1) Call to Order and Introductions (John Schuler, VDOT)
   • Please see the attached attendance roster.
   • “Recommended atmosphere for geotextile testing” paper by Baker and Koerner was shown by a manufacturer.

2) GTX Work Plan Updates and Issues on the Horizon (John Schuler, VDOT)
   • Geotextiles
     o 2017 Work Plan posted. Revisions include:
       ▪ Editorial changes.
       ▪ A new requirement for Private Label products from multiple manufacturing sources must have the same fabric structure (weaving and bonding technique and fiber type) and polymers.
       ▪ There is an ongoing discussion to define the structure types available in DataMine better.
       ▪ Future plans to update. John would like to make a major update to the Work Plan (for GTX and REGEO) this year, mostly in format. Will discuss with NTPEP staff. Would like table of contents, standard QA terms, more straight-forward and user-friendly description of program, industry-specific definitions, due to so many changes over last few years etc.

   • Discussion if testing for heavy metals in fabrics would be of interest to states. Some foreign fabrics have lead and other heavy metals in fabric. Lead is a UV inhibitor. Currently, no criteria in work plan to determine levels of heavy metals. Do states have any environmental requirements for this? Perhaps requiring metals content in Certificate of Analysis of raw material could be required. Idea of using XRF gun was also mentioned; issue is possibly detection level.
3) RE GEO Work Plan Updates and Issues on the Horizon (Rodrigo Herrera, FDOT)

- Added points on QMS for internal failures.
- Creep stiffness has been made an optional test in the Work Plan.
- Uncoated polyester products – added language that if using uncoated polyester products, they have to be buried within 24 hrs.
- Updated Work Plan has been posted on the website.
- Currently, pullout and direct shear are optional tests for reinforcement in slopes and MSE walls. NCDOT expressed interest in making these tests mandatory; one manufacturer agreed would be a good idea, but leaves open the challenge of which loading value at which to test and which soils to test with. Feedback from industry is that there is a lot of variability and because of the sensitivity of the products, it would be helpful to know loading conditions ahead of time. NCDOT suggested use 3 standard soils.
- In the new DataMine 3.0, it is being required of manufacturers to upload their calculations of Minimum Average Roll Values. Manufacturers expressed concern with uploading their calculations, specifically with this information becoming publicly available to competitors. Manufacturers already have their calculations checked by auditors as part of their NTPEP audit. Most states are comfortable with only requiring MARV values and having the NTPEP auditors check calculations. Two state representatives did express support for requiring manufacturers to submit calculations or standard deviations. The chair stated this program is now doing more than ever to verify MARVs, so states should have more confidence than ever in the values. There is no language in the Work Plans on MARV checks, so it is a committee decision not requiring ballot: it was decided to immediately make it optional in DataMine to show MARV calculations, for both GTX and RE GEO program data.
- Any specific state can require and specify that standard deviations for any roll be provided upon request.
  - Committee survey showed majority of states are okay with labeling/tagging, as long as tag is secure. Direct marking would only be of great benefit if could put print product name on product.
  - Information already available on the labels on wrap, but not on actual product.
  - Feedback from industry – NTPEP requirements affect the whole product line not just NTPEP evaluated products.
- Conditioning Time for Geotextiles:
  - Currently, there is supposed to be a 24-hr wait from production to testing. In reality, no one adheres to this.
  - Discussed paper showing 24-hr wait not required.
The following statement is being currently included in the audit reports:
“Sample test results for mechanical properties are available to the production operator within approximately 2 hours. This is possible because of shorter than required conditioning time in the laboratory. Observation. The Technical Committee has approved the following interim position as acceptable until the work plan officially addresses the “standard” conditioning issue: For all index tests, relative humidity shall be recorded and temperature shall be monitored, controlled and recorded to 20°C ± 5°C. Specimens should be conditioned at this level for a minimum of one hour prior to testing.”

- GTX and REGEO Work Plans should be balloted to make it explicit in Work Plans that one hour of condition time is sufficient for polyolefins and polyesters as opposed to 24 hours.

- REGEO installation damage test stone size. Some believe REGEO is using a very large stone size for this test which does excessive damage to grids/fabrics. Can a change to a smaller standard stone gradation be considered? Reports for variation of stone size.

- Should REGEO Work Plan include, or a new Work Plan be made, for roadway applications (base course, subgrade reinforcement)? AASHTO TS-4e voiced its opinion at AASHSTO SOM meeting that incorporation of geogrids into its specifications would be more likely if there was a NTPEP audit plan. Perhaps a joint committee (TS-4e + NTPEP) should be established in order to advance this.

- Interim reports? – Request from manufacturers for reports before conclusion of 10,000-hr creep test. It was discussed that not having reports prior to this test is only an issue for newly introduced products, and a change to this protocol is not viable at this time.

4) Committee Webinar to Help States Make Full Use of this Program (John Schuler, VDOT)
- John would like committee to put on a webinar for state DOTs to explain the NTPEP Geosynthetics programs and all the recent changes, the evaluation and audit programs, advise on how to implement the programs and revise specifications and acceptance procedures, share success stories from DOTs that have implemented it, etc.
- NTPEP can arrange the webinar.
- Committee members to help with content and especially outreach to other DOTs.
- Will aim for Webinar this year.

5) Audit Findings Update and Issues on the Horizon (Joel Sprague, TRI; Brian Whitaker, Berry Plastics)
• Letter of summary of audit findings issues for the year went to GMA in January. The summary can be made publicly available on the website.

6) Lead State Role (Tom Burnett, NYDOT)

• Tom was not able to attend, John gave update. Essentially, lead state has put in a great deal of time behind scenes to post data into DataMine in GTX program. With DataMine 3.0, much less effort should be required as Private Label and Converter connections are automatically made and all source product testing is shown for a given product.
• For REGEO, essentially only Rodrigo is reviewing reports for states. John would like to have help/backup to lead states in both GTX and REGEO.
• Consider removing COV% values from DataMine?

7) AASHTO Role and DataMine 3.0 Status (Vince Glick, AASHTO)

• GTX – still confusing introduction, product and audit, audit only? Select both product and audit even if it is product only?
• REGEO – migration into DataMine 3.0 is pending.

Adjourn

Action Items:

• Overhaul Work Plans to ensure up-to-date, and consistent QA and program terminology (John/Rodrigo lead, Aug 31)
• Consider requiring metals content in CoA on resins.
• Consider making pullout and direct shear tests mandatory with standard soil types.
• Make it optional in DataMine to show MARV calculations, for both GTX and REGEO program data (Vince - May 16)
• Revise REGEO Work Plan for balloting to allow tagging/labeling (Rodrigo – Aug 31)
• Revise GTX and REGEO Work Plans for balloting to make it explicit in Work Plans that one hour of condition time is sufficient for polyolefins and polyesters as opposed to 24 hours (John/Rodrigo, Aug 31)
• Consider smaller stone gradation for REGEO installation damage test.
• Initiate joint task force of AASHTO SOM TS-4e and NTPEP GTX Committee to look at roadway grids/fabrics requirements (John/Rodrigo, Jonathan/Brian/Doug)
• Make webinar for DOTs (John, June 30)
• Get Lead States help (Committee, June 30)
• Consider removing COV% from DataMine.