

Minutes from 3/15/2011 Sequence VG Surveillance Panel Conference Call

Attendees:

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

Jo Martinez – Chevron

Tom Wingfield – ChevronPhillips

Ron Romano – Ford

Raham Kirkwood, Bill Buscher – SwRI

Al Lopez – Intertek

Ed Altman, Dave Glaenzer – Afton

Rich Grundza – TMC

Jerry Brys, George Szappanos, Alison Rajakumar , Chris Castanian – Lubrizol

Mark Overaker, Jim Carter – Haltermann

Timothy Caudill – Ashland

Irwin Goldblatt – BP Castrol

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

Zack Bishop – TEI

- 1) The minutes from the March 8, 2011 conference call were approved with no additions or corrections. Motion made by Jason Bowden and seconded by Ed Altman.
- 2) Chairman Ritchie summarized the agenda for today's meeting. The 3 main items to be discussed are the following:
 - a. Engineers VG precision Task Force report
 - b. Statisticians group report on guidance provided to Haltermann

- c. Haltermann report on rationale and supporting data for next test fuel(s) and test plan update
- 3) George Szappanos reported for the VG Precision Task Force that the Task Force had completed their round robin of laboratory visits. The Task Force is working on compiling a list of action items from those visits, and should have that list by next week's conference call. One factor that seemed to stand out was differences between ring gaps at the various labs. One lab (Intertek) had a 59% smaller rig gap than any of the other labs. The Task Force is trying to understand why this situation exists and how this might affect blowby rates. The Task Force has done some exchanging of blowby measurement rigs, but found very little difference among the rigs. George stated that the Task Force still believes blowby is a significant factor affecting sludge formation. The Task Force has a conference call scheduled for March 17 at which this topic will be addressed further, and the Task Force intends to have its full report completed in time for the next VG Panel conference call scheduled for Tuesday, March 22.
- 4) Al Lopez from Intertek commented that his lab operates near the lower end of the acceptable window for blowby. Intertek also takes their blowby measurement near the end of second stage, whereas in other labs this measurement is taken earlier in the test. Al reiterated that this will be discussed further in the Task Force conference call scheduled for March 17, and that all of the findings will be detailed in the final report from the lab visits that the Task Force will make available to the full VG Panel. Dwight Bowden asked George if the Task Force had confirmed that all laboratories are conducting VG tests according to the procedure as it is spelled out. George confirmed that they were. Rich Grundza amplified on this by stating that some labs were interpreting when the blowby measurement should be taken differently. One of the things the Task Force will discuss is whether this part of the VG procedure needs further clarification.
- 5) Mark Overaker clarified how the statisticians provided input to Haltermann, stating that the data from the last fuel test matrix was reviewed, and based on this review two different options were suggested. The Statistical Group decided on the first of these two options which is to run Reference Oil 925-3 on the fuel reblend, and review the data from those runs before deciding whether we want to run additional tests. It is not yet decided which labs or stands will be used for the testing. That decision will likely be made in the next week. The plan is still to blend about 4800 gallons of the most promising fuel reblend (enough for 6 VG

tests) and have 800 gallons of this fuel to each of the test labs which will be involved in testing the reblend by the week of March 28. This is in compliance with the latest timeline which was included in the minutes of the February 22, 2011 conference call. A second reblend candidate will be blended and tested only if it is decided that the most promising candidate is unsatisfactory. In response to questions about whether Haltermann can provide additional detail on the input provided by the statisticians, how it was used, and what changes were made to the fuel batch which was rejected to come up with the “best” candidate fuel to conduct further tests on, Mark Overaker indicated that Haltermann would discuss the request for such additional detail internally, and have a report back to the VG Panel by next week’s conference call. He also agreed to provide an updated timeline for the overall project by next week’s call. Mark again thanked the members of the Statistical Group [Doyle Boese, Jo Martinez, Alison Rajakumar, Todd Dvorak, and Janet Buckingham] for their input and suggestions.

- 6) Chairman Ritchie reiterated that he would like the VG Panel to meet face-to-face sometime in April or early May. He still wants to defer settling on a date until we have a more clear picture of the test plan. However, Chairman Ritchie did indicate that he would try to give Panel members at least two weeks notice in advance of such a meeting, to facilitate scheduling and to minimize travel costs as much as possible. Dwight Bowden offered that OHT would make arrangements to host the meeting somewhere near the Detroit Metro airport once a date is established.
- 7) The next VG SP conference call is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, at 2:00 pm EST.