

NTPEP



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION
PRODUCT EVALUATION PROGRAM

AASHTO Product Evaluation Listing Technical Committee Meeting Minutes Working Session # 1 Monday, March 13, 2017 10:00AM – 12:00PM

- 1) **10:00AM-10:10AM:** Call to Order and Introductions

- 2) **10:10AM-10:30AM:** Chairman's Report (Paye)
 - Website updates
 - Allow states to post their information in addition to state certifications
 - Links to state websites for APLs
 - Benefits
 - Save money to be more resourceful with time and resources
 - Consolidation of work
 - Centralized, public facing database
 - Nothing is done behind the scenes except some publication
 - Streamlining the product evaluation process
 - Expedite implementation of innovative products
 - Especially for industry
 - APEL Council
 - Rodney, Terry, and Mark from ILDOT not able to attend
 - Brad and Oak present.
 - Where is APEL now
 - 32 states contributing and still have until June 30 to do so
 - Most economical and cheapest AASHTO program to be a part of.
 - \$1200/year
 - Requesting a fee increase for FY18 of \$2500
 - Will help fund updating the APEL website
 - Looking at ways to get Canada involved as well
 - Going to relink the APEL site to the NTPEP site, some tweaks need to be made yet, but nearly there.
 - Product Evaluation
 - Not a well-known facet



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- This is the biggest activity that APEL does
- Each submittal gets its own work plan
 - Georgene responsible for development of the work plan
- All results are available to the DOTs
- Review Process
 - Will determine if it fits within the scope of APEL
 - Is it reasonable
 - Does the cost make sense
 - Find a third party lab to perform testing
 - Review the data and determine whether to release or not.
- *Looked at some materials on the website*
 - *Showed a screenshot of all of the data available for a particular product*
 - *States have access to all of this information*
- DOT Evaluated Products
 - Last year we only had one posted
 - This year we are at 16 products
 - Brought up at SOM last year
 - Fiber reinforced concrete
 - Why not post on APEL?
 - Great idea that took off
 - *Showed screenshot of all the data that DOTs submitted on this product*
 - FHWA is encouraging the APEL site for the storage of this type of data
- Patented or proprietary products
 - *Big slide, please review the slide*
- Benefits of APEL State Certified Products List
 - Part of the APEL fee is that you can post to the site
 - The real goal is that you can use the website instead of having to manage your own database/website
- Updates
 - We've been listening to you



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- Made enhancements to searchability to make it easier for states to find the information they need.
 - Can select filters to narrow the search down
 - Products are in the hundreds, and at some point could be into the thousands
 - Links to all of the state APL information
 - Have the ability to update information for certifications
 - FHWA has not changed their policy, but they do want to see people using AASHTO and APEL to upload their information
 - Fee increase is because the program is in the red at the moment, but we want to continue to update the website, and increase the number of products reviewed
 - Part of enhancement of website is to continue to promote the program
 - Going to try to get out to more AASHTO meetings to get the word out
 - Need to produce some marketing products to hand out at events
 - If anyone has voting members on the committee of highways and streets, encourage them to vote affirmative for the fee increase
 - Work with states to find a state to help with field testing and make it more of a component to products within APEL
 - Please submit your data, even if you think it isn't unique
 - Some other state will find it useful and unique
 - Barry mentioned example of Wisconsin looking at fly ash
 - There will be another call in April
- 3) **10:30AM-10:45AM: Live Web Demo Platte**
- 3 pillars of APEL
 - AASHTO evaluated
 - We do have conversations with manufacturers to make sure they are buying into this program



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- We want to make this program actually useful and there is real value
 - STATE evaluated
 - DOTs evaluate and will post to the site
 - No login needed
 - Touched on earlier, but there is the ability to change things now
 - **Side note FYI: don't use an individual's email for the listing, better to use a generic email that forwards to appropriate people in case of a change in the person**
 - Proprietary products
 - Met with industry, FHWA, DOTs to again make sure the data was useful and relevant
 - Can click the submit button at the bottom of the page to enter data in the applicable field
 - There is no login for states and manufacturers
 - The login you see is for AASHTO to use
 - "About APEL" Website Link
 - Talks about the program
 - Offers tutorials and FAQs
 - Many questions you might have can be answered here
 - Links and State Resources
 - This is a place where we can consolidate contacts and links to the approved product information
 - We need to make sure that members keep this information updated
 - Going to likely touch base with members every so often to assure the information remains up-to-date
- 4) **10:45AM-11:05AM: State Perspective on APEL Young**
- *Looked at the three pillars on the website*
 - AASTHO evaluated products
 - It's a place for the state to send information that falls outside of their boxes



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- Offers the manufacturers to get the product evaluated by the third party
 - Many times the manufacturer will come to the state with their own data
 - Manufacturer has to pay for the eval
 - APEL doesn't approve/disapprove of data
 - Allows the state to take the data and determine the validity of the product within their own policies
 - DOT Evaluated Products
 - States can share information between them for products they are testing
 - Like to go here if someone comes our state with a product to see if information is here
 - Was hesitant to enter their own info because of the inability to change info
 - With the new update, now we can update this is resolved and makes it much more feasible to enter info
 - Proprietary products
 - Talked about the 4 categories that fall under this pillar
 - In Ohio, they were just granted power to approve these types of products themselves
 - Part of the FHWA requirement will be to post this information to the APEL website
 - Wynn is the region 3 rep, so anyone from this region is welcome to ask him questions pertinent to that region
- 5) **11:05AM-11:25AM: Industry Perspective on APEL (Art Berthol)**
- Wheeling Nisshin
 - Steel coating company
 - Galvanizing, aluminizing products etc
 - Talked about galvanizing and how they are now adding Mg to the mix which is a new innovation
 - Why is this a big deal?



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- Provides additional corrosion protection over solely zinc coatings
 - Timeline for product evaluation
 - Early 2013 discovered APEL through searching the web
 - Jan 2014 submitted application to APEL
 - Spring/Summer 2014 testing drafts performed
 - Dec 14 decided to proceed with APEL evaluation
 - Tests and evaluation procedures were chosen independently of Wheeling-Nisshin
 - KTA tested the product in Fall 2015
 - About 400 panels were tested
 - Took about 4 months
 - Didn't have a set standard for how to test and how to determine acceptability
 - Came up with all of that
 - Also tried to simulate damaged plates through use of scribing some of the plates
 - Showed screenshot of APEL site with all of the available data
 - Showed some of the pictures of the plates before and after testing through various means
 - Did find some tests performed by Michigan ten years prior where the pictures of similar tests looked very similar at completion of testing
 - From his side, it did cost money initially to perform the evaluations
 - Still makes sense though because APEL is available to all of the states and lessens overlap of testing
- 6) **11:25AM-12:00PM:** Open Discussion (Survey responses)
- Who decides on the protocol for testing and the cost parameters?
 - As the manufacturer they had zero initial input
 - Council came together determine what would make sense for the regions



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- Vendor does have the right to ask for modifications to the work plan. Also has the right to reject.
- Oak: reach out to states in the region to gauge interest in the product in question
 - What testing do they want to see for the product
- Testing cost about \$60,000+
 - Barry mentioned that part of the consideration of testing is the cost and they try to find a sweet spot between useful data and cost
 - Note, cost can vary dependent on the product. ZAM chose to do more testing. Other product testing protocols cost less than \$10,000.
- Is it just lab testing right now or will there be field component?
 - APEL wants to expand into the field, but right now it is just lab testing
 - Need to get state partners to help with this goal
- Are you given a certain dollar amount from manufacturers that they are willing to spend?
 - No, we come up with the price and take it to them
- Do you have to go search for the information?
 - Yes
 - It might be worthwhile to send out alerts about it
- How do you know how to use a product if there is no spec? Often times product will be implemented by a designer, but when contractor goes to install, they don't have any background information on it.
- Might be a good idea to have a section of APEL on feasibility studies
- For state members, is this something that you would want to go down that path to do testing? **A)** Is your agency willing, **B)** do you have the resources, **C)** if you don't and they are provided would you?
 - LADOT don't have the resources, but given the resources they could possibly do something
 - Most states agree with this idea that they would be interested but would need resources
 - Would want to know what a minimum acceptability



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- Are looking to streamline their own evaluation program
- There is an understanding that some states will find APEL more useful than others depending on how their own programs are structured and how they would utilize APEL.
- Feedback from survey
 - Ability to edit information on products – Done
 - Increased communication about what we are and what we do
 - Want to see brochures and handouts
 - Get more participation on webinars
 - **Myth:** Wouldn't use APEL because they want third party independent testing
 - This is APEL, all using third party testing.
 - Details of the testing plan available to view
 - Once it is developed, it is definitely available
 - Join the APEL council if you are really interested
- As the administrator couldn't they just change the emails as necessary?
 - Can absolutely do this, but it ends up costing more time and money
- Some states just don't find the program convenient
- Loss of data from previous versions
 - This will not happen again, it didn't go well last time
- What happens with data that manufacturer doesn't want out there because it is not favorable?
 - They are allowed to withdraw with AASHTO
- What are you using as a cutter between APEL and NTPEP
 - If we receive a product that fits into NTPEP, we send it that way
 - If APEL sees repeated products of a certain type, we let NTPEP know to explore them opening a new committee for that product
- If a manufacturer withdraws their test report, can they come back into the program with an updated product?
 - Yes, but they start from square one
 - Old report is kept, but it labeled as withdrawn



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