 rail line. Jay stated that initial shipments may start on rail, barge, or highway but will end as a rail shipment.

### **Activities of the Task Plan**

Jay proceeded to address each of the four activities outlined in the Task Plan. The first activity involves criteria for identifying a regional suite of routes. While the Midwest has already identified their criteria, Jay asked Mel if he could give a status for the Northeast's criteria. Mel stated that the Northeast had most of the routes identified and are currently in the process of finalizing a paper that addresses these routes. The overall plan for this first activity is to have the Midwest and Northeast State Regional Groups finalize and present their criteria at which time the topic group would review their criteria to see if the regional approach would work for a national approach.

Sarah Wochos asked if other criteria from other campaigns would also be reviewed. Jay responded that the State Regional Groups approach would be a starting point and other criteria would also be considered.

The second activity involves reviewing the use of analytical tools such as TRAGIS and RADTRAN for routing analysis. Doug Osborn commented that he agreed with the approach and objective for this activity. Jay mentioned that a training workshop will be planned for this activity similar to what was done for the Rail Topic Group. Details on the workshop will be provided at a later date. Doug stated that a more intensive workshop for those working with RADTRAN would be more beneficial rather than a one day overview. A TRAGIS and RADTRAN users group may be offered again for this topic group.

The third activity is an assessment of routing data that currently exists. The objective of this activity is to identify needs for additional, improved or updated data. Sarah commented that she thought this was a necessary activity since there is a vast amount of data. There needs to be an agreement on what data to use before applying the data to the process. Mel Massaro mentioned that some accident data are available by state and specific rail line. Bob Fronczak stated that the railroads may not want to do extensive research themselves but there are DOT accident reports available to the public that could be used for data. Ralph Best agreed with Bob Fronczak that the railroads should not be responsible for researching the data. Ralph also suggested that the subgroup for this activity be allowed to review the information and identify what data is needed. Cort Richardson asked what are considered reportable accidents. Bob Fronczak responded that there are criteria and values to determine a reportable accident.

The fourth activity is a review of the SRGs' results that assessed regional routes. Paul Johnson will prepare some preliminary national transportation routing runs and the subgroup would review these runs as a starting point. Doug Osborn asked if the topic group will be reviewing the Mina route. Jay responded that only the Caliente route will be reviewed at this time since no record of decision has been made about the Mina route.

## **Products and Milestones of the Task Plan**

The first product is a preliminary routing criteria report due by January 31, 2007. This would primarily focus on what the Midwest and Northeast SRGs have completed. A final report is due by June 30, 2007.

For the routing analysis tools product, a report is due by January 31, 2007. This will require some intense activity over the next two months in order to achieve this milestone.

For the routing analysis data product, a report is due March 30, 2007. This report will identify the data needed for the routing analysis.

For the suite of routes, OCRWM will prepare a draft preliminary suite of routes (DPSR) report by March 31, 2007. The subgroup will review the DPSR and prepare a final report to OCRWM by November 30, 2007.

For the TRAGIS/RADTRAN workshop, the date and place are to be determined.

## **Comments on the Task Plan**

Scott Field asked when other modes of transportation (i.e., barge, highway, etc.) will be addressed. Jay responded that if highway and barge can be factored in as the topic group reviews rail routes then the modes will be addressed. The first priority is to achieve a consensus on rail routes, since that is the primary mode of transport. The milestones are for rail only at this time.

Cort Richardson will send an e-mail to Jay on his detailed task plan comments. Additionally, Cort asked if the selection criteria would be a one size fits all for the main lines and specific sites. Jay responded that there would probably be some site specific criteria. There will be a need to have some flexibility with the criteria.

Judith Holm stated that the milestone of December 31, 2007 for the identification of a national suite of routes will assist implementation of the 180(c) pilot program. An assessment of likely routes will aid in identifying which jurisdictions should be involved with the 180(c) pilot program.

## **Subgroup Member Volunteers**

Jay stated that he would like the topic group members to start getting volunteers for these subgroups. Sarah Wochos stated that she will get the Midwest participants to volunteer next week at the CSG meeting. Cort will get volunteers from the Northeast in the next week or two.

For each subgroup, Scott Field, Sarah Wochos, and Cort Richardson will be listed as placeholders until volunteers are selected for each of the subgroups. Doug Osborn, Ruth Weiner, and Paul Johnson will be members on the routing analysis tools subgroup. Bob Fronczak volunteered to be on the criteria subgroup as a representative of AAR. Bob will contact other railroad members for participation on the subgroups. Mel Massaro

suggested that he and Kevin Blackwell will each serve on two of the subgroups. Mel also stated that he will try to get someone from the American Shortline Association to volunteer for the subgroups.

Cort asked about the timeframe for convening the subgroups. Jay responded that each subgroup will have a subgroup lead who will coordinate the subgroup's conference calls. Each subgroup will be responsible for giving Jay a progress report on their activities. Judith suggested that each subgroup have a support staff person committed to each subgroup since the pace of these subgroups will be quick and intense.

The following individuals will be supporting the subgroups:

1. Criteria Subgroup-Michele Enders/Laura van Houten
2. Routing Analysis Tools Subgroup- Ralph Best
3. Data for Routing Analysis Subgroup-Lee Finewood
4. Suites of Routes Subgroup-Randy Coppage

Jay will be on travel the week of November 13<sup>th</sup>. Judith and Alex will review the notes for this conference call.

### **Miscellaneous**

For any e-mails pertaining to this topic group, Jay identified the following individuals to be copied on the e-mails.

Michele Enders (endersm@saic.com)  
Ralph Best (ralph.best@rw.doe.gov)  
Randy Coppage (coppage\_randolph@bah.com)  
Lee Finewood (finewood\_lee@bah.com)