SSM Conference Call
March 22, 2013
Minutes

1. Data Mine Issues:
   a. Testing and data entry schedule-due dates.
      - Revised 2013 contracts with states with emphasis on specific deadline date for data entry.
   b. Once product status is changed to “private” (hold) as requested by manufacturer due to issue with data, clock is reset for another 30 days. Consideration to have clock stopped until further action is taken.
      - May need to extend the clock – 30 days is not always sufficient to review large amounts of data.
      - Matt Hills noted that the 30-day review / product release is “The Issue” for manufacturers. Data is being released and re-released due to the 30-day auto-release cycle. Also, the process is not documented properly to describe who has responsibility for tasks, how the release system works, etc.
      - Katheryn noted the complexity of the data (3-year deck, multiple test decks, etc.) is part of the issue. She is drafting a procedural document, but the Executive Committee hasn’t reviewed it yet.
      - Current function needs revision, but making progress. Industry approves of the idea of the automatic data release.
      - Original concept was that a comment would stop the clock until the issue was solved, but that is not the way the process is functioning. Jim Swisher (lead state) said he thought the system automatically moved a product to “on hold” (the “on hold” status stops the automatic release). However, the lead state actually needed to manually put the product on hold. This was not initially but is being done now. However, this is very labor intensive and the lead state would like this to be automatic.
      - Jim Swisher proposed to remove the 30-day auto release function until we can set up a better system. Question was raised if we can suspend it for SSM only, or is it a system wide function (will discuss with iEngineering).
      - Currently only AASHTO can move data listed as “public” to “on hold” status. Lead State should have this ability as well. Lead state should be able to change the status of any product. Currently, the lead state can’t change the status from public back to any other status.
      - Need for documentation to explain the process, responsibilities, etc.
      - Recent issue – a manufacturer put data on hold because a newer product was submitted for testing in its place – concern raised is that if data looks
reasonable, a new product shouldn’t stop data release. A manufacturer can withdraw a product.

2. In-House QC testing
   a. VDOT is currently reviewing QC data submitted by all testing states.

   a. NIST analysis planned in near future.
   b. Industry reps working with AASHTO statisticians on data review?
      • May be able to include statistical analysis to determine variations in data.
      • Lead state asked industry for recommendations on acceptable variation for retro and color.

4. Work with industry to establish protocol when data problems are discovered.
   a. Establish what constitutes a problem
      • Questions arose – what constitutes a data “problem” that warrants stopping the release? i.e. a small variation may not be a “stop the clock” issue.
   b. Investigate variation in particular products and instrumentation.

5. Roll-up Sign testing - Update from Jason.
   a. Module has been submitted to iEngineering for final development and should be active soon.
   b. May be able to use the “bulk data entry” feature as a model to implement into the SSM module.

6. Other concerns from Industry?
   a. Discussion of name changes – a manufacturer cannot change the name of a product after data has been released. However, the manufacturer can put notes in the ePEF regarding the name of a previous product (i.e. “This product was previously tested as ‘product x’”)
   b. Data release is the major issue

7. Brief discussion on re-submittal cycle and sheeting identification. Task force still needs to address.
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Attendance

Jim Swisher (VA), chair
Jason Davis (LA), vice chair
Jeff Faulkner (AZ)
Paul Sullivan (AZ)
Paul Vinik (FL)
Patrick Galarza (NY)
Dave Kuniega (PA)
Kathy Watkins (VA)
Matt Hills (Avery Dennison)
Chris Gaudette (Orafol Americas, Inc.)
Kathy Malusky (AASHTO)
Henry Lacinak (AASHTO)