

**Minutes**  
**Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee**  
September 15, 2010

The Surface Transportation Board's Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) convened at Xcel Energy offices in Denver, CO., on Wednesday, September 15, 2010. Stevan Bobb and William Berg, co-chairs, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. The meeting agenda and copies of referenced documents presented during the meeting are attached separately to the e-mail distributing these minutes.

**Attendance:**

**Surface Transportation Board:**

Francis P. Mulvey, Vice Chairman  
Charles D. Nottingham, Commissioner  
Scott Zimmerman, Designated Federal Officer

Note: Daniel Elliott, Chairman, was unable to attend since he was testifying before the Senate Commerce Committee in Washington, D.C.

**RETAC Members:**

Bill Berg, Co-chairman  
Stevan Bobb, Co-chairman

Susan Arigoni	Mark Huston	Kent Smith
John Gray	Dan Kuehn	James Stem
Daryl Haack	Betsy Monseu	Darrell Wallace
Paul Hammes	Joe Osborne	Jeff Wallace
Robert Hulick	Henry Rupert	
John Hull	Dan Sabin	

Susan Arigoni welcomed the RETAC to the new Xcel office facilities, which were just recently occupied and which were designed to meet very stringent energy standards.

Vice Chairman Mulvey and Commissioner Nottingham welcomed the committee. Vice Chairman Mulvey provided a brief update of the Senate Commerce Committee hearing regarding the federal role in National Rail Policy in progress in Washington. Commissioner Nottingham noted that the STB members had attended the National Coal Transportation Association meeting in Denver and would be attending the National Grain Car Council meeting later in the week.

Bill Berg and Stevan Bobb welcomed the group with Stevan noting the plan to address topics suggested by RETAC members. Bill requested that members continue to propose topics for discussion.

Minutes of the March 23, 2010, meeting of the RETAC Committee were approved.

Robert Hulick reported that the committee fund totaled \$1,786.38.

Susan Arigoni presented the Best Practices White Paper, revised based on March 23, 2010 meeting input. Perspectives from the Railroads, Producers, and Receivers were presented by Henry Rupert, Kent Smith and Susan Arigoni, respectively. The Committee accepted the White Paper and suggested it be prepared for publication and a "Presentation" packet be developed for broad use.

Betsy Monseu presented a Performance Measures update report. Darrell Wallace provided a verbal bio-fuels update. Their reports were received as information.

Railroad fall and winter preparations were discussed and carrier responses summarized as follows:

CSX (Rupert) – System fluid, velocity / dwell stable, additional crew starts available, Space available on intermodal and manifest trains.

NS (Osborne) – Required people and assets available.

BNSF (Bobb) – Capacity sold will be delivered as scheduled, locomotive surge fleet in place.

UP (Hammes) – Adding equipment and personnel.

These reports were received as information.

Roundtable Discussions:

- Shipment ratability led by Joe Osborne.
- Utility inventory levels and current rail operations led by Mark Huston.
- Potential impact of proposed EPA regulations led by Bill Berg. Discussion resulted in suggestion to request EPA presentation addressing the potential rules possibly impacting the coal market.

One final topic related to the applicability of the Best Practices White Paper to bio fuels discussed. A review was suggested, addressing both unit train and manifest train operations. There was a further summary of Chairman Elliott's testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee.

The next meeting of the committee was set for Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at the STB offices in Washington, D.C.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.