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
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
  o Last year we only had one posted
  o This year we are at 16 products
  o Brought up at SOM last year
    ▪ Fiber reinforced concrete
      • Why not post on APEL?
        o Great idea that took off
        o Showed screenshot of all the data that DOTs submitted on this product
  o FHWA is encouraging the APEL site for the storage of this type of data
• Patented or proprietary products
  o Big slide, please review the slide
• Benefits of APEL State Certified Products List
  o Part of the APEL fee is that you can post to the site
  o The real goal is that you can use the website instead of having to manage your own database/website
• Updates
  o We’ve been listening to you
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
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
- 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
  
  o 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
  
  o 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?
• Provides additional corrosion protection over solely zinc coatings
  o 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
        o 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
      o 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?
      o As the manufacturer they had zero initial input
        ▪ Council came together determine what would make sense for the regions
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
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