

TEC/WG Communications Topic Group Conference Call Notes February 25, 1999 3:00-4:30 p.m. EDT

Summary:

The Topic Group covered a wide range of topics including: an update on the Senior Executive Forum; the development of the DOE Transportation Protocols; an update on research for the development of an DOE "Umbrella grant"; the Local Government Notification Survey; the Transportation Resource Exchange Center; a National Transportation Communication Plan, a process for stakeholder involvement in the development of the Transportation Protocols; and the Fact/Information Matrices

Discussion:

Judith Holm (DOE/AL-NTP) briefed the topic group on the most recent Senior Executive Transportation Forum meeting. She described the process that the Forum had recommended to consider TEC/WG member input on the development of the Transportation Protocols. There is an internal DOE staff group that meets once per month. The Group has a Steering Committee and a Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee is the drafting body. They are drafting a sample Protocol on Pre-Notification. The Forum is still looking for input on the materials and process presented in January 1999. To date DOE has not received any comments.

Judith Holm (DOE/AL-NTP) updated the Group on status of research for the "umbrella grant concept. At the moment DOE staff are looking at the legal and procurement barriers and how other Agencies handle consolidated grants. They have met with representatives from DOE's General Counsel and Procurement Offices and expect to meet again in late March. The idea is that this umbrella concept can be piloted in 2001. Tribal funding is also being examined. Ms. Holm stated that the legal and procurement issues should be resolved by March and by May the DOE staff should be able to present a pilot program to the SETF. The former TEC/WG Financial Assistance Topic Group Members will be sent the material to review.

Ms. Holm noted that the TREX Center has a redesigned webpage and that they have started to scan documents. People are finding the website through the mailing of the TREX brochure to CRCPD Members. The Homepage now has an interactive link for comments. The phone is 1-877-287-8739. The email is trex@unm.edu.

Judith Holm and Wilda Portner (SAIC-ABQ) noted that the factsheets should be printed by the end of March and will be available on the TEC/WG webpage in late March.

Wilda Portner gave an overview of the Draft Information Product Review Matrix. This matrix incorporated all DOE products and was supposed to be the companion piece of information gathered from TEC/WG members. The TEC/WG Member response was weak. She is in the process of updating the matrix and forwarding the collected material to the TREX. UETC is working on putting this matrix with Hyperlinks onto the web.

The Topic Group discussed the outline of the draft NTP Communications Plan. Chris Wentz noted that the Plan should be tied to other implementation activities to NTP's goals and objectives and other documentation. Several members mentioned that the Plans should also address how to get the transportation message out internally within DOE. Members had many questions about how NTP's institutional relations would work in decisionmaking. It was not too clear on who was to take the lead in better defining who would do what. In short, the Group felt that there needed to be more implementing language. Action: Comments on the Plan are due by March 15, 1999. Please forward to Judith Holm: F(505) 845-5508 or by email: JHOLM@DOEAL.GOV.

The discussion wrapped up with an update on the development of the Transportation Protocols.

In the four-phased approach to developing these Protocols, there would be stakeholder involvement from: the NGA, NAAG, TEC/WG, SSAB, STGWG, and EMAB. The SSAB at Fernald is developing a transportation seminar in Cincinnati, OH May 20-23, 1999. NTP is assisting in developing the Agenda. The Topic Group Members asked how documentation used in the development of the Protocols will be handled. They expressed concern that using a Federal register notice-type process will not be able to handle certain types of comments.