

EPC Operations Committee Meeting Minutes

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Date: 10-1-20

Location: virtual

Attendance: David Dutschmann, Jenny Heinlein, Richard Rolke, Bryan Tibodeaux, Vik Balasubramanian, Marty Shelton, Jeff Edwards, Claire Cagnolatti, Ryan Chun, Miguel Maldonado, Patty Summers

Agenda;

- Anti-Trust statement - Patty
- New Member welcome, discussion
- Wrap-up of 2020 Virtual conference
- Review of roles: Chair/co-chair for the sub-committee and the sessions
- Update from Main Committee on 2021
- Ideas for 2021

Anti-Trust Statement:

“No activity of the Committee shall involve the exchange, collection or dissemination of information among competitors for the purpose of bringing about or attempting to bring about any understanding or agreement, written or oral, formal or informal, express or implied, among competitors with regard to costs, prices or pricing methods, terms or conditions of sale, distribution, production quotas or other limitations, on either the timing, or volume of production, or sales, or allocation of territories or customers.”

Meeting Minutes:

Membership:

- Miguel Moldonado has replaced Muhammad Imran of Technic FMC who moved to the Technology sub-committee.
- Jo Lawrence of Motiva has replaced Joe Bell.
- John Cahill of Lyondell was discussed and approved as a new member of the sub-committee.

2020 Conference:

While we don't have information on how many people listed to each of our presentations, Richard shared that he had about 300 people in the key note speech.

Many said they liked the ability to go back and listen to talks they missed due to other meetings/presentations.

Some thought the 30 length of time when these were available was a bit too short.

Referring to the request to presenters asking if their information could be available for an extended period of time, the thinking was that most companies would be OK with the content being available for a bit longer, perhaps 90 days, as long as there was an endpoint and it wasn't openly available indefinitely.

Many found it difficult to network. You could search to see who was attending (registered) but there wasn't a way to reach out unless they entered a chat room.

Roles/Chair & Co-chair:

These volunteer positions were again described and members were asked to consider taking on one of these roles for either the sub committee or the sessions. It was discussed that we would need more volunteers if we have two sessions vs one, but the number of sessions would be determined once we saw the level in commitment on papers. Please reach out to Patty or Richard if you would like to take on one of these roles for the 2021 conference.

Main committee comments:

The 2021 conference is planned for Dallas on April 18-22 and still hopes to be an in-person event. In parallel, a virtual option is being considered perhaps even as a parallel path/hybrid event. The hope is that this will be defined later this month.

2021 Conference Ideas:

Topics on precommissioning or commissioning are always of interest.

David spoke about his experience with a dynamic simulator which can be a powerful tool to practice the start up.

Perhaps commissioning would be a good topic for a joint session with another committee.

Sustainability related to CO2 reduction from operations, or flaring reductions during start up, shut down or unplanned events. It was noted that daily operations contributes the most.

EMACT is a hot topic as it is close to being finalized. Perhaps we could ask a representative from the EPA to speak.

Papers on actual demonstrations of energy reduction which translates to CO2 reduction are an idea. Perhaps any furnace company, Lummus/Technip?, could help address how to reduce energy with current furnaces. Miguel will check with his team. Is TDL still the best for O2 detection? It was noted that papers on Furnace topics are typically well attended.

Some wondered if electrically heated furnaces were getting any traction. Shell and Dow announced they are exploring new technologies.

Perhaps Henry Kister would have something specific to olefins that he could share. He may be at the event in 2021. At the New Orleans conference Kister presented on reboilers.

Another idea was something related to recovery from hurricanes. Jenny will follow up on this topic as she saw a CSB video on severe weather. A good example has been documented about a peroxide plant in Crosby TX.

Actions:

Look within your organizations and beyond to drive interest in presenting papers. – ALL

Contact Henry Kister to determine if he is interested in participation – David

Reach out to CSB on the severe weather topic – Jenny

Consider taking on a chair or co-chair role! - ALL

