



## Hydrogen Executive Leadership Panel

Summer 2007 Meeting

July 11 – 12, 2007

Atlanta, GA

### Meeting Minutes

#### Attendees:

Anthony Androsky – US Fuel Cell Council  
Bill Barnard – Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal, Department of State Police  
Paul Buehler – Plug Power, Inc.  
John Bresland – Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigations Board  
Mike Callan – Callan & Company  
William Chernicoff – U.S. Department of Transportation – RITA  
Bill Collins – UTC Power  
Christy Cooper – U.S. DOE Hydrogen Program  
Bob Davidson – Davidson Code Concepts  
Sal DiCristina – The DiCristina Group  
Eric Edgar – City of West Sacramento Fire Department  
Jennifer Hamilton – California Fuel Cell Partnership  
Russell Hewett - National Renewable Energy Labs  
Jay Joseph – American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
Rick McCullough – Alberta, Canada, Fire Commission  
Frank McGarry - NASFM  
George Miller – International Consortium for Fire Safety, Health & Environment  
Chrishawn Morgan-Price – NASFM  
Rand Napoli - IEM, Inc. and Former Florida State Fire Marshal  
Jim Narva – NASFM  
Ken Nemeth - Southern States Energy Board  
Fred Postel – West Sacramento Fire Department  
Alan Shuman – Georgia State Fire Marshal's Office  
Candace Simon –U.S. Department of Transportation, PHMSA  
Christine Sloane - General Motors Corporation  
Pete Sparber – NASFM  
John Standefer – New Mexico State Fire Marshal's Office  
Elizabeth Tucker – NASFM  
Cynthia Wilks - National Conference of States on Building Codes and Standards

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#### **Day 1-afternoon: Opening Session**

*Welcome, opening remarks, and introduction of attendees by HELP Chairmen Rick McCullough*

#### **Review and Acceptance of Guidance Document on Permitting of Stationary Fuel Cell Communication Towers**

**Moderator:** *Rick McCullough, Alberta, Canada, Fire Commission*

Paul Buehler, Plug Power and Bob Davidson, Davidson Code Concepts gave a presentation on siting and setback distances of stationary hydrogen fuel cell systems included on the guidance document that was prepared at the request of Plug Power to expedite the permitting process for stationary fuel cell towers. Upon completion of the presentation specific discussion centered around a modified “worksheet” and analysis provided to the group dealing with the storage of gaseous hydrogen and the application of the I-codes.

With the materials contained in the presentation having been previously sent to HELP members for review and comment Alan Shuman made a motion to accept the documents as they were presented. The motion was seconded by Fred Postel. Motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. The document will be posted on the HELP website, [www.nasfmhydrogen.com](http://www.nasfmhydrogen.com).

### **California Fuel Cell Partnership (CAFCP) Emergency Responder Training Curriculum and Materials**

*Jennifer Hamilton – California Fuel Cell Partnership*

Jennifer Hamilton gave an overview of the current Emergency Responders training program offered by the CaFCP. The presentation included a description of the various training materials offered, the importance to public safety, the location of the website where materials could be downloaded, and locations where the training had already taken place. The CaFCP seeks a partnership with the HELP and “wants to understand the scope and methods of HELP” through the development of a Memorandum of Understanding. CaFCP intends for part of that MOU to include the adoption of and use of their package of education and training materials to be used and endorsed by HELP. Moving forward, CaFCP requires a formal proposal letter from HELP as well as CaFCP member consensus and steering team approval.

There was discussion regarding HELP exploring other training program such as DOE training program and the necessity of a training program in states that have limited amount Hydrogen vehicles.

Alan Shuman made a motion to support the development of an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CaFCP to review, adjust as deemed necessary and distribute the materials to emergency responders. The motion was seconded by George Miller. Minimal discussion was heard and the motion PASSED. Staff volunteered to draft and send the requested letter from HELP to the CaFCP.

### **Joint NASFM/U.S. Department of Energy Hydrogen Fueling Station Workshop**

*Russell Hewett, National Renewable Energy Labs*

Russ Hewett, NREL provided a review and preliminary summary of the findings from the joint NASFM-Department of Energy hydrogen workshop which was held on July 10, 2007 in conjunction with the NASFM Annual Conference in Atlanta. The workshop attendees participated in a focused session to examine actual building plans used for hydrogen filling stations to determine if inconsistencies, issues currently exist in the model codes as they pertain to hydrogen. The workshop focused on the issue of permitting and used scenarios of placing hydrogen fueling stations in existing gas stations as illustrations. A tremendous amount of

information was reviewed and it was felt by all participants as well as the sponsors and organizers that the session was beneficial and will certainly aid in the transition to hydrogen.

The attendees were respected fire code and building officials from various regions across the country. Due to the success of this initial workshop it hoped additional workshops will be held to further the work of facilitating and educating for a smooth transition to hydrogen.

## **Day 2 morning – Closing Session**

### **Sun Grants and U.S. Department of Transportation Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) Alternative Fuels Programs**

*William Chernicoff, U.S. Department of Transportation – RITA*

Mr. Chernicoff provided an overview of the Sun Grants. The Sun Grant Initiative is a national network of land-grant universities and U.S. Department of Energy laboratories partnering to build a bio-fuels based economy. Land-grant institutions would broaden their responsibilities beyond traditional agricultural issues to include alternative fuels research.

The U.S. Department of Transportation Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) Alternative Fuels Programs RITA has developed a best practices manual for Hydrogen commercial vehicles as well as an interactive map of the state regulatory authorities that is available on their website. A link to this map will be available on the HELP website.

### **Review HELP Ad Hoc Committee recommendations for future direction of HELP**

*Rick McCullough, HELP Co-Chairman and Pete Sparber, NASFM/Sparber & Associates*

Rick McCullough led the discussion of the ad hoc committee's findings which had been previously distributed to all HELP members for review and comment. The group unanimously agreed with the committee's recommendations and HELP will move forward accordingly. The future direction of HELP is to have focus on being an organization that provides a service to others, helping to facilitate work and communication on specific projects of value to the various stakeholders. Several examples of this new approach for HELP were the Plug Power code analysis project and the recently complete hydrogen filling station permitting and code review. These were identified as two projects that really illustrate the value HELP can bring to solving problems related to hydrogen while ensuring public and emergency responder safety.

The group focused briefly on a new name for the organization, after several suggestions, the group consensus is that the name, Hydrogen Executive Leadership Panel (HELP), should not be changed.

The next meeting date will be set for early November 2007.