Welcome and Roll Call

John Schuler, Vince Glick, Katheryn Malusky, Rodrigo Herrera, Joel Sprague, Tony Allen, Tom Burnett, Fred Chuck, Keith Gardner, Brian Whitaker, Keith Harris, Mark Lindeman, Jonathan Guido, Kevin Palmer, Jonathan Curry, Jessica McClean (? , IL DOT ?), John Rublein, Willie Liew, Doug Brown, Scott Hidden, Dan Sajedi, Shannon Golden

New Members/First Time Attendees Self-Introduction

Approve Minutes of Nov 15, 2016 Conference Call – Tony motioned, Kevin seconded, approved unanimously.

Action Items from the Nov 15, 2016 Conference Call and Annual Meeting:

General Program/Both GTX and REGEO:

- Make it optional in DataMine to show MARV calculations, for both GTX and REGEO program data (Vince - May 16). (MARVs are man’t derived?) MARV calc was made optional, confirmed by Vince. MARVs are man ’fs values. Fred said make note that ASTM MARV spec has a number and is in effect, D8102.
- Overhaul Work Plans to ensure up-to-date, and consistent QA and program terminology (John/Rodrigo lead, Aug 31). John said he and Rodrigo would revise them to update some formatting, terminology, structure. Would be available to committee to review prior to balloting.
- 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). Tony asked if regardless of ASTM methods. John said yes. Fred asked if ASTM D35 discussed about changing conditioning times, yes but not discussed since March. Should be pushed there as well.
- Consider requiring metals content in CoA on resins. Tom Burnett asked if any leachate data. John said he had no data. No interest was shown in this initiative by group, either DOTs or Industry. John will drop this topic from further NTPEP discussion.
- Consider removing CoV% from DataMine. (CoV from TRI) Tony would like to have it. Rodrigo wants it as well. Kevin also said CoVs are useful for AR. Fred asked Joel if enough testing done on 1 set of samples to create accurate CoV? Joel said confusion, some use as CoVs for determining MARVs, nothing to do with that though, is just specimen to specimen variation. Tony agrees, put note in that makes that clarification. John said will change Work Plans and Vince said can put note in DataMine.
• Distribute significant audit findings for past audit cycle. Vince confirmed that announcement sent to all man’fs current or registered with DataMine and states the significant audit findings and coming year’s event deadlines for DataMine.

• GMA address 1 roll sampling requirements (Keith, 2/1/17). If some expensive products that are rarely ordered need testing due to end of cycle, it would be essentially penalizing man’f to make them build stock for these slow moving products just to take more roll samples. Joel said there is no verbiage in work plans stating how many rolls need to be sampled, randomly produced, etc. Europe has dealt with this, and we should address in Work Plans. Joel to come up with language for next conf call.

• Make webinar for DOTs (John, June 30). John to email DOT persons in next month, Industry email me if want to help. For REGEO side, how can states benefit, how to compute Tall providing reduction factors is important. Fred gave at NTPEP Greenville presentation to group on benefits from man’f side. It was discussed there is information to build on and Bill Real is updating such slides for all committees for NTPEP. John reiterated purpose of webinar is to help states take full advantage of program and bring them up to speed on many recent changes and help them with spec changes, success stories, etc.

• Get Lead States help (Committee, June 30). John to email DOTs to request help, after working with Rodrigo to craft way forward on this.

GTX Program:

• Consider modifying the GTX Work Plan to state that if a product name is printed on the fabric, that printed name must match the style name on the label (John). John to include in revision to Work Plan to ballot.

• Indicate the type of grips used for the ASTM D4632 Grab Tensile test. The face of the grips (smooth, serrated, rubber faced) can have a significant impact on the Grab Tensile Strength results. Including this will allow manufacturers and testing agencies to make accurate and meaningful comparisons. (John, PENNDOT). Joel thinks specifying is too much, is machine specific as far as pressure, etc., but ASTM report requires noting any modification to grips. Plain steel is standard. Tom said NY has serrated grips, never had problems, George Koerner said NY could duct tape jaws to keep from damaging fabric. We will revise audit report to include one line for “grip face: ” to note changes from plain steel, and Work Plan will be revised for ballot to note that any jaw faces other than plain smooth steel must be noted. (Neglected to ask if DataMine can make note as well.)

• List GTX # of UV-tested fabric with fabrics that rely on it in DataMine (John, Derek). Vince said beginning to mid-June to have that UV filter implemented, so then can allow seeing which product in line had UV testing. Tom said if export data from DataMine into Excel can see what has been UV-tested in a readily accessible fashion.

REGEO Program:

Rodrigo started by saying in a few months more major updates to REGEO module coming, Vince added 4 items non-migrated from 2.0, are on high priority. 3 NTPEP numbers need to be
reassigned, also high priority; then migrate data from 2.0. Will be a historical reports section; Tony said what is important is if old report superseded, need most current, but some reports 5 or 6 yrs old not yet replaced with newer report.

- Consider making pullout (D6706) and direct shear (D3080) tests mandatory with standard soil types. Rodrigo said already optional so OK. Scott would like to make mandatory. Tony asked consider how many states use it, especially for LRFD, need enough tests for statistics and different soil types. Will survey states for starting point. No man'f have done it yet in NTPEP. Rodrigo will head up Task Force, Scott, and any other interested persons, see where we are by next conf call. Tony said pullout rarely controls grid design; strips is different matter. John asked states to gather existing data and see how much we have. Also floated idea of round robin testing by states, Tony said too little equipment for that.

- Revise REGEO Work Plan for ballooting to allow tagging/labeling (Rodrigo – Aug 31). Straw poll showed states ok with it. Tony said tag has to be difficult to remove, must be reliable. Joel: 3 audits this year, all able to print. Is problematic for small-rib materials. Can we let year unfold, see what options are, and see how it goes? Doug said all Tensar grid has small printable areas, would be a difficult task. Joel said colors acceptable, Tony said as in a stripe extruded with product or put on at end. Kevin agrees with Joel, give time, Rodrigo OK with that approach as well, so we will hold off this year until more audits are done and see what the Industry is doing and then what exceptions or procedures are needed.

- Consider smaller stone gradation for REGEO installation damage test. Willie said damage way too high with new criteria compared to old criteria, Tony OK backing off but do it for all products including those already tested, 57 stone size should be OK, 6” lift OK, roller weight?, FL uses 16-20k lbs typically, but no upper limit.

- 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). Doug said looking at M288 modification is more likely if have audit plan for roadway geo, but we want AASHTO spec, so in Catch 22. 4e has amendment to M288 to address this, it got left out. TS-4e received industry consensus document, 4e did not have time to put in ballot. Doug said have 2 applications of roadway geosynthetics, one for structural one for separation. We agreed to initiate this Task Force.

- Format of REGEO Executive Summary – should we have a summary table or more of a bullet point style in it. Installation damage has to be interpreted. Shoot for sample by next telecon.

- How to specifically handle in audit how a facility wants to handle material still in inventory. 18month grace period, will revise Work Plan to state this for any products for which Work Plan changes would invalidate their NTPEP acceptance.

- Interpreted values, ensuring consistency in DataMine reports overall. Scott thinks summary table more useful than interpreted values table. Inconsistent between old and new reports – old show entire line of testing, newer only some product testing, interpretative data tables might be misleading. Tony said he developed tables since many states don’t have expertise to do this, feels is necessary to help states. Scott urged care in displaying data. Work on till next telecom.
New Business:

Joel – Geotextiles, NTPEP audits man’fs, finds them compliant, also audits PLs. Was informed by 2 PLs; line lost, Joel to forward issue on to group. Joel followed up as requested with email: GTX product being provided by “compliant” manufacturers (identified as being from overseas) that fails when tested through the private label distributor’s QA program or when split-sampled during an NTPEP audit of the private label distributor. The private label distributor expects the material from a manufacturer holding a certificate of compliance from NTPEP to be compliant and is frustrated that it has received non-compliant material on multiple occasions. TRI has audited the overseas manufacturers (most multiple times) and is confident that they are able to provide compliant products. Two different private label distributors have identified this problem and asked if there is any recourse through NTPEP?

Next Conference Call – Tuesday August 8, 2017, 1:00 PM EST

Action Items:

- Overhaul Work Plans (John, Rodrigo – Aug 31)
- Revise GTX and REGEO Work Plans for conditioning times (John, Rodrigo – Aug 31)
- Revise GTX and REGEO Work Plans and DataMine to note CoV values are not to be used in MARV calculations (John, Rodrigo, Vince – Aug 31)
- Revise GTX and REGEO Work Plans to designate number of rolls to be sampled (Joel – Aug 7)
- Determine if any resolution through NTPEP for PL/source compliance issue identified by Auditor (John, Rodrigo, Joel, Vince – May 31)

- Revise GTX Work Plan to state printed name must match name on label (John – Aug 31)
- Revise GTX Work Plan and Audit Reports to note face of jaws in ASTM D4632 tests other than plain smooth steel must be noted; also note in DataMine? (John, Joel, Vince? – Aug 31)

- Revise REGEO reports Executive Summary (John, Rodrigo – Aug 31)
- Revise REGEO Work Plan for 18-month grace period (Rodrigo – Aug 31)

- Filter on UV test in DataMine in GTX and REGEO (Vince – Jun 30)
- DataMine consistency between old and new reports, Interpeted Table values (Rodrigo, Vince – update Aug 7)

- Pullout and Direct Shear and Installation Damage Task Forces formed and started (Rodrigo – update Aug 7)
- Joint AASHTO TS-4e/NTPEP GTX Task Force on Roadway Geosynthetics formed and started (John – update Aug 7)

- Webinar production (John, others – underway by June)
- Lead state help (John, Rodrigo – underway by June)