

DOE TEC Rail Topic Group Conference Call
Thursday, April 28, 2005, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. EST

Conference Call Minutes

Participants:

Co-Chairs: Jay Jones (RW), Alex Thrower (EM)

Members: Jane Beetem (MO Department of Natural Resources), **Kevin Blackwell** (FRA), **Ray English** (Office of Naval Reactors, DOE), **Scott Field** (Western Interstate Energy Board [WIEB]), **Bob Fronczak** (Association of American Railroads), **Paul Johnson** (ORNL), **Doug Larson** (Western Interstate Energy Board [WIEB]), **Bill Mackie** (Western Governors' Association), **Roger Mulder** (Texas Energy Conservation Office), **Ellen Ott** (DOE General Counsel), **Tammy Ottmer** (WIEB-Colorado), **Jim Reed** (NCSL), **Tim Runyon** (Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety), **Conrad Smith** (CSG-East), **Ruth Weiner** (Sandia National Laboratories)

Contractor Support: Ralph Best (BSC), **Peter Bolton** (BAH), **Randy Coppage** (BAH), **Michele Enders** (SAIC), **Lee Finewood** (BAH), and **Ron Ross** (BSC)

Summary:

The conference call began at 11:00 a.m. Eastern time on Thursday, April 28, 2005. Jay Jones started the meeting by welcoming everyone and having the participants on the call introduce themselves. Jay reviewed the status of where the Topic Group left off from the last conference call on March 24th. Since the last conference call, the Rail Topic Group had a breakout session at the DOE TEC meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. As a result of the breakout session, Jay and Alex compiled a list of issues for the Rail Topic Group to review and determine which issues the Topic Group would like to pursue further.

Discussion began with Jay starting with the first issue on the list-Inspections. Bob Fronczak commented on security procedures for the rail shipments. In relation to the inspections, the issue of escorts was brought up as part of the discussion. Specifically, the security car is anticipated to be an armored caboose that would accompany the shipment for the entire trip and there would also be security personnel accompanying the shipment. Jay noted that this particular security procedure was being discussed by DOE but no final decision had been made.

For the Midwest, Jane Beetem stated that they ranked Issue #10, "Rail Planning Process, Protocols and Guidance," as their #1 issue.

The Topic Group determined that Issue #2 Radiation Risk and Issue #5 Tracking overlapped and would be combined as one issue.

The next issue on the list was the Safety Compliance Oversight Plan (SCOP). Jay stated that this issue was not a DOE issue per se and deferred to Kevin Blackwell for clarification. Kevin agreed and stated that this is an internal FRA document that is being revised and updated. As mentioned at the DOE TEC meeting, the FRA is accepting comments on the SCOP and those comments should be forwarded to Kevin Blackwell

and/or Michele Sampson. Jay decided to take the SCOP issue off the list for further consideration by the Topic Group.

For the issue of Dedicated Trains, Jay stated that he did not think this was an issue the Topic Group had any control over. DOE will be deciding if dedicated trains are to be used for shipments. The Midwest ranked this as #5 on their list of six issues. Kevin Blackwell stated that they are still waiting for the Secretary of Transportation to sign off on the Dedicated Train Study.

Issue #7 on the list was Regulatory Requirements. Jay asked the Topic Group if there were any specific items that their organizations wanted to address as part of this issue. There were no comments from the Topic Group. Jay suggested that this issue be removed from the list and the Topic group agreed.

Issue #8 was the Summary of Previous Reports with WIPP PIG given as an example. Bill Mackie asked for clarification of the WIPP PIG report. Jay suggested that there be a bibliography created of all rail shipment related documents. This would also include a brief description of reports completed in the past that would have relevance to the current issues. This could also be a long range project that would be added to as necessary. Conrad Smith asked if a Lessons Learned was completed for West Valley. Alex said he thought there was but would have to look for it. Kevin Blackwell found the West valley Lessons Learned document and will forward it to Michele Enders for distribution to the Topic Group.

The last two issues on the list for the Topic Group to discuss were Issue #9 “Roles, Responsibilities and Interfaces between DOE, Rail, State/Local Security and law enforcement agents,” and Issue #10 “Rail Planning Process, Protocols, and Guidance.” Both of these issues are broad, general topics. For the Midwest, Jane had mentioned earlier in the call that Issue #10 was the Midwest’s Issue #1 on their list. Jay mentioned that Nancy Slater-Thompson, DOE lead for the Security Topic Group, is working on a concept of operations document which may overlap with Issue #9. Tim Runyon stated that the Midwest viewed Issue #9 as more in the purview of the Security Topic Group.

Jay summarized the Topic Group list of issues as follows:

Four issues were identified by the Topic Group as being issues to pursue further as part of the Topic Group’s task plan and objectives:

1. Inspections (States and tribes)
2. Escorts
3. Tracking and Radiation Monitoring
4. Rail Planning Process, Protocols and Guidance

Internally, DOE will identify these four issues in the Task Plan. At this time, Jay is not sure if these issues will be addressed simultaneously by the Topic Group

Action Items Summary:

1. Send Topic Group a copy of the April 2004 Lessons Learned on West Valley
2. Jay to follow up with Nancy on the Security Topic Group's operations documents
3. Jay to call T-Rex and inquire about the compilation of a bibliography for rail related documents.