

Minutes from 2/22/2011 Sequence VG Surveillance Panel Conference Call

Attendees:

Andrew Ritchie, Gordon Farnsworth, Mike McMillan, Doyle Boese – Infineum

Jo Martinez, Mark Sutherland – Chevron

Tom Wingfield – ChevronPhillips

Ron Romano – Ford

Jim Linden, Teri Kowalski - Toyota

Bruce Matthews, Matt Snider – GM

Raham Kirkwood, Bill Buscher – SwRI

Al Lopez – Intertek

Ed Altman, Dave Glaenzer, Campbell – Afton

Rich Grundza – TMC

Jerry Brys, George Szappanos, Chris Castanian – Lubrizol

Mark Overaker, Wayne Petersen, Jim Carter – Haltermann

Timothy Caudill – Ashland

Irwin Goldblatt – BP Castrol

Jason Bowden, Dwight Bowden, Adam Bowden, Mathew Bowden – OHT

Zack Bishop, Clayton Knight – TEI

- 1) The minutes from the February 15, 2011 conference call were approved without any additions or corrections. Motion made by Jason Bowden and seconded by Ron Romano.

- 2) Chairman Ritchie summarized the ASTM Passenger Car Engine Oil Classification Panel (PCEOCP) conference call held this morning. During that call it was agreed that Thom Smith, Chairman of the PCEOCP, will write a letter to Kevin Ferrick of API on behalf of the PCEOCP stating that, based on the advice of the Sequence VG Surveillance Panel, the PCEOCP has agreed that the Sequence VG test is currently commercially unavailable. In addition the letter will state that the Sequence VG Surveillance Panel is working on identifying and evaluating a new VG fuel batch and will provide status updates on the progress of this effort on a regular basis.
- 3) Chairman Ritchie also asked that each of the currently calibrated test laboratories keep the Panel informed as to when they are actually completely out of the current fuel batch, so that the PCEOCP can be notified of this.
- 4) George Szappanos reported on the meetings of the VG Precision Task Force held in San Antonio last week. Several differences/observations on how VG tests are conducted in the San Antonio laboratories which could have an impact on test severity came out of those meetings; these are summarized in the attached spreadsheet. Several suggested actions and specific action items were also identified, as are also highlighted in the spreadsheet. The next lab visits to the Lubrizol and Afton laboratories in Cleveland, OH and Richmond, VA, respectively, have been scheduled for the week of March 7. A report from those meetings should be available to the VG SP by the March 15 weekly VG conference call.
- 5) Wayne Peterson from Haltermann reviewed their current action plan timeline (see attachment) to supply a revised fuel blend for Sequence VG approval testing. The plan discussed at the February 15 VG SP conference call is still on target. They have identified two blend candidates and are using bench tests to help confirm the approaches they will take in modifying the fuel blend that was rejected by the Panel. Pilot batch blends large enough for up to four VG engine tests will be made of each candidate blend by late March. Haltermann is developing a proposed engine testing plan for evaluating the hand blends and will review this with the statistical group [Jo Martinez, Doyle Boese, Alison Rajakumar, Todd Dvorak, Rich Grundza] for input before testing begins. Wayne indicated the timing for engaging the statistical group for input will probably be early next week. Following further discussion a target date of next Monday, February 28, at 2:00 pm EST was decided upon for a conference call of this group plus Haltermann personnel. The initial discussion within

this group will focus on identifying stands within the various labs which have been shown to exhibit the least variation.

- 6) Bill Buscher suggested that it might be advisable to have a face-to-face VG Surveillance Panel meeting in the near future. Chairman Ritchie agreed, and following further discussion the week of April 18 was identified as a possible option for doing this. Chairman Ritchie asked the Panel members to review this possibility internally, and indicated that he would put this item on the agenda for finalization at the next VG conference call.
- 7) The next VG SP conference call is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, at 2:00 pm EST.