

**DOE TEC Rail Topic Group Conference Call  
Thursday, July 27, 2006, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. EDT**

**Conference Call Minutes**

**Participants:**

**Chair: Jay Jones** (RW)

**Co-Chair: Alex Thrower** (RW)

**Members: Bill Burgel** (HDR Engineering), **Anne deLain Clark** (WGA), **Scott Field** (WIEB), **Bob Fronczak** (AAR), **Bob Fry** (NCSL), **Eric Huang** (DOE/EM), **Lisa Janairo**(CSG/MW), **Ken Niles** (WIEB/STGWWG), **Cort Richardson** (NE Project), **Michele Sampson** (DOT/FRA), **Sarah Wochos** (CSG/MW)

**Contractor Support: Ralph Best** (BSC), **Peter Blaney** (Legin), **Randy Coppage** (BAH), **Michele Enders** (SAIC), and **Laura Van Houten** (Legin)

**Summary:**

The conference call began at 11:00 a.m. eastern time on Thursday, June 8, 2006. Jay announced this conference call would be a brief call on updates from each of the four subgroups and a general update on the upcoming TEC meeting. Jay introduced Peter Blaney and Laura Van Houten from Legin. John Smegal has left Legin for another company. All future conference call numbers will be handled through Laura Van Houten and her number is 301-540-6820 ext. 20.

**Items Discussed:**

**DOE Director, Edward Sproat's Testimony**

Mr. Sproat identified four main objectives in his testimony. Under those objectives, one of the key elements was working on a National Transportation Plan. Jay offered to send copies of the press release and/ or testimony to the topic group members. Edward Sproat will be attending the TEC meeting in Green Bay.

**DOE TEC Meeting**

Jay reviewed the agenda for the upcoming DOE TEC meeting in September. There will be several plenary sessions. The main plenary in the early afternoon will be the National Academies Study with Kevin Crowley and other panel members. The plenary session for the remainder of the afternoon on the first day will be a Routing Discussion. This will be a discussion of DOE's approach for the national routing process. Sarah Wochos and Cort Richardson will give a presentation on their regional approaches. John Keigley will give the railroad perspective during this session.

Lisa Janairo commented that she thought this was a good idea to have DOE present their approach and then have reactions from the stakeholders. Lisa suggested that it might be worthwhile to notify the regional groups in advance of DOE's approach so the regional groups can prepare their response. Jay stated that these presentations will be more of a perspective on the national routing approach.

The result of this Routing Discussion session will be the formation of possibly another topic group or working group primarily focused on routing. Jay stated that he could not guarantee that he would be able to send his routing presentation to the regional groups before the TEC meeting.

Bob Fronczak commented that John Keigley is from the service design group at BNSF and is experienced at putting together routing packages for different routes.

For activities in the upcoming years, Jay mentioned that DOE needs to attend more railroad conferences to discuss DOE's program and the routing approach. Bob Fronczak mentioned that the AAR has an annual hazardous material seminar every May which would be a good venue for DOE. Jay agreed that this seminar might be good opportunity for DOE to attend in the future.

Sarah Wochos commented that the Rail Topic Group session will have a full agenda and there may not be adequate time to have a feedback session on DOE's Routing Approach. Sarah suggested that there be a time limit on the subgroup updates so that time can be allotted during the topic group session for feedback on the routing approach.

There was an update to OT-55. The provision included in this update is as follows, "When a train carrying spent nuclear fuel or high level radioactive waste meets another train carrying loaded tank cars with flammable gas, flammable liquids, or combustible liquids in a single or double track tunnel, one train shall stop outside the tunnel while the other train is completely through the tunnel." This provision was added as a direct result of the NAS report and at the request of the NRC for the AAR to reduce this risk.

## **Subgroup Updates:**

### **1. Inspections Subgroup**

Sarah Wochos reported that this subgroup is progressing nicely and had a conference call at the end of June. Another call has been scheduled for early August. This subgroup has been working on an outline. Pat Edwards and other state inspectors have been very helpful in getting information from different inspection points. The next task is to determine which inspection points are rail appropriate and which are appropriate for the spent fuel section.

The goal is to get tentative approval from the subgroup members on this inspection form and then release it to the topic group at the TEC meeting.

Sarah is estimating that this subgroup will need about 30 minutes during the topic group session at TEC to present their inspection form and get feedback. In the spring, this subgroup hopes to have an inspection program to present at the spring TEC meeting.

## **2. Tracking and Radiation Monitoring Subgroup**

Sarah Wochos reported that this subgroup has rescheduled their conference call to be August 7. The subgroup has been receiving information from the states via the surveys that were sent and from the technology demonstrations. The next step is for the subgroup to decide what processes and/or features need to be included for tracking. The subgroup hopes to have a draft paper of recommendations for the TEC meeting. This paper will not be finalized until after TEC since there will be three technology demonstrations at TEC that this subgroup would like to receive additional feedback.

Sarah stated that this subgroup will probably need about 20 minutes for their update during the topic group session at TEC.

## **3. Planning and Process Subgroup**

Ken Niles reported that this subgroup has been working on a draft timeline for the past several weeks. The subgroup has created a final draft for the Rail Topic Group to review. Several comments have been received. Lisa and Ken will review these comments and if necessary, have a conference call with the working group to finalize another draft in time for the TEC meeting.

Jay asked if any comments had been received. Ken stated that they have received about four or five sets of comments. One comment addressed the inclusion of a dry run which Ken agreed should have been in the draft but inadvertently was left out of the timeline. Jay and Alex will be sending comments later in the day.

Ken stated that this timeline contains details on the FRA SCOP, things that have happened in other shipping campaigns, standardized contracts and/or DOE's Practices Manual.

Jay asked Michele Sampson if Kevin Blackwell will be attending TEC to discuss the FRA SCOP. Michele replied that it has not been confirmed as to whether she or Kevin will attend TEC. In addition, FRA is still working on the SCOP trying to evaluate what regulatory requirements support the SCOP, what is currently in the SCOP that is extra regulatory, and to evaluate what is feasible for FRA to do with their existing workforce considering the size of the shipping campaign. Michele anticipates there will be changes to the SCOP but it will not be ready for the September TEC meeting.

Jay suggested that a paragraph be added to explain this document timeline. Ken agreed that an introduction could be added and the subgroup will include some verbage.

Lisa stated that the subgroup will need about 20 to 30 minutes to go over the changes in the timeline and to decide the breakdown of the workload.

#### **4. Lessons Learned Subgroup**

Cort Richardson stated that he talked to Jane Beetem recently. Jane has asked the subgroup members for guidance on how to construct the lessons learned document. The subgroup consists of very few members and feedback has been sparse. Jay will give Jane about 10-15 minutes for this subgroup's update.

#### **5. TRAGIS**

Sarah reported that Paul Johnson is still updating data for TRAGIS. The subgroup will review assumptions for the TRAGIS model and explain them in layman terms. In addition, the subgroup will be looking at how routing is changed if the assumptions are changed.

Jay commented that this subgroup may not remain a subgroup and might be rolled into the national routing approach group.

Sarah will talk with Paul Johnson about the future of the TRAGIS subgroup.

#### **Miscellaneous**

Cort commented that not everyone is receiving the subgroup notes. Jay will work with Michele and Laura to ensure that all the subgroup members receive the notes from the subgroup conference calls.

Jay asked if the topic group members objected to having the conference calls taped since Laura Van Houten and Peter Blaney are not as familiar with everyone's voices. None of the members objected.

The next conference call will tentatively be scheduled for late August.