Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 2016:

8:30 AM: OCS sub-committee (hereafter committee) members met at Drury Plaza Hotel, St. Louis, LaSalle Conference Room.

Administrative Business:

Committee Chairman, Paul White, HNTB Corporation, hereafter (Chair); called the meeting to order with a welcome to St. Louis and review of safety instructions - where to meet in event of building evacuation and rest room location. A few refreshments were provided in the back of the La Salle Conference Room.

Attendees introduced themselves to the group and attendance roster was circulated.

The Chair extended a special thank you to NMC Powerswitch (Jerry Woodruff and Chris Tyrell committee members) for their support of the meeting in their home city of St. Louis. They will present their Optical Voltage Sensing and Limit Switches during the evening dinner meeting. Chris provided the Committee a brief synopsis of his upcoming presentation. This dinner meeting is hosted by NMC Powerswitch, with cash bar. Cocktails at 6:00pm, dinner at 7:00 and presentations begin at 8:00pm.

Siemens will also present their Sicat CMS (Catenary monitoring system for overhead contact line systems. Mark Godsey, OCS Turnkey Product Engineer for Siemens, and Committee Member was in attendance, along with Brett Tharp and Astha Mitra of Siemens. Siemens hosted lunch this day.

The Recording Secretary announced his retirement from industry employment effective January 3, 2017, and in turn resignation as Recording Secretary for IEEE OCS Sub-Committee. The Committee gave Joe Williams a resounding applause and thank you for his service to the Committee. Those interested in the position should contact the Chairman at his email shown above.

Metro-Link Presentation:
Scott D. Grott, Chief of MetroLink Operations for Metro Link provided an overview of their system, including the unique Bi-State Development (BSD) Board [www.bistatedev.org](http://www.bistatedev.org) between Missouri and Illinois governing the system. This Board oversees five regional assets – Gateway Arch Riverfront, Metro, St. Louis Downtown Airport, St. Louis Regional Freightway, and Bi-State Development Research Institute. There were many questions for Mr. Rott from the Committee Attendees. Please find the Metro Link presentation at this site: [http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/railtransit/ocs/OCSarchive2016/ BSD_Metro%20Presentation%20IEEE%20OCS%20Sept%202016.pptx](http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/railtransit/ocs/OCSarchive2016/ BSD_Metro%20Presentation%20IEEE%20OCS%20Sept%202016.pptx)

**Attendance, Travel Policy, Upcoming Meetings:**

- **Tuesday, September 13, 2016**
  - 23 signed attendees
- **Wednesday, September 24, 2016**
  - 23 signed attendees

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. David Thurston was in attendance and available to assist with any questions regarding this or working group activities. Expense report forms and instructions are available on the OCS web site:

**Expense Report File Ref:**

**Travel Expense Policy File Ref:**

- The Chair reviewed IEEE policy regarding meetings and committee work, to refrain from competitive discussion and maintain a professional approach to all standards work.

- The Committee’s next meeting will take place during January in Little Rock, Arkansas. Date, hotel and other particulars to be announced. Contact has been made with Jarod Varner of Central Arkansas Transit Authority (CAT) and they would be happy to host our sub-committee. The Chair proposed this meeting as a memorial to Fred Perry, an industry veteran who assisted in building the trolley system in downtown Little Rock.

- The Committee decided to continue meeting three times per year with a meeting taking place in Calgary May 9-10; and Washington, DC the week of October 2-6 in conjunction with Traction Power. The Committee’s preference is to travel on Monday, meet Tuesday – Wednesday, and then with Traction Power on Thursday – Friday for those interested.

**New Business:**

Several members expressed the need to update the Committee’s E-Mail Group. Moises Ramos, HNTB and Eric Parsons, AFL Global and Steve Norton, LA Metro expressed the desire to reopen discussions on a LinkedIn Group Eric had created some years ago. Following is the group link: [https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1033797](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1033797) The Chair reported the web-site was up to date and email address bounce-backs were not of great concern; though we would work for improvements in list accuracy and explore using LinkedIn. The issue was tabled until the next day.
John Grantham, Atkins North America, gave a brief presentation on the issue of Conductor Tension Loss, explaining that he was currently working on a project where the Contract Technical Provisions require that the tension loss in each auto-tensioned wire run be limited to 4%. John explained that in his 25 years of designing OCS on light rail systems, this was the first US light rail system where he had encountered a requirement for any Conductor Tension Loss, and asked the group of OCS Engineers, Contractor, Suppliers and Agency Reps if anyone had ever been on a light rail project with that particular criteria. No one in attendance had ever seen that criteria on a light rail system in the US. John then asked the group if anyone felt that a 4% conductor tension loss was applicable to a 35-55 mph light rail system, and all agreed that it was not applicable to light rail systems, but was intended for higher speed (> 100 mph) electrified rail lines. John then proposed that the current in-progress IEEE OCS Design Guide (P-1833) be amended to include a section on the applicability of conductor tension loss on light rail systems and what percentage tension loss would be appropriate. The group agreed.

The meeting turned to standards work by the working groups.

Working Group (WG) Status Reports:

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

Draft Standard P-1627 – Lightning Arrestors – Dev Paul and Suresh Shrimavle, Co-Chairs; Zoltan Horvath, Vice-Chair. Other WG members are: Belete Bekele, Craig Norman and Eric Parsons.

Suresh Shrimavle provided this update from Dev Paul on the Working Group:

- Dev Paul responded to NesCom comments on the revised new PAR which got approved in the June meeting.
- There is full support from Michael Kipness (m.kipness@ieee.org), our IEEE liaison person.
- Dev Paul is in final edit of the draft standard and asks Committee Members to review and provide input to him as soon as possible at (Dev.Paul@aecom.com). The draft standard may not include all latest technology, such as “SMART MOV arrestor”. Inclusion will wait for the next revision when commercially available.
- Please conclude your comments by November 30, 2016 to keep the process moving.

Standard P-1791 - OCS Terminology – Committee Chair is Chris Pagni and Vice-Chair is Steve Norton. Steve reported he is working with Michael Kipness to reconcile one edit comment on terminology.

Standard P-1836 – Identification of Contact Wire Used in Overhead Contact Systems – The Chair reported this is now an official standard and is available for purchase from IEEE.

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

Chris Tyrrell provided this update for the Working Group after the New York meeting:

P2406 Standard for DC Disconnect switches went to ballot. It had 11 voters, which was not enough participation to be passed. Out of the 11, 5 were to approve, 5 were disapprove, 1 abstain. The group is now working to resolve the disapproving balloter’s comments. The general consensus is all the information is good, but there needs to be more differentiation between recommendations (informational annex added for this) and requirements typically associated with a Standard.
Chris reported during this St. Louis meeting there remain a number of responses to review, that a number of people are involved, and re-ballot time frame has not yet been established.

**Draft Guide P-1833 – Design Criteria – WG Co-Chair Moises Ramos HNTB Corporation** went through a detailed review of the markup asking Committee Members for feedback. The current draft is long with excessive language and will be condensed prior to ballot submittal, which was originally targeted for this fall. Moises is also looking for a Co-Chair to assist with this standard.

**Other Standards from previous minutes with no current update:**

**Standard P-1628 – Recommended Practice for Maintenance of Overhead Contact Systems for Transit Systems** – this is an approved IEEE Standard; it is approaching the review period and any upgrades required will be incorporated. Please provide any input to the Chair.

**Standard P-1629 – Performance of Overhead Current Collectors for Transit Vehicles** – Jeffery Sisson is chairing this working group to review and renew this standard dealing with Pantographs. An update from Jeffery will be obtained as soon as possible.

**Standard P-1630 – Supporting Structures for Overhead Contact Systems for Transit Applications** – Steve Adkins and Steve Gross, Co-Chairs; other members are Mike Rassias, Mario Marozzi, and Graham Scaife.

Steve Adkins this update for the Working Group after the New York meeting:

*The OCS Supporting Structures working group progressed the maintenance update of the P-1630 standard, “Supporting Structures for Overhead Contact Systems for Transit Systems,” which was published in 2012.*

Previously it was reported the working group would include standards for torqueing anchor bolts, and the use of lock nuts in the revisions under consideration.

**Previous Meetings Discussed Potential Standards / Guides:**

**Potential Standard** – Live Line Maintenance – Committee Chair Paul White has indicated this potential standard may be taken over by Gary Clarner, AFL Global, 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.

**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.

In Phoenix there appeared to be agreement that John Schlick could take leadership of this working group, given Moises’ occupation with other working groups.

**Pantograph Security:** Mike Rassias, HNTB to chair this new working group for the development of a Guide for consistently and effectively addressing pantograph security. [see note from the following day that created this group].

**Wednesday, September 14, 2016:**

**Noon:** Lunch was served compliments of Siemens

**Tour:** A tour of the MetroLink OCS and the Leclede’s substation was conducted.
Wednesday evening, September 14, 2016:

6-10:00 PM: Cocktails and Conversations and a dinner were held at Drury Plaza Hotel, St. Louis, LaSalle Conference Room. The dinner was sponsored by NMC Powerswitch. Siemens made a presentation on their new Sicat CMS catenary monitoring system.

Wednesday, September 14, 2016:

8:30 AM: The Committee reconvened and was called to order by the Chairman at Drury Plaza Hotel, St. Louis, LaSalle Conference Room.

Administrative Business:

The Chairman reviewed safety procedures, bathroom location etc. Confirmation of 2017 meetings was provided with Little Rock in January, Calgary in May and Washington DC in October. See specific dates as known in the Next Meeting Section below.

Jerry Woodruff, NMC Power Switch provided the Committee a brief overview of their plant tour scheduled for the afternoon, to assemble after lunch at 12:30, planning return time by 4:30 pm. Carl Wessell offered local transportation to the airport for those catching flights.

For those staying over and wanting to dine together, meet in the lobby at 6:00 pm for dinner.

The Chair expressed appreciation to the Recording Secretary for his service with a round of applause by the Committee. I am appreciative for the opportunity to have served the Committee.

The discussion on how best or whether to use the internet tool LinkedIn Groups was brought back up with presentation by Eric Parsons, AFL Global. [https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1033797](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1033797). Pros and Cons were discussed. The Chair agreed to review this tool with IEEE officials to determine how it can be used without circumventing the official web site for OCS. Acknowledgement was made by the Chair his AOL email group is dated, but otherwise the web site is current and is the central point of communication for the Committee. Suggestions following the discussion included the need for a secondary manager for the existing LinkedIn Group, and some rules of application. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Working Groups continued their Standards discussions during the morning.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am to allow time for lunch prior to NMC Power Switch tour in the afternoon.

Reports from those attending the tour were positive, impressed with the cleanliness and orderliness of the process. Plant tours are always greatly appreciated by the Committee and NMC Powerswitch commitment to the Committee is appreciated.

In addition to NMC Power Switch, special thanks to Siemens for their sponsorship of lunch and Rea Magnet Wire for their sponsorship of our meeting room rental for both days.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be in Little Rock, as aforementioned. On a personal note, this was intended to be my final meeting in light of retirement this January. However, with the meeting being held in Little Rock I will try to attend to assist with a smooth transition to the next Recording Secretary. It has been a pleasure serving the Committee these past few years and wish everyone a successful and prosperous 2017.

Joe Williams, Recording Secretary