DOE TEC Rail Topic Group Working Session
Thursday, September 22, 2005
1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Meeting Summary

Jay Jones was the DOE presenter for this meeting. The meeting focused on the Topic Group's Proposed Task Plan, specifically, the activities the Topic Group would like to pursue and the process by which to pursue these activities. Key comments and discussions are summarized below.

Attendees:

Beetem, Jane
CSG-MW

Blackwell, Kevin
DOT/FRA

Ang, Marybelle
DOE/Office of GC

Clark, Anne
WGA

Corley, Buck

Covi, Sandy
UP

Huang, Eric
DOE

Johnson, Paul
ORNL

Lambright, Bob
DOT/FRA

Mackie, Bill
WGA

Niles, Ken
WIEB

Osborne, Doug
Sandia National Laboratories

Ott, Ellen
DOE/Office of GC

Ottmer, Tammy
WIEB

Ramsay, Scott
WGA

Richardson, Cort
CSG-NE

Wochos, Sarah
CSG-MW

Contractor Support:
Coppage, Randy
BAH

Enders, Michele
SAIC

Review of Upcoming Meetings with State Regional Groups

Jay reviewed the schedule of State Regional Group meetings that will be taking place over the next couple of months.

- WIEB will be having a meeting in Las Vegas the 2nd week in October
- Midwest will be having a meeting in Lansing, Michigan on October 24 and 25

- South will be having a meeting in Hilton Head on November 12 and 13
- Northeast is tentatively scheduling a meeting in early December with location to be determined

Summary/Discussion on Rail Industry Meeting

Jay summarized the meeting that DOE had with the railroad industry on August 30, 2005. The participants included Judith Holm, Alex Thrower, Bob Fronczak, Kevin Blackwell, Pat Brady, Ray English, Paul Johnson and representatives from BNSF, CSX and Norfolk Southern. Paul Johnson gave an overview of TRAGIS using five representative origin sites as examples. There was discussion on the routes from the origin sites to Caliente, Nevada. Railroad input was given on the identification of preferable or undesirable route characteristics. This was a top level discussion with the anticipation that there will be more meetings with the railroad industry as DOE progresses further in establishing routing criteria.

Several members commented that it would be helpful to have a written summary of the meeting with the railroad industry. Jay replied that he will provide a written summary of the meeting with the railroad industry.

Comments/Discussion on the Proposed Task Plan

Jay reviewed the most recent revisions to the Task Plan and then directed the Topic Group into discussing the activities starting with the first activity listed in the Task Plan, Inspections.

Inspections

There was much discussion on how states are struggling to conduct inspections when the train stops. For example, in Wyoming there is no funding for FRA-certified inspectors. Lack of FRA-certified inspectors, however, is not a DOE issue but falls under FRA. One member commented that ideas from the highway model could provide some insight as to how to handle rail inspections. There was a general consensus from the group that a subgroup needs to be created to address the issue of inspections in greater detail.

Escorts

This activity is being deferred to the Security Topic Group. One member commented that all escort discussions up to this time have been addressing Federal escorts. The issue of state escorts also needs to be addressed.

Tracking and Radiation Monitoring

One member asked why tracking and radiation monitoring are together as one activity. It was also noted that none of the sub bullets for this activity in the Task Plan address monitoring. Jay replied that the original Task Plan may have had another sub bullet which was inadvertently deleted. Sub bullet e. will be added that will say something to the effect, “covers train car monitoring and packages.”

Rail Planning Process, Protocols, and Guidance
This activity will take place in conjunction with EM's update of the DOE Practices Manual. It was agreed that the current language in the Task Plan for this activity should remain as it is. Judith Holm added that there was a lot of information missing from RW when the DOE Practices Manual was first drafted.

Legal Weight Truck (LWT) Shipments
One member asked why LWT is an issue for rail shipments. The issue involves the type of cask to be used not necessarily the legal weight. One option suggested would be to use truck casks that fit on rail cars. One member commented that there was a paper written that addressed LWT casks.

TRAGIS Rail Routing Model Exercise
It was suggested that a sub group be formed to participate in a table top exercise. Another suggestion was made that this exercise should wait until all the SRG's have given their routing criteria input first and then demonstrate how TRAGIS works with the SRG information. Doug Osborne from Sandia National Labortatories mentioned that he and Paul Johnnson are interested in forming a users'group for TRAGIS and RADTRAN. One member suggested that an overview presentation of RADTRAN be given. Jay will talk with Corinne about having another TRAGIS/RADTRAN workshop provided there is funding.

Lessons Learned From Past Shipments
The Midwest has already completed a lessons learned on West Valley. It was suggested that a summary of all lessons learned from past shipments be compiled for the Topic Group.

State Regional Group Updates

Midwest
In June, the CSG-MW reviewed their routing anaylsis. They have been working with other regional groups. December 2005 is the tentative timeframe to present DOE with their final results.

WIEB
Ken Niles stated that there will be Yucca Mountain tour on October 12 and on October 13 there will be a meeting on the operational issues on the Caliente Corridor.

Northeast
Cort Richardson reported that the Northeast will have their routing criteria ready to present to DOE by mid year of 2006. One member asked if the CSG-NE was considering barging SNF down to the southern states. Cort replied that the CSG-NE is reviewing long distance barging as an option.

Rail Topic Group Activity Subgroups and Member Participation

The following are the activity subgroups created to address the activities agreed upon by the RTG as priorities. During the RTG working session, members volunteered to lead and participate on the subgroup. The subgroups will meet as frequently as necessary and report back to the larger Topic Group on a bi-monthly basis. Jay stated that additional contractor support for the subgroups will be determined at a later time.

Task Plan Activities:

1. Inspections

Tim Runyon /Lisa Sattler -leads
Scott Field
Kevin Blackwell
Sandy Covi
Cort Richardson* (*Cort will designate someone from the CSG/NE to be a part of this subgroup or participate himself)

2. Tracking and Radiation Monitoring

Sarah Wochos /Bill Mackie-leads
Kevin Blackwell
Scott Ramsay

3. Rail Planning Process, Protocols, Guidance

Ken Niles-lead
Anne Clark
Cort Richardson* (*Cort Richardson will designate a CSG/NE person to participate or participate himself)

4. Legal Weight Truck (LWT) shipments

Need volunteers from the State Regional Groups.

5. Lessons Learned

Jane Beetem -lead
Need volunteers from the State Regional Groups.

Action Items

- Provide written summary of railroad industry meeting to RTG
- Add additional language to #3 Tracking and Radiation Monitoring in the Task Plan that includes train car monitoring and packages
- Bill Mackie to send Jay report on the LWT casks
- Send e-mail to RTG members about the subgroups and solicit their participation