Dark Territory Working Group Update

The 46th Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

April 26, 2012
Washington, DC

Dark Territory Task Statement

Safety Technology in Dark Territory
Required by the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008

Task presented On September 23, 2010 in Washington, DC

- **Task No.:** 10-02

- **Purpose:** To prescribe standards, guidance, regulations, or orders governing the development, use, and implementation of rail safety technology in dark territory, as required by SEC. 406 of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (Act).

RSAC Task Statement

Description

- Review the existing signal and train control regulations and determine their application to the use of safety technologies in dark territory

- Review other existing federal regulations that are associated with the use of advanced technology and may provide additional insight/direction

- Assist FRA in developing/identifying additional appropriate/applicable standards, guidance, regulations, or orders responsive to the legislative mandate

- Help to ensure the appropriate and safe development and use of safety technologies in dark territories

- Help to determine a reasonable method for safety technology inventory and system awareness by FRA.

DT WG Task Interpretation

Type of technologies	New FRA regulations		Amending existing regulations			AAR standards		Orders	Safety Advisory	Guidance	Other
Available regulatory and non-regulatory tools											
	Mandatory	Voluntary	236, A-G	236, H	236, I	W/FRA regs	W/out FRA regs				
Switch position monitors											
Power-assisted switches											
RCL zone limiting devices											
Track integrity systems											
Grade crossing video monitors											
Slide fences											
Hot box, and other detectors											
Other technologies											

Identify the types of technologies to be addressed and find appropriate regulatory and/or non-regulatory tools to govern their use

DT WG Meetings

1st meeting

March 3-4, 2011

Falls Church, VA

Scope of work defined

2d meeting

May 9-10, 2011

Washington, DC

3 Task Forces formed for 3 types of technologies

3d meeting

Sept. 6-7, 2011

Chicago, IL

Task Force formed to create a template for Railroad DT Technology Plan

4th meeting

Nov. 17-18, 2011

Washington, DC

Determined level of consensus on regulatory or non-regulatory approach

Types of Technology to be Initially Addressed Based on Accidents Statistics
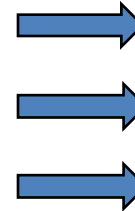
Types of Technology

- Hand operated switches #
- Switch Point Monitored
- Power Operated Switches
- Track Integrity Systems
- Unusual Occurrence Detectors
- High Water Detectors
- Slide Fences
- RCL Zone Limiting Devices
- Car Counters
- Scour Detectors
- Others

Statistics

Class 1	Short Lines
6526	4341
13	227
167	75
-- *	61
203	61
1	1
5	3
1	0
0	17
9	0

Chosen Types of Technology

Existing arrangements only, 1st bucket

Switches

Track Integrity Devices

Detectors

For future consideration, 2d bucket

Voluntary Installation of Current Use Devices
Potential Risk-Based Required Installations
New or Novel Technologies

Applicability of Recommendations

Main Track

Main Track Passing Sidings Outside of Yards

Main Results of DT WG Activity

1. The use of existing technologies in dark territory (switches, track integrity devices, and detectors) will be addressed on the first stage of DT WG work.

2. Voluntary participation to the use of these technologies should be promoted .

3. The Dark Territory Guidance Document on the use of chosen technology will be issued by FRA.

4. Railroads will create a Dark Territory Technology Plan for inspecting and maintaining the dark territory equipment.

5. The Plan will be required to address identified minimum requirements contained in the Dark Territory Guidance Document.

Labor:

- Prefers regulations requiring that technology be applied in Dark Territory (especially switch point monitoring).
- Feels that the RSIA requires regulations.

Industry:

- Prefer the use of guidance documents rather than regulations.
- Do not feel that the RSIA requires regulations.

FRA:

- Proposed an oversight role that would include some regulations combined with guidance documents and performance-based standards.

- Railroads would be measured against their own Dark Territory Technology Plans.

- RSAC Dark Territory WG activity was suspended because of a failure to reach consensus on the issue of regulations versus guidance documents.

- FRA is in a process of drafting the NPRM and related guidance document

Main Principles for NPRM Drafting

1. The Rule will cover existing technologies in dark territory (switches, track integrity devices, and detectors) and voluntary participation to the use of these technologies.

2. FRA will issue a Dark Territory Guidance Document which will be referenced in the rule

3. Railroads will create a Dark Territory Technology Plan for inspecting and maintaining the dark territory equipment.

4. The plan will be required to address identified minimum requirements contained in the Dark Territory Guidance Document and will be approved by FRA.

5. FRA shall audit the railroad against their Dark Territory Technology Plan.

6. Railroads will be held accountable for following their plan and maintaining all required record keeping.

Disclaimer: The content of this slide is for RSAC discussion purposes only. It is not the official position of FRA

Timeline for the NPRM

- FRA plans to publish the NPRM in October 2012.

- FRA may resume the RSAC DT WG activity after the NPRM has been issued.