

NHA C&S Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2005, 2:30-4:00 PM EDT

Steering Committee Members

Present

Bill Hoagland
Bob Boyd
Larry Moulthrop
Chris Sloane

Absent

Tom Joseph (meeting conflict)
William Collins (meeting conflict)
Susan Townsend (Chair)
Carol Bailey
Krishna Sapru
Mike Swain

Staff

Present

Karen Hall
Patrick Serfass

Karen Hall called the meeting to order at 2:32PM EDT.

Introductions were made. No breaking news was reported.

Minutes from the previous Steering Committee telecom (June 23, 2005) were approved unanimously.

Information Items

2005 Fuel Cell Seminar Hydrogen Workshop: “*Understanding Hydrogen Energy Technologies*”

Ms. Hall updated the committee on the agenda items where staff needs speakers. She reported that so far, she has been unsuccessful reaching Ned Stetson. Larry Moulthrop offered a speaker from his company (Proton Energy Systems) for the topic on commercial applications—refueling stations. Proton has stations existing or planned in CA, VT and NV. The focus will probably be on the station in Las Vegas, NV.

Ms. Hall requested that all interested speakers send her a bio so she can formulate the materials for the workshop. Mr. Moulthrop will send a bio. ACTION

New Website and Report (<http://www.hydrogenandfuelcellsafety.info>)

Ms. Hall updated the committee on the existence of the new website for the *Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Safety Report* that takes the place of the *Hydrogen Safety Report*. Like all websites, it is under continual development. Ms. Hall asked committee members to send her any comments they would like to share to improve the site. ACTION

Update of outside NHA C&S Funding

Patrick Serfass reported that at a previous meeting, Pat Davis has told NHA staff that we are in his spend plan for FY06 to be fully funded to the ceiling of our contract with DOE: \$230,000 (about \$150k/year plus additional funding not awarded this year and last). Mr. Davis reported that our NREL contract is also in their spend plan. Although this is the best possible position we can be in, all spending is subject to appropriations and this number can be reduced if there are many earmarks, or the C&S program gets cut for any reason.

Update on NFPA proposal to consolidate hydrogen requirements (topic discussed after “Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Industry Panel on Codes”)

Prioritizing NHA C&S efforts

Ms. Hall gave an overview of the document that was shared with Patrick Davis to explain the function and validity of the NHA’s C&S program and to provide a glimpse at the activities that the NHA plans to work on during FY06. Mr. Serfass commended Ms. Hall for putting together a document that accurately describes where the NHA C&S program is today and is useful for staff, the committee and others who need to understand our C&S efforts in detail. Staff explained to Pat Davis that since the document does not show how priorities will shift with changing funding, when funding is provided in full, staff will be proactive in getting hydrogen language into the C&S; as funding decreases, staff will shift into a more reactive mode. Mr. Serfass then asked for comments on the document from the committee to ensure that it accurately reflects the committee’s views. Some highlights:

- Chris Sloane—the document has the right priorities and elements and provides opportunities for leveraging activities. Would be useful if there was a place where you go point media for articles that put hydrogen safety in a comparative context so there would be a place where media could go in the case of a major accident? Gary Howard’s article on NG properties was a good start (*Hydrogen Safety Report*, February 2004, <http://www.hydrogensafety.info/old/articles/04-feb-04.asp>)
- Bill Hoagland agreed saying: a press kit for a response to an incident is needed. Information needs to be balanced. People look for video whenever anything happens. We might consider having some of that video available.
- Mr. Serfass explained that NHA staff would love to pursue this activity that is a great cross-section between the E&O and C&S committees. He will bring this up with the E&O Committee which right now is devoted to redesigning the website. ACTION This new site structure should make it much easier to communicate these types of information.

RABQSA Working Group

Working Group chair, Larry Moulthrop, reported that there is no activity to report. A Meeting was setup to review the exam, and no one from RABQSA showed up. He is personally discouraged and recommends putting the agenda item to sleep. Staff will remove the agenda item from future meetings and Mr. Moulthrop said he will notify staff if the issue resurfaces. ACTION

Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Industry Panel on Codes (HFC-IPOC)

Mr. Serfass gave an introduction of the proposed panel with points that were highlighted in the attached document and asked for comments. According to Mr. Serfass, two elements are important for this activity to be worth pursuing: consistent funding and industry interest. Mr. Serfass asked the committee to comment on the amount of industry interest in this subject.

Mr. Moulthrop said that he thinks the panel would be a very valuable activity. Info flow from the ICC's AHC (on which this panel's structure is based) has been very valuable. When items are up for review, the industry presence has been there, and he thinks that will continue. It's very instrumental. Ms. Hall explained that this will also be an opportunity to make sure NFPA has access to the same experts and information that the ICC does.

Update on NFPA proposal to consolidate hydrogen requirements

Ms. Hall gave an update from information that was shared during the National Hydrogen & Fuel Cells Codes & Standards Coordinating Committee:

NFPA52 – Vehicular Fuel Systems – is close to the end of its development. It has now gone to a committee vote. There will be a July 25 meeting to resolve open issues, and then the document will be issued as final 2005 edition.

In terms of Consolidating Hydrogen Safety Requirements into a Single Document, Ms. Hall reported that there was much discussion in the Coordinating Committee. Carl Rivkin reported that generally most people were in favor of consolidation, but there are questions about how they would be consolidated. The Decision will be made during the week of July 25 by the NFPA Standards Council (<http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=841&URL=Codes%20and%20Standards/Code%20development%20process/Standards%20Council/Biographies%20of%20Council%20members>). If the consolidation effort moves forward, the document will likely be published as a 2008/9 edition and probably called NFPA 2. NFPA 2 would contain H2 safety requirements. It could be assigned to an existing NFPA technical committee, such as Industrial and Medical Gases, or the committee responsible for NFPA 52, or a new committee. Ms. Hall felt that assigning this to an existing committee would be incredibly undesirable as it would not have the breadth of hydrogen safety experts necessary. No action was taken by the committee.

A great deal of discussion and debate ensued since Carl said there had been much support for this and the attendees at the Coordinating Committee meeting held yesterday and today were soundly opposed. Bob Boyd agreed voicing is disapproval for how NFPA 52

has been handled. It was noted that 1-2 years ago, Carl Rivkin met Ron Sims and other SAE folks and they reached an agreement that with regard to vehicle interface, SAE would handle issues on the vehicle side of the nozzle, and NFPA and others would handle issues on the station side. SAE proceeded as discussed, NFPA did not. There is a Hydrogen Coordinating Group meeting in August.

Approaching USFCC and API with NHA priorities

Mr. Serfass reported that he and Tony Androsky are planning to have lunch next week to discuss C&S activities. They will invite Prentiss Searles (API) as well. ACTION

Ms. Hall reported that it would be desirable to find an opportunity when Susan Townsend and Sondra Ullman may take the opportunity to get together with USFCC and NHA technical staff as well, to identify cost-effective ways for both organizations to support common priorities.

Sponsorship for 2005 Fuel Cell Seminar Hydrogen Workshop

Ms. Hall explained that she is interested in soliciting for sponsorship of the workshop the NHA is holding at the Fuel Cell Seminar due to decreased funding for C&S this year.

Ms. Hall asked for committee input on what kind of value companies would like to see for sponsorship.

Mr. Moulthrop said that logo placement sounded good. His company isn't in a position to support sponsorship, but it's not a bad idea.

**Next C&S Steering Committee Meeting:
September 21, 2:30 EDT, teleconference.**

Agenda, documents to review, call-in instructions, etc. available on the C&S page of the Member's Only Site:

<http://www.hydrogenassociation.org/MembersOnly/c&sSteering.asp>