Welcome and Roll Call

Attendees:

John Schuler, Rodrigo Herrera, Tony Allen, Katheryn Malusky, Jonathan Curry, Brian Whitaker, Doug Brown, Kevin Palmer, Scott Hughes, Scott Hidden, Keith Gardner, Kelly Davis, Jonathan Guido, Jared Nelson, Sam Allen, Tri Buu, Vince Glick, Shannon Golden, Terry McElfresh, Tom Burnett

New Members – Scott Hidden, Tri Buu, Shannon Golden

Approved Minutes of Aug 9, 2016 Conference Call

Review of Action Items from the August 9, 2016 Conference Call:

Action Items (Sep 30 deadline for most items is to allow time to get ballot language into draft Work Plan to get to AASHTO/states by Nov 1):

- Follow up with Industry on need to check for metals in fabrics and history of its discontinuation in the U.S. Keith to find document disallowing this practice in the U.S. (Keith Gardner and Joel, Sep 30)
  - Nothing received.
  - Keith could not find documentation on it, not aware of any gov’t group requiring metals testing. Sam said total metals with acid digestion followed by ICP inductive coupled plasma about $200/sample. Sister test to that is leachable metal in most env regs, prep is TCLP extraction adds another $100 to test, then evaluations are same. TCLP gives 8 RCRA metals As, Ni, Se Ch, Hg, Pb, Cd, Si, Zn is common also in inks (adds another $25 per metal). Tests are quick, driver is lab turn-around-time (TCLP is 24-hr rotating drum), 2-days for test itself.
- Document use of tags on grids in Europe, and use of markings or why they are not used. (Keith Gardner and Doug, Sep 30)
  - Doug touched base with Tensar peers in the UK and solicited input from other GMA members including Tencate and Huesker. He found there is no push for direct marking of products in the UK; they tag or label grids instead.
  - Direct marking is currently required in our REGEO WP in 8.2.2, by either printing or imprint a mark. It was discussed that NTPEP should provide an option for labeling or tagging in the future after the 2017 trial year. Some committee members in fact had thought this language was already in the Work Plan, and that we had been leaning toward imprinting a mark rather than printing one, but imprinting will be difficult also. The TC should receive a straw ballot for input and to gauge interest in printing or imprinting instead of labeling and tagging, noting that 2017 will be a flexible trial
year, also giving background, and searching the current WP for any further details on this issue.

✔ Full audits with some flexibility to start on all REGEO applicants submitting this fall for 2017 audits.
  o Doug speaking for GMA said in making very high strength geosynthetics, make in one run, exhaust supply over several years, and this was approved prior to 2017. Vince said DataMine can accommodate this (allowing material in such a situation, even though it may not meet a more up-to-date Work Plan); Doug said marking may be issue, John said would accommodate timeframe for marking if deemed desired.

✔ Webinar for Industry on how to report connections (for purposes of AASHTO/states being able to trace sources) between manufacturers and converters and private labelers to be given by NTPEP. Directory for states use will be posted on DataMine website. (Vince, early Sep)
  o Noted that it went well, no other discussion.

• Significant audit findings for this year to be assembled in a memo in December by Katheryn and Joel. GMA will include those in newsletter at that time.
  ✔ In next issue of newsletter, GMA will include inserts from Joel on proper labeling and significant audit findings so far this year. (Katheryn, Joel, Dec 31; Joel and Jonathan, Aug 22) Jonathan and Joel put in Sep activities report and will do for Dec report.
  o Noted that this was done, and significant audit findings will continue to be compiled for Dec.

✔ GMA to note in next issue of newsletter that next submission cycle is coming up and no in-between product applications will be allowed after that. GMA to follow up with industry on need to allow this. (Jonathan, Aug 22; Jonathan, Sep 30.)
  o Noted that no issues were identified with submission cycle.

• Draft ballot language and cost estimate for annual audit split sampling. (Joel, Sep 30)
  o No discussion, REGEO work plan being balloted now for required testing.

• Send draft flow chart out with minutes, get Industry feedback. (John; Jonathan to get feedback in by Sep 30)
  o Nothing received.
  o No discussion, John noted the flow chart was published with August Conference Call minutes on NTPEP website.

✔ Work up ballot language in Item 11 (REGEO Work Plan edits) above. (John and Joel, Sep 30)
  o Was completed, out for ballot.

• GMA to get Industry input on whether or not structure reporting of fabric is necessary, at least in non-M288 required cases. (Jonathan, due Sep 30)
  o Nothing received.
  o John noted this is out for ballot now in GTX and REGEO work plans.

• Put on agenda for next call any new considerations for use of manufacturer QC data.
  o Manufacturers do mainly tensile strength and easy to do durability tests. Most don’t do long term creep or UV tests. Geotextiles test on QC basis all hydraulic, except UV, in house.
  o Rodrigo said temp removal of creep stiffness, Industry OK with that removal, no more need for reduction of testing.
  o This is probably not applicable to this committee at this point since REGEO creep testing is very infrequent and we do make use of man’f data on strength/hydraulic tests.

✔ Draft language to ballot to make low creep stiffness test optional in REGEO Work Plan. (Rodrigo, Sep 30)
  o Was put out for ballot.
✓ Put on agenda for next call discussion for a webinar for DOTs on implementation of NTPEP.
  o John discussed impetus behind webinar, to update state DOTs on the NTPEP Geosynthetics program so they can leverage it as much as possible. NTPEP can facilitate the webinar, distribute information, provide with screen sharing. John said committee members will develop content, aim to give in first quarter of CY2017 prior to annual meeting. Tony suggested starting with TC 3 Geosynthetics online class put out in August 2016 for information on NTPEP as good starting point.

- Survey TC for need for Base Reinforcement audit and evaluation program. (John, input by Sep 30)
  o Nothing received.
  o Tony said in AASHTO Materials TC 4e for M288 decided to table base reinforcement. Doug said TC determines the audit and work plan. About 60M SY grid used in roadway in last 12 months (subgrade or base reinf), DOT and private sector. Could extend REGEO or have a separate audit plan. GMA has proposed language, have consensus spec language. Doug will speak to Mike Clements of GMA/grid focus group. Sam said version already exists, will send to us. While no design procedure, if have agreed on property values needed, probably go min. property route. Have ready for next Conf call. Probably look to have separate Work Plan.

✓ Add standard safety language to ballot work plan (Katheryn and John, Sep 30)
  o Completed.

✓ Add ballot language for silt fence issues (Joel and John, Sep 30)
  o Out for ballot.

- Discuss webinar for DOTs on implementing NTPEP for Geosynthetics – who, what, when, why, how.
  o Done above.
- Discuss GTX Work Plan modifications and timing of them
  o There is essentially a 3-yr period to run down inventory. Keith said Crown will have 4th audit, still have inventory. NTPEP said can keep product in DataMine. Typically have app submitted with pre-existing NTPEP number with it, for re-evaluation or to take place of previous numbered product. Can we add a question in the Audit plan to help clarify this? Must not be just question with answer, but need to have traceability. Discuss at Ann. Mtg.
- Discuss grid marking plan.
  o Done above.
- Make further use of man’f QC data in NTPEP?
  o Done above.
- Work Plans out for ballot.
  o Done above.

New Business?

Sam – Think about for next meeting: auditors occasionally encounter sampling requirement met with available volume of 1 or 2 rolls only, should we have language in Work Plan to address minimum
inventory. Keith will have GMA address by next TC call, will depend on type of material. Kelli said could impact if private labeling, might not have any mat’l available.

Next Conference Call:

TC – Feb 14 1 PM EST

Adjourn – 2:10 PM

Action Items:

- Survey TC with straw ballot on whether to allow labeling/tagging of geogrid along with direct marking. (John/Rodrigo/Tony, Dec 31 for Jan 31 response date)
- Distribute significant audit findings for past audit cycle. (Katheryn/Joel, Dec 31)
- Make webinar (John lead, TC; 2/1/17)
- Make Work Plan for Base Reinforcement. (Doug/Sam lead, TC; 2/1/17)
- GMA address 1 roll sampling requirements (Keith, 2/1/17)
- Add for Annual Meeting agenda discussion on how to specifically handle in audit how a facility wants to handle material still in inventory.