**Minutes of Meeting 40**  
October 22-23, 2015

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**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, October 22, 2015**

8:30 AM: OCS sub-committee (hereafter committee) members met at the Baltimore World Trade Center, 401 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. OCS’s meeting followed Traction Power Substations (TPS) sub-committee meeting held at the same venue on Tuesday, October 20 and Wednesday, October 21.

Committee Chairman, Paul White, NTSB Corporation, hereafter “Chair”: opened the meeting with review of the schedule, safety briefing of the building, discussion of sponsored events – lunch, dinner and social events. An invitation to sponsor breaks, a meal or other social gathering was extended to the membership for those in a position to host the committee.

Attendees introduced themselves. Attendance numbers for the meeting:

- Thursday, October 22, 2015  40 signed attendees
- Friday, October 23, 2015  23 signed attendees

Presentation on Maryland Transit Administration, hereafter (MTA) [http://mta.maryland.gov](http://mta.maryland.gov)

A brief history was presented by Vernon Hartsock, Deputy Director, Office of Engineering, MTA. Information from their web site:

MTA is a division of the Maryland Department of Transportation, and one of the largest multi-modal transit systems in the United States. MTA operates Local and Commuter Buses, Light Rail, Metro Subway, Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) Train Service, and a comprehensive Paratransit (Mobility) system. MTA also manages the Taxi Access system, and directs funding and statewide assistance to Locally Operated Transit Systems (LOTS) in each of Maryland’s 23 counties, Baltimore City, Annapolis and Ocean City.
Mr. Hartsock focused on the system’s Light Rail, the modern version of which was commissioned in 1992 to coincide with the opening of Baltimore’s remodeled Camden Yards ballpark. Nearly 25 years later MTA has contracted with Alstom/ABB to rebuild 35 cars in their fleet, to bring them up to current standards.

One design element required modification and was noted during the presentation as the fixed tension used in a portion of the line. John Grantham was credited for improving the tension in this section and for helping maintain the system since commissioning.

Another design challenge is exemplified by a rapid change in grade, reducing clearance to the minimum. This section is known as the “Rebel Yell”. A video clip was shown and can be accessed at OCS web site.

The committee was invited to tour the Camden Yards station and Light Rail system on Friday afternoon.

Committee Business:

Meeting minutes from Meeting 39, June 24-25, 2015 in Charlotte, NC were previously submitted to the committee electronically. A motion was made and seconded for approval of the minutes, vote was approved by acclamation.

Committee feedback on the University of North Carolina (UNC) portion of the meeting was particularly positive. The Committee greatly appreciates Eric Parsons leadership and assistance in this most successful meeting.

Continuing education units are available for this meeting. If you need certification, please contact the Chair.

The Chair reviewed travel reimbursement policy and procedure. IEEE policy allows for certain travel expense reimbursement to certain agency personnel who are members of IEEE and our Society, Vehicular Technology Society, including retired members with tenure. Expense report forms and instructions are available on the OCS web site:


Travel Expense Policy File Ref: http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/railtransit/ocs/OCS%20Reference%20Documents/VTS%20Travel%20Expense%20Policy.pdf

Future meetings:

1. Without objection the committee agreed to continue meeting three times annually, in keeping with past practice.

2. An objective is to hold one meeting independent of other transit associations; while one will be in conjunction with the sister committee Traction Power Substations (TPC); and one in conjunction with another transit event – either the Joint Rail Conference, hereafter (JRC) or some other related association meeting / conference.
3. New York City is the next meeting location; in conjunction with Traction Power Substation (TPS), sister committee to OCS. TPS will meet March 31 and April 1, 2016; OCS will meet prior on March 29-30, 2016. Hotel and meeting information will be mailed to the committee as soon as known.

4. Several possible meeting locations were discussed for the balance of 2016 – Phoenix, Little Rock, St. Louis, Monterrey, Mexico.
   a. Votes were taken on the 2nd and 3rd meeting venues for 2016.
      i. By majority vote OCS will meet in Phoenix in conjunction with APTA June 19-22, 2016.
      ii. By majority vote OCS will meet in St. Louis in the fall of 2016.

5. Several 2017 meeting sites were proposed.
      i. Committee members mentioned both Siemens and Mac Power were local to Calgary and may arrange tours.


7. Dave Thurston mentioned the next Joint Rail Conference is in Columbia, South Carolina, April 12-15, 2016. John Grantham is involved in organizing this event. [https://www.asme.org/events/joint-rail-conference]

Other Business:

Moises Ramos, HNTB Corporation, asked members of the Committee who have any expertise in Web Design or use to assist with the OCS web site.

Web-site is up to date and is the best source of information from meetings; however, help is needed to maintain and improve the web-site.

Gilbert Cabral, LA County Metro, discussed the growing potential use of drones to inspect OCS. He has seen this tool advertised in trade shows and suggested a future Committee meeting agenda item could be an FAA presentation of rules governing drone use in OCS inspection. Gilbert was asked to report on drone use during the March-April New York meeting [Note: Agenda Item].

Committee members utilize the OCS committee email group to ask questions, share information or make observations. This is encouraged as an efficient way to share and expand knowledge to the Committee.

Joe Williams, Recording Secretary and Rea Magnet Wire Company, suggested revising the blank roster form to one pre-populated with names of recent meeting attendees. The Chair accepted this suggestion and a new format will be presented to the Committee at the New York meeting for consideration and approval.

Moises Ramos renewed a proposal he initially made at the San Jose meeting for a working group (WG) to develop a Guide for Test and Commissioning OCS. The Committee questioned if this proposal would be classified a standard or a guide. The Chair determine a guide based upon group discussion.

The Committee broke for lunch, which was provided by Arun Vohra, Mini, LLC. Arun was thanked for lunch and for reminding the Committee of the work you are doing.

After lunch the Committee broke into their respective Working Groups.
The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 3:30 PM for Working Groups to continue back at the hotel and for members to catch up on correspondence prior to dinner.

**Working Group (WG) Status:**

Draft Standard P-1626 – DC Overhead Contact System Insulation Requirements – draft standard has been withdrawn due to similarities with existing EU standards.

Standard P-1627 – Lightning Arrestors – Suresh Shrimavle, P.E., Valley Metro, Phoenis, AZ Chairs this group with Zolton Horvath, Elcon Associates, Portland, OR as Vice-Chair of the Working Group (WG) to submit the PAR for ballot. Suresh is asking the Committee for comments and participants to assist in this work. Please contact Suresh at (602) 652-5203 or sshrimavle@valleymetro.org

Standard P-1791 - OCS Terminology – Committee Vice-Chair Steve Norton, LA Metro, is Chair of this WG. The next step is to edit the glossary of terms with IEEE, then submit the standard to ballot. Should the Committee have contributions to this work, please contact Steve at (213) 922-3116 or nortons@metro.net

Potential Standard – Live Line Maintenance – Committee Chair Paul White, Vice-Chair Norton, and Zolton Horvath, will co-Chair this working group. Next Step: draft formulation, Project Authorization Request (PAR) application and draft standard status.

Standard P-1833 – Design Criteria – WG Co-Chair Moises Ramos, NHTB Corporation will be ready this coming fall, according to the Chair for ballot submittal. It was noted in Baltimore that Suresh Shrimavle will assist with this or perhaps lead it with Moises focused on the Draft Guide for Testing and Commissioning of OCS.

Standard P-1896 – Standard for Contact Wire Identification – OCS Subcommittee Chair reported the ballot passed with the minimum 75% affirmation. The Standard now becomes active.

Standard P-2406 – Draft Standard for Disconnect Switch – Jerry Woodruff and Chris Tyrrell, NMC Powersmith Inc., and Co-Chairs of this WG reported this Draft Standard is ready for ballot.

**Discussed Potential Standards and Maintenance of Standards:**

Revision to P-1630: The Chair reported Steve Gross of Union Metal will chair a working group to develop revisions to P-1630 – Overhead Supporting Structures that include standards for torquing anchor bolts, including the use of lock nuts. He is looking for volunteers.

Pantograph Standard: The Chair will ask Jeff Sisson and Ron Bennell to review and renew the existing Pantograph Standard.

Testing & Commissioning Guide: Moises Ramos, HNTB Corporation renewed his interest in the Committee assigning a WG to develop a Guide for testing and commissioning a newly installed overhead contact system (OCS) installation or expansion. There was general consensus and no objection. Those interested should contact Moises at moramos@hntb.com.

**Friday, October 23, 2015**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM and working groups (WG) continued on their standards or guideline work.

It was announced lunch would be “on your own”, with tour participants meeting at 1:00 PM in the lobby of Baltimore World Trade Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.
The afternoon concluded with a tour of Baltimore’s light rail system, focusing on the Camden Yards station.

Next Meeting:

Just to repeat, the next meeting will be consecutively scheduled with TPS for those who would like to attend both, with TPS March 29-30 and OCS March 31- April1, 2015 in New York. The meeting is tentatively schedule for Grand Central Station and group hotel accommodations will be announced soon.

Joe Williams, Recording Secretary