DOE TEC Routing Topic Group Conference Call
Thursday, December 19, 2006, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. EST

Conference Call Minutes

Chair: Jay Jones (RW)
Participants: Jane Beetem (CSG/MW), **Kevin Blackwell** (DOT/FRA), **David Blee** (USTC), **Barbara Byron** (California Energy Commission), **Kurt Colborn** (MHF), **Sandy Covi** (UP), **Ken Dahkle** (Nebraska State Police), **Ray English** (NNPP**), Scott Field** (WIEB), **Dan Fisher** (Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**), Bob Halstead** (Nevada Agency For Nuclear Projects), **Harry Hopes** (CSX), **Lisa Janairo** (CSG-MW**), Paul Johnson** (ORNL), **Marsha Keister** (INL), **Mel Massaro** (DOT/FRA), **Christina Nelson** (NCSL), **Doug Osborn** (SNL), **Cort Richardson** (CSG-NE), **Tim Runyon** (CSG-MW), **Sarah Wochos** (CSG/MW)
Contractor Support: Ralph Best (BSC), **Randy Coppage** (BAH), **Michele Enders** (SAIC), **Lee Finewood** (BAH)

Summary:

The conference call began at 11:00 a.m. eastern standard time on Thursday, December 19, 2006. Jay introduced the contractor support staff at his location. Participants from other locations introduced themselves.

Jay Jones announced the following items as topics for discussion for this conference call:

- Task Plan
- Ward Sproat meeting on December 14th
- Subgroup membership
- TRAGIS/RADTRAN workshop
- TEC meeting
- DOT FR notice on Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- Future calls/next steps

Bob Halstead added the following three topics to discuss for this call:

- Define suite of routes within the this topic group
- Decide whether this topic group will address highway routing
- Have more State and Tribal government participation and feedback within this group

Items Discussed:

Routing Topic Group Task Plan:

Several comments were provided by topic group members. After much discussion, it was decided that the criteria subgroup and the suite of routes subgroups will be open to all topic group members for participation. Sarah Wochos commented that not everyone will want to look at or review the analytical tools. Bob Halstead commented the data and the routing analysis subgroups are more suited for DOE staff and their contractors to conduct

this work. Bob suggested eliminating these subgroups and having DOE contractors prepare background papers on the data issues and routing tools. Lisa Janairo also suggested that there should not be four subgroups. Criteria and identifying a suite of routes should be part of the topic group's mission. For the analysis of tools and data, there should be subgroups that would include DOE staff and their contractors. Bob further commented that he would prefer there be no subgroups and all tasks should be done by the topic group at large. Jay stated that he was trying to simulate the Rail Topic Group model of having subgroups which seemed to be successful in completing the topic group's work. Cort Richardson stated that he supported Lisa Janairo's position that there be only two subgroups for the routing tools and the data.

Jay will revise the task plan before the next topic group call to show the changes. Bob added that this is an important area to have local (county) and Tribal input. Jay stated that these topic groups are open to all TEC member organizations. Bob stated that participating in a conference call can be more difficult for Tribes than participating as a reviewer. Bob suggested that Jay provide the Tribes with work products to elicit their feedback. Jay stated that he would mention this approach to the Tribal Topic Group at the next TEC meeting.

Lisa commented that CSG/MW does not work with local government. Consequently, they cannot direct them to this topic group for participation. Lisa suggested that the routing work take place in the Tribal Topic Group similar to how the 180(c) work is taking place in the Tribal Topic Group.

Routing Topic Group Schedule:

On December 14, 2006**,** there was a three hour meeting with Ward Sproat concerning transportation issues. Jay was not present at the meeting; however, Judith Holm gave Ward an overview and status of the topic group's routing activities. Ward is following OCRWM's activities and is factoring the information into the overall schedule for the opening of the repository in 2017.

Jay stated that for now the current schedule for identifying the suite of routes will remain the same for next year. Bob Halstead asked if there was any discussion of how DOE is going to interface the institutional work that is being done in this topic group with the work to be done on the Draft Supplement to the Yucca EIS and the amended and expanded Draft EIS for the rail corridor. Jay responded that at his Las Vegas meeting last week he met with Jane Summerson and Lee Bishop, managers of the EISs, and told them he would keep then apprised of this topic group's work.

The timing of the route identification may not coincide with the preparation of the Draft EISs that are scheduled to come out in June 2007. Jay agreed with Bob that some sort of integration of information needs to take place between the topic group and the Draft EISs. Currently Jane Summerson and Joe Rivers are included on this topic group's e-mail distribution and are invited to attend and participate in the topic group meetings and teleconferences.

Ralph Best commented that the codes have already been run to identify the routes that are going to be used in the Supplemental EIS analysis. The schedules for the EISs are driving the work to be completed earlier. Most likely the EISs will have some differences in the routes from those that were identified in the Yucca Repository FEIS due to the length of time since the document was issued and changes in railroads practices and tools being used for analysis.

Subgroups:

Jay reviewed each of the current subgroup membership lists. Topic group members can join any of the subgroups. Kevin Blackwell noted that Mel Massaro will serve on the Routing Analysis Tools and the Data subgroups. Kevin will serve on the Criteria and Suite of Routes subgroups. Sandy Covi stated she will serve on the Suite of Routes subgroup. Jay reiterated that the Criteria and Suite of Routes subgroups will essentially be comprised of the entire topic group.

TRAGIS/RADTRAN Workshop:

A workshop was tentatively scheduled for February 13th through the 15th. This would take place near Oak Ridge. Several members were concerned that the timing in February is too close to the TEC meeting and the Waste Management meeting at the end of February. Lisa Janairo commented that there does not seem to be a definite plan or agenda in mind for what the workshop would accomplish. Ralph Best commented that a good foundation is needed in order to support the work to identify a suite of routes. The TRAGIS/RADTRAN hands-on interaction would provide such a foundation. Cort Richardson commented that he supports having a meeting with the topic group early that looks at the routes. Some members suggested having a TRAGIS/RADTRAN workshop at the TEC meeting in Atlanta as part of the Routing Topic Group agenda. Lisa stated that it does not seem to make sense to be reviewing possible routes until some time has been spent developing criteria. After some discussion it was decided that the workshop may be pushed back to March to allow members more time to develop criteria.

Bob Halstead suggested that a primer or overview of how rail routing has been done over the years would be useful either at TEC or at the TRAGIS/RADTRAN workshop. Lisa suggested having Jim Wade from the FRR program as part of a panel on rail routing. Bob Halstead suggested that everyone e-mail Jay with their suggestions on the TEC agenda and the TRAGIS/RADTRAN workshop as a follow up to this call.

DOT Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:

Ray English stated that the DOT Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) requires the railroads to do a routing analysis for rail routing to minimize security and safety risks. In light of the NPRM, Ray raised some questions regarding the topic group's work and if the topic group's work would be redundant with what DOT and TSA are doing in terms of routing analysis. Ray further commented that this topic group and DOE should be careful in conducting routing analysis so that it does not have to be redone or undone by regulatory action that DOT is proposing to take with the NPRM. Ray also stated that routing in the rail mode means that the shipper routes by selecting their carriers. DOT

NPRM addresses how railroads route shipments on the lines that they own. The NPRM does not address destination of routing.

Ray suggested allowing time at TEC to talk about the topic group's routing analysis work and how that fits into what DOT and TSA are doing regarding routing analysis. Kevin stated DOT and TSA have both posted drafts of their respective NPRMs on the TSA and DOT's web sites. The NPRMs will be officially available via the Federal register on December 21, 2006. Both of the NPRMs have a sixty day comment period from the day they are published in the Federal register.

Kevin mentioned that Corinne Macaluso (DOE TEC Coordinator) contacted him and suggested that the NPRM may be a topic for a plenary session instead of the FRA SCOP report. Bob Halstead commented that this NPRM is an important topic and should be part of TEC since there could be profound implications on routing. Ray English noted that there is similarity in terms, language and effort between the NPRM and the topic group.

TEC Agenda:

Jay will send out a draft agenda by mid January to the topic group for their review. Sarah commented that the foundation for the topic group agenda at TEC has been set to include the historical perspectives of campaigns that involved routing and an overview of TRAGIS/RADTRAN. Sarah suggested looking into having the TRAGIS/RADTRAN workshop online instead of at Oak Ridge. Sarah also suggested alternate locations (i.e., Argonne near Chicago) for the TRAGIS/RADTRAN workshop since Paul only needs a high speed internet connection. Jay commented that renting a meeting space may not be feasible with the current DOE budget situation.

Next Call:

Bob Halstead asked Jay if the phrase "suite of routes" can be defined for the next conference call. Jay responded that he would try to provide that information before the next conference call. The next conference call is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2007 at 11 am EST.

Action Items:

1. Jay will prepare a written definition of suite of routes.
2. Jay and Ralph Best will prepare a revised Task Plan for the Routing Topic Group.
3. As part of the Task Plan, a proposed activity list for the subgroups will be drafted for the topic group to review.
4. Jay will draft a proposed agenda for the Routing Topic group portion of the TEC meeting.