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Committee D02 on PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND LUBRICANTS

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Reply to:

Scott Parke
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December 12, 2005

To: Single Cylinder Diesel Surveillance Panel

Enclosed are the minutes of the Data Communications Committee teleconference held November 15, 2005. Please address any corrections during the time allotted for minutes approval at the next meeting.

Scott Parke
Secretary, DCC

Attachments

cc:

[ftp://ftp.astmtmc.cmu.edu/docs/Data Communications Committee/Meeting minutes/20051115 tele conference.pdf](ftp://ftp.astmtmc.cmu.edu/docs/Data%20Communications%20Committee/Meeting%20minutes/20051115_teleconference.pdf)

distribution: Email

TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

DATA COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

HELD NOVEMBER 15, 2005

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13:00est XML FORMAT DATA TRANSMISSION

Recently, chairman Frank Farber (TMC) has received inquiries as to whether XML might be used as either a replacement for or an alternate to the current flatfile data transmission format. Frank began the teleconference by polling the participants to see who is currently using or is interested in using XML.

Sally Lloyd (Intertek/PerkinElmer) reported that they use both XML and flatfile format according to the requirements of their client.

Ralph Grace (Imperial) expressed no preference for one over the other.

Harry Sopko (Intertek/PARC) said that they recently have done some experimentation converting from Adobe .pdf format to Excel spreadsheet with the intent of then converting the Excel spreadsheet to a flatfile. The maximum column limitation of Excel has thus far spoiled the attempt.

Jody Fromer (Lubrizol) reported that it is her lab's preference to stick to handling only flatfile format. If they had to, they could send XML format but it would be at least two years before they would be able to receive XML.

Doni Grande (Afton) said that his lab was very enthusiastically pursuing XML. In fact, Doni admitted that this meeting was called largely at his request. He clarified that he was not necessarily championing a wholesale changeover to XML but rather was looking for the committee to lay down some guidelines for a schema for XML when it was used.

Sally Lloyd pointed out that most Windows software widely in use is able to produce XML output. Doni has been working with some sample data and software for generating XML. He offered to provide it to the group to play around with to see if they might see any benefit. Frank Farber agreed to distribute what Doni provides.

Mark Griffin (Southwest Research) said that Microsoft's Visual Studio will convert an XML schema definition to a C# or Visual Basic file. Sally Lloyd asked what a definition of a schema might look like. Mark explained that a schema defines the tagging that is used.

By this point in the discussion, it was becoming clear that most of the members would need to do more research before being able to make informed decisions so chairman Frank Farber agreed to conclude the meeting and reconvene a follow-up teleconference in January.

The teleconference concluded at 13:28 est.

Attendance:

Representative

Frank Farber
Sally Lloyd
Ralph Grace
Steve Inglis
Harry Sopko
Jim Mogush
Mark Griffin
Mike Kahn
Mark Slepisky
Jody Fromer
Roger Broadway
Doni Grande
Scott Parke

Organization

Test Monitoring Center
Intertek (PerkinElmer)
Imperial
Imperial
Intertek (PARC)
Intertek (PARC)
Southwest Research
ChevronTexaco
Lubrizol
Lubrizol
Afton
Afton
Test Monitoring Center