Meeting Location: Houston Metro Offices  
1900 Main Street  
Houston, Texas 77208-1429

Hotel is: Crowne Plaza Hotel  
1700 Smith Street  
Houston, Texas 77002  
Tel: 713-739-8800

Monday, January 25th

8:30 am  Meeting called to order  
Safety Briefing for Facility

8:35 am  Opening remarks by the Chairperson  
Introductions of attendees

8:40 am  Welcome greeting by Metro Houston personnel

8:45 am  Committee Business  
• Minutes of the previous meeting  
• Travel funding status  
• Travel reimbursement procedures  
• Dinner logistics  
• Dinner Presentation Information  
• Next meeting location and date

9:10 am  Report of the Chairperson  
• General Committee information  
• AREMA/IEEE OCS joint meeting

9:15 am  Report of the Vice-chair

9:17 am  Report of the Secretary and Recording Secretary

9:25-10:30 am  Report of Working Group status  
• WG 16 Standard P-1629 Current Collectors  
• WG 17 Standard P-1627 Lightning Arrestors  
• WG 20 Standard P-1630 Supporting Structures  
• OCS Terminology Standard P-1791  
• Live Line Maintenance  
• Catenary Design and Construction Standards  
• IEEE/APTA Standard agreement-Heritage trolley overhead standards  
• Discussion of trolley wire standards
• Discussion of disconnect switch standards

10:30-10:35 am  PatCom Slides
10:35-10:50 am  Break
10:50-12:00 noon  Breakout into working groups (or discussion continuation)
12:00-1:00 pm  Lunch (not provided-sponsor needed)
1:00-3:00 pm  Breakout into working groups
3:00-3:15 pm  Break
3:15-4:00 pm  Breakout into working groups
4:00-4:10 pm  Discussion and adjournment
6:00-7:00 pm  Cocktails and conversation at Crowne Plaza Hotel
7:00-10:00 pm  Dinner, presentations and discussion. Technical presentations after the dinner.

Tuesday, January 26th

8:30 am  Meeting called to order
8:35-10:00 am  Breakout into working groups
10:00-10:15 am  Break
10:15-12:00 pm  Breakout into working groups
12:00-1:00 pm  Lunch (not provided-sponsor needed)
1:00-3:00 pm  Breakout into working groups
3:00-3:20  Break
3:20-4:20 pm  Breakout into working groups
4:20 pm  Adjournment
To the Committee:

As mentioned previously, the next meeting of the IEEE Overhead Contact Systems Subcommittee for Rail Transit will take place January 25 and 26, 2010 at Houston Metro in Houston, Texas. Meeting location is Houston Metro offices, 1900 Main Street, Houston 77208-1429 and will start at 8:30 am both days. The Traction Power Substation Subcommittee will hold their meeting at the same location on January 27th and 28th.

We have reserved a block of rooms for this period at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1700 Smith Street, Houston 77002, Telephone 713-739-8800. The cost is $129.00/night plus tax and the reservation code is IEEE GROUP. On line reservations can be booked at:


I recommend you book the room and airfare early so as to insure a reservation and low airfare.

Attached is an agenda to this E-mail and there are two items I believe we need to address with intense discussion to determine a direction and how or if a standard is needed. These items are trolley wire as regards ASTM and disconnect switches used to control power to the OCS or third rail.

These discussions are predicated on magnesium copper and cadmium copper trolley wire and an overall marking system for the types of wires that are in use. The European Union has banned the use of cadmium copper trolley wire and is using magnesium copper in its place. In North America, no such ban has been implemented but agencies may chose to use a replacement to cadmium even though it is an acceptable alloy. In such case, we need an ASTM specification for the various types of MgCu that can be drawn. We also need to discuss the possibility of exclusion of rod splices prior to the wire being drawn so that no splices are inherent in the wire from the factory. Another consideration is the microscopic grain size of the trolley wire where the smaller the grain size, the stronger the wire. It will be very important to have as many trolley wire manufacturers and suppliers at this meeting as possible so that we may have meaningful and representative discussion.

The other agenda item that is of paramount importance is the design, construction, operation and installation of disconnect switches used at feeder cable connections to OCS and third rails or as tie switches between power sections or other uses in transit systems. Many variations of switch design are in use and can be placed in enclosures or be open faced mounted on top of poles. Numerous problems have resulted in switch failure and we need to look at the ANSI standards that govern switch design and acceptance and applicability of these standards and methods with direct current switches in transit operation.

I have seen a number of conditions affecting good switch operation over the years and switch burnup is a major problem. Enclosures are constructed to a number of varying methods and specifications and problems have arisen with these as well. Another concern is the gap between blade and jaw when a grounding situation is implemented in that there is insufficient clearance and short circuits have occurred. I have a number of issues which I will bring up and I ask that all transit system operators submit to me even if they cannot attend the meeting or bring to the meeting situations and problems encountered with disconnect switches. Also be prepared to discuss what features are
inherently good and should be implemented in switch design and installation. Installations vary from
ground level to pole mount and in between and we need consistency and standardization.

We will continue the custom of having a cocktail hour, dinner and presentation on the evening of the
first meeting day and this will take place at the hotel. If anyone wishes to make a presentation, let me
know ahead of time as it must be technical in nature. Please do not do a sales presentation if you do a
presentation. If any private sector member wishes to have a presentation table set up at the dinner, let
me know so I can make the arrangements. There is donation fee of $500.00 for this and you can
discuss products, handout literature and inform attendees of your product line. This is done outside
of the meeting area so as not to compromise the independency of the Committee. The money raised
is being used to reimburse travel expenses for transit agency members who were unable to receive
reimbursement for travel prior to 2006. We have only a few more people to reimburse and we can do
so with your donations. All funds and donations are handled by APTA for us. I will provide a report
on this at the meeting.

We should be prepared to breakout into working groups after all discussions are complete and try to
get as much done as possible on the standards being worked. These standards are being referenced in
the industry even though some are still in draft format so your hard work is definitely paying off. If
you have any questions are comments, please feel free to contact me or other members of the
committee. We look forward to seeing you in Houston.