

DOE TEC Rail Topic Group Conference Call
Thursday, January 27, 2005, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. EST

Conference Call Minutes

Participants:

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

Members: Kevin Blackwell (FRA), Patrick Brady (Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad), Ray English (Office of Naval Reactors, DOE), Paul Johnson (ORNL), Doug Larson (Western Interstate Energy Board [WIEB]), Bill Mackie (Western Governors' Association [WGA]), Ellen Ott (Office of General Counsel, DOE), Tim Runyon (Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety), Lisa Sattler (CSG-Midwest), Ruth Weiner (SNL), Sara Wochos (CSG-Midwest)

Contractor Support: Ralph Best (BSC), Andrea Dravo (BAH), Michele Enders (SAIC), Susan Knisely (BAH), Julie Offner (BAH), and Ron Ross (BSC)

Summary:

The conference call began at 12:30 p.m. Eastern time on Thursday, January 27, 2005. Jay Jones started the meeting by welcoming everyone and having the participants on the call introduce themselves. Jay asked if there were any comments or revisions to the meeting minutes from the December 16th conference call. There were no comments on the previous meeting minutes offered.

The next item on the agenda was to have a Rail Topic Group member give a brief report on the RADTRAN/TRAGIS training that occurred in Oak Ridge on January 19th and 20th.

Lisa Sattler gave the report and summarized the training as follows:

The training was a three day workshop primarily for State regional groups. There were three state representatives from the south, one from the northeast, four from the west and nine from the midwest. There were also a few regulatory participants including two from FRA/DOT and several contractors.

Paul Johnson demonstrated TRAGIS on the first day. There were lots of hands-on examples with users being able to select cities by blocking nodes. Users were able to approach the State of Nevada in different ways from the north and the south. On the second day, Ruth Weiner demonstrated RADTRAN. There are many inputs that the user can utilize to manipulate the outcome. Users were able to see how the model calculates incident free scenarios and accidents. Oak Ridge and Sandia National Lab are working on new versions of TRAGIS and RADTRAN.

Jay Jones: This was a very useful workshop. Andrea Dravo has been calling participants about the TRAGIS and RADTRAN models to solicit feedback on ways to improve the training and whether the training worked for the participants.

Ruth Weiner: In the past, Ruth had sent out questionnaires about how to improve the models but never really got any feedback. Ruth would really welcome responses this time.

Jay Jones: Jay mentioned that DOE-RW might do another abbreviated workshop at the next DOE TEC meeting. The schedule and logistics for the workshop still need to be determined.

The next item on the agenda was a general discussion of an annotated outline and summary report for the Rail Topic Group paper.

Jay Jones had asked Ralph Best to lay the groundwork for what the Rail Topic Group hopes to do for the summary report. Ralph had created an outline but because Jay and others needed time to review it, the outline was unable to be available for the participants on the conference call. The outline should be available to the topic group as a whole in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, Ralph went over his perspective of the layout of the topic group paper.

Ralph Best: The paper will follow the Route Decision Process which outlines the activities proposed to decide routes. The paper will review the history of routes, selection of routes, and issues identified and addressed in the process. The paper will also discuss the mechanics of selecting routes and suite of routes, the regulations, policies and standard practices. The paper will also look at tools that are used such as TRAGIS as a routing tool and RADTRAN for analysis of routes. The paper will discuss how these tools are used in the overall process for route selection and how route selection criteria are determined. The decision analysis discussion will be descriptive. Regional outcomes will also be discussed as well as overall outcomes of process.

Doug Larson: It would be helpful if the strengths and weaknesses of the tools were identified for the paper.

Ruth W: Ruth asked Ralph if the paper was going to include text of regulations.

Ralph Best: No, only small portions of the regulations would be in the paper to emphasize a point.

Jay Jones: Factors will be incorporated into the paper.

Lisa S: Lisa asked if the paper will actually develop a suite of routes?

Jay Jones: The paper can be whatever the topic group wants it to be.

Ralph Best: The purpose of the paper is not to identify routes but to identify the process for selecting routes.

Jay Jones: There are operational considerations to keep in mind. This may involve working with Nancy Slater-Thompson.

Doug Larson: Will there be a discussion on trying to consolidate multiple routes from different reactors in a similar time frame?

Jay Jones: No, that kind of discussion is too specific for planning so it would not be in the paper. It might be helpful for everyone to see the outline and then provide comments. Jay will send out the outline as soon as possible.

Tim Runyon: Why are we writing a paper?

Jay Jones: The purpose of the paper is to look at the routing criteria to see if they are appropriate. This would ultimately lead to identification of routes.

Lisa S: Is this going to be a Topic Group paper? It sounds like Ralph is writing the paper.

Jay Jones: There will be certain sections that the topic group can focus on. The intent is for this paper to be a Topic Group paper. There will be specific sections for Topic Group members to have the opportunity to write. We will also develop additional sections or another paper if necessary.

Lisa S: Requested that she needs to see the outline.

Ruth W: Ruth added that the paper could be an aid to regions to develop routing criteria of their own.

Kevin Blackwell: Commented that the group may be reinventing the wheel by doing an in-depth analysis of routing. Several years ago the group produced a report that analyzed routing.

Alex Thrower: Alex believes that report was done in 1995 or 1997. Even though it was a few years ago, there haven't been a lot of radical changes in regulations. However, there is a lot more analytical information available now and more agreement on routing now.

Doug Larson: Doug remembers filing a series of comments on the paper from 1995/1997.

Lisa S: Lisa remembers working on the state section with everyone in the topic group at that time.

Jay Jones: The topic group may be able to use part of the 1995/97 paper for background, etc.

Ruth W: Are we going to require all regions to have the same criteria or same importance to criterion?

Jay Jones: No, regions will not be required to have the same criteria or attach the same importance to the criterion.

Lisa S: The midwest region is independently working on their own criteria. The midwest region is not comparing notes with other regions. Other regions are not working on the criteria yet.

Kevin Blackwell: Commented that this goes to the issue of continuity of routes.

Doug Larson: Doug said that his group will offer comments on routes that other regions come up with.

Tim Runyon: Tim commented that whatever this topic group comes up with, will not make what other groups (regions) come up with wrong necessarily.

Ralph Best: Suggested that the Topic Group use what other groups (regions) have come up with already as a starting point.

Kevin Blackwell: We need to have feedback from the carriers themselves.

Jay Jones: The issue of carriers is another topic for discussion.

The next item on the agenda was to review the Action Items from the December 16th conference call.

Kevin Blackwell gave an update on his efforts to contact the short lines. Kevin has been in contact with representatives from the Short Lines Association trying to get their

interest in what the Topic Group is trying to do. He has been trying to educate them on the Topic Group and what the role of the short lines would be in the topic group. Kevin also gave a quick update on the Dedicated Train study. The study went to the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) in mid November. FRA received it back on January 20th with comments from OST. On January 28th, there will be a meeting to discuss the comments. The study should be going back to OST in early February for clearance.

The next action item update involved the DOE 460.2 Order and Practices Manual.

Ralph Best deferred to Ron Ross for an update on the DOE 460.2 Order and Practices Manual. Ron Ross and others from BSC will be doing a review of the practices manual for Jay and Judith. The routing information definitely needs to be updated as it is primarily WIPP-oriented and needs to have the FRR information incorporated. The original order was completed in 1998 with the manual completed in 2002. The new order 460.2A came into effect on December 22, 2004. The review will be a joint operational effort. The Rail Topic group may have a role in writing and/or revising portions of the manual.

Ray English: Commented that the key driver that brings all parties together that ship radioactive materials are stakeholders. The practices manual should be revised as a departmental document but it would take longer.

Ellen Ott: The practices manual is an EM document and that the office will be coordinating updates as needed. [Note: EM's Office of Transportation (EM-11) is responsible for doing updates and changes to the Order and Manual as appropriate. EM-11 is currently planning to update the Manual in the 2006 timeframe].

Jay Jones: Jay will talk with Judith about the practices manual and discuss what role ONT would have, if any.

The next action item on the agenda was the reference hyperlinking and T-REX. Michele Enders gave a brief status of the reference hyperlinking and the references available on T-REX. Currently, Nancy Bennett from T-REX has nine documents directly available on T-REX. The NRC documents may need to be scanned separately due to security concerns. These documents may need to be provided separately on a CD. As for the remaining references, Nancy is working on getting them from other libraries to have electronically for our needs.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the upcoming DOE TEC meeting in April.

Jay Jones gave a brief update of the schedule of the next DOE TEC meeting. Corinne Macaluso is in the process of putting the TEC meeting together. The Topic Group breakout sessions will be consecutive and not concurrent. The first day will be three Topic Group meetings. The second day will have one Topic Group meeting that meets in the morning.

Lisa S: The SRGs usually meet the night before the Topic Group meetings. How will that happen based on the current schedule?

Jay Jones: Jay will talk to Corinne about the TEC meeting schedule.

Jay Jones asked the conference call participants if there are specific issues/items they would like to have on the Rail Topic Group Agenda for the TEC meeting.

Lisa S: Suggested a short brainstorming session on other issues that the topic group can take on.

Jay Jones: Jay emphasized that the Rail Topic Group's focus is on RW shipments. Alex Thrower is involved with other DOE shipping campaigns.

Jay Jones: Jay also mentioned about the possibility of holding an informal session on the Decision Analysis Tool sometime during the TEC meeting.

Ruth W: Ruth offered to have more detailed RADTRAN training during the TEC meeting if anyone is interested.

The next conference call is scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 2005 at 11 am EST.

Action Items Summary:

1. Jay Jones to send out the annotated outline to the whole Rail Topic Group.
2. Ralph Best to begin drafting a summary report.
3. Alex Thrower to provide the web site location for 1998 routing report.
4. Jay Jones/Michele Enders to continue efforts for providing references electronically.