Minutes for May 21-22, 2013

The Railroad Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (the “Council”), pursuant to notice, held a meeting on May 21-22, 2013, in Washington DC. The meeting was called to order at 2: pm, on May 21, 2013, by Chairman Levine.

The following members were present: Chairman/Treasurer: John Levine, Pinsly Railroad Company; Vice Chairman: Tom Giovinazzi, Holcim (US), Inc ; Secretary: Howard Kaplan, U.S. Magnesium, LLC; Robin Burns, Occidental Chemical Corp.; George Duggan, BNSF; John Friedmann, Norfolk Southern Corporation; Wayne Hurst, Agricultural Producer; Jeff Keever, Virginia Port Authority; Henry Lampe, Chicago South Shore & South Bend Railroad; John McCreavy, SMS Rail Services, Inc.; Michael Ogborn, Omnitrax; Mike Mohan, Canadian National Railway Company (via phone); Leslie Moll, ArcelorMittal USA; Shelley Sahling-Zart, Lincoln Electric System; and ex officio members Daniel R. Elliott III, Surface Transportation Board; Ann Begeman, Surface Transportation Board; and Scott Greene, Federal Railroad Administration.

Also present: STB staff members, Reamy Ancarrow, Anika Cooper, Gabriel Meyer, Lucy Marvin , and Mary Turek.

The following members were not present: Peter A. Weiss, Chrysler LLC; and ex officio member Francis P. Mulvey, Surface Transportation Board.

Tuesday May 21st:

1. Welcome and opening remarks from RSTAC Chairman Levine.
2. Introduction of new member Wayne Hurst.
3. Presentation by Dan Neumann, Senate Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine, on predominate issues of importance to Congress - particularly passenger rail safety and PTC issues.
4. Opening remarks from STB Chairman Elliott and Board Member Begeman.
5. Overview of Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Council (RETAC) by Scott Zimmerman, Proceedings Branch Chief, STB.
6. National Grain Car Council overview by Fred Forstall, Transportation Industry Analyst, STB.
7. Discussion of recently issued STB rules on arbitration and mediation.
8. Update on PTC white paper from committee presented by Mike Ogborn. [Discussion continued into Wednesday session, with all agreeing that committee will hold a conference call to prepare updated draft a.s.a.p.]

Note: Mike Mohan did not participate in Wednesday’s session.

1. Wednesday May 22- RSTAC ONLY: Financial report by Treasurer Levine-finances in good order.
2. Group requested more information from STB staff on railroad performance and on status of ex parte cases before the Board.
3. STB personnel arrive. Minutes approved “as is” from February 2013 meeting.
4. Update on schedule and plans for August 20-21 site visit trip. Newark Port combined with RSTAC business meeting on August 20, and rail tour of East coast to DC with overview of passenger freight conflict issues and possible Amtrak/Conrail discussions/presentations.
5. Marc Schultz of BNSF presented, via telephone, a PTC technical update for the group.
6. Reports from the field
7. Next meeting August 20-21, 2013
8. Meeting adjourned at approximately 12 noon on May 22, 2013.