



**2016 Annual NTPEP Meeting
Grand Rapids, MI**

**Reinforcing Steel (REBAR/WWR)
Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
Working Session #10
Wednesday, May 11, 2016 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

Please sign the attendance sheet

Action Items are listed below in red

10:30AM-10:40AM: Call to Order and Introductions (Merrill)

10:40AM-11:20AM: Update-Program Status (Merrill)

Review of Membership Roster

- The membership roster was displayed for everyone
- Membership roster needs to be updated. If you do not see your name on the list or would like to join the committee please let Merrill know.

Program benefits from DOT perspective

- Merrill Zwanka – South Carolina DOT
 - From the DOT perspective in SC industry has stepped up and submitted products. Many rebar suppliers are on the SC QPL.
 - SC also has their staff help with the pre audit sampling and they also attend the audits.
 - SC still does their own quality control at the project level but the NTPEP audit adds an extra check for the suppliers.
 - NTPEP also has stopped SC from having to send inspectors out of state which has been a great cost and time savings for the state.
 - It also provides the SC DOT with third party test results for comparison.
 - WV utilizes NTPEP as a specification for Rebar and has seen great cost savings.

2016 Participation (Scott)

- Rebar
 - In 2015 33 audits were conducted.
 - In 2016 31 audits have been scheduled.
 - IL DOT is the 3rd party testing facility and they have received 12 of the 31 comparison samples so far this year.
- WWR
 - In 2015 23 audits were conducted.

- In 2016 24 audits have been scheduled.
 - IL DOT is also the third party testing facility for WWR and the have received 15 or the 24 comparison samples so far this year.

Audit Changes (Ed – Sarc - Kathryn)

- **Certificate of Compliance**
 - The certificates of compliance are now all being issued on Jan 1st and expire at the end of the calendar year
 - They will no longer run from the manufacturer's anniversary date
 - As long as the manufacturer has their audit scheduled and has paid they will receive a certificate of compliance and be listed as compliant until there is a reason to switch them to non-compliant
 - It is very important for the DOT's to check Datamine to ensure that a given manufacturer is currently compliant. Just because the manufacturer has a Certificate of Compliance does not mean they are currently compliant.
- **Audit Reports**
 - New grades added to rebar
 - A615 addition of #20 bar
 - A706 80 grade material
 - All of this information has been updated on the audit form
- **R18 & R38 status**
 - SP-01 is the standard practice for all audit programs.
 - SP-01 works in conjunction with each audit program's work plan.
 - R18 and R38 were initially referenced when the program was first being created
 - It was decided that SP-01 is a good standalone document and the reference to R18 and R38 will be removed from SP-01.
 - R18 and R38 have already been removed from the work plan.
- **Testing speed of parallel plate machine/universal testing machine:**
 - QSM will be updated to require the manufacturer to explain what speed they are running and how they verify it.
 - The speed of the testing is nonspecific and the specification uses words such as "recommended" and "convenient" speed
 - The 2017 manufacturer's quality manuals will be required to have a section about what speed they run their testing machine and how they verify that rate
 - The calibration company cannot determine the testing rate, the rate will need to be determined by the testing lab and told to the calibration technician.
 - Industry indicated that knowing the exact rate the machine is running should not matter. As long as it is faster than the minimum rate. The rate should be left up to the operators' discretion. The faster the break is done the more conservative the results will be. The manufacturer does it quickly because they know that

are way over the minimum so they are ok with having a slightly lower break.

- Ed Hughes discussed with the group that running an unknown rate may cause an issue when the data is compared to the third party testing facility.
- Scott Hughes mentioned that IL DOT, who is the third party testing laboratory, runs the rate at a half inch per minute until yield.
- **NTPEP Designated Lab Audit**
 - NTPEP has started auditing the laboratories that perform testing for each technical committee
 - The audits will be conducted on a two-year cycle
 - IL DOT had their audit in April 2016.

Samples (Now/Future) (Merrill/Scott)

- **Contact information from DOT's for sampling**
 - **Matt Romero – Oklahoma DOT**
 - Once a year NTPEP samples in southern OK
 - Matt's laboratory does not do as much testing as they used to so new employees do not have as much exposure to the testing as they did in the past.
 - Matt takes personnel to the facility and has them assist in sampling and has them watch testing at the facility
 - Matt will coordinate the NTPEP auditors so the audit occurs when Matt has interns so they can learn about NTPEP and gain experience.
 - This experience will allow the young employees to see how the program is used as they start taking larger roles in the DOTs
 - IN also coordinates their new hires to go to the mills in the area and sample when the NTPEP auditors are there
 - It is extremely beneficial for young engineers to know about NTPEP and the sampling and auditing that is done because most do not.
- **Issues to discuss: (Ed)**
 - **Mills who no longer produce rebar**
 - A few mills that have changed almost solely to structural steel
 - These mills still want to be in the NTPEP program
 - They have asked to bring in rebar from a sister mill to perform testing on, NTPEP has not allowed this.
 - They now only make rebar for the NTPEP audit.
 - **Is there interest in shapes (structural)?**
 - ME, NC, VA, and NY DOTs would be very interested in structural steel
 - There are not any states present that currently have a list of structural steel manufacturers.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Kevin from Arkansas DOT would like a survey sent out to all states to see who is interested in structural steel (shapes)
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 - Stainless Steel Mills
 - ME, NC, VA, and NY DOTs are also interested in stainless steel.
 - There are not any states present that currently have a list of stainless steel manufacturers.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Continue to investigate stainless steel as a possible part of this audit program
- SOM Update – ASTM A1064 AASHTO Spec development (Merrill)
 - A1064 has now become the industry standard for wire.
 - 4 ASTM standards merged into ASTM A1064.
 - AASHTO SOM TS 4f/g decided they needed an equivalent since the previous 4 standards has ASTM/AASHTO equivalency.
 - AASHTO is now combining their 4 wire standards and later this month it is going to the tech section for ballot.
 - Industry members wanted to know if there would be any changes and if they would be able to give input.
 - Merrill suggested they become a friend of the tech section and then they will be able to see the ballot
- WWR – Survey
 - Sent out to the states
 - It looked into the issue of concrete pipe manufacturers who make their own cages
 - Of the 50 states it was sent to 37 had replied to the survey.
 - The survey asked how the state handles acceptance for WWR in concrete pipe
 - Do your specifications require them to meet A1064?
 - About half said they do
 - If you are referencing A1064 how do you address pipe manufacturers making their own cages?
 - Most states were not concerned about the cages, the hoop wire is load bearing part.
 - Would you support an effort to add wire assembled by the concrete pipe manufacturer to the NTPEP audit program?
 - Roughly a 50/50 split
 - The WWR industry stated that the DOTs were creating an uneven playing field by not making all welded wire be audited through the NTPEP program.
 - The concrete pipe industry stated that the wire welds are not structural welds and they are only welded to hold the cage in place until the concrete pipe is poured.
 - Ed and Sarc explained that this is more of an ASTM issue as the language in the pipe specifications need to be clarified.

11:20AM-11:30AM: Discuss DataMine 3.0 Items

- This module is almost complete
- If you have any question please attend the Datamine 3.0 meeting

11:30AM-11:45AM: Industry Concerns

- Danielle Kleinhans – CRSI
 - (a) Safe fabrication of larger bar sizes - fabricators felt there is not enough information on bends of the large bars -75 or higher, 18 or larger. It will not be recommended until there is a safety policy that addresses it.
- Rich Wagner – WRI
 - (a) Most WWR producers are concerned that an uneven playing field is being created
 - (b) There is an intersection of two wires that are welded and regardless they should be held to the same standard.
- Chris Lewis – Gerdau Jacksonville, FL
 - (a) Not in attendance

11:45AM-12:00PM: Open Discussion

Manufacturer variation report discussed

- This document is no longer a pdf- it is now an excel document so states can change the comparison criteria to their specific criteria and see if the manufacturer falls within their state's criteria.
- Ed Hughes gave a brief demo on how to utilize the document.
- Industry asked what kind of corrective action should they do if IL DOT has a failure but they do not?
 - Scott has a resample process that he goes through that is in his contract before he sends the report to AASHTO. Sometimes it is an issue with the graph. The machine sometimes does not select the highest peak on the graph.
 - Kenny Anderson stated that this is why extra samples are taken so that the tests can be re-run and verify the initial results if there is a discrepancy
- FL and WV indicated an interest in an audit program for strand.
- Robert Sacrinella asked how many states have a program for epoxy coated rebar?
 - Is there a need for a NTPEP epoxy coated rebar audit program?
 - Many DOTs were interested
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Ed and Robert will put the finishing touches on what they have and it will be discussed with the TC during the next conference call

Dismiss – Adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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