

DEFENDING TRENCHLESS MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting Date: 30/8/2010

Meeting Venue: Conference Hall, 801, Hemkunt Chambers, 89 Nehru Place
New Delhi

Present –

- Sh. Chander Verma, Chairman, IndSTT
- Dr. P.R. Swarup, Secretary, IndSTT
- Sh. B. Mazumdar, Former DG, Central Public Works Deptt.
- Sh. Ehteshamul Haque, GM, DCI India, Pvt. Ltd.
- Sh. Harsh Vardhan Bagaria, MD, Rosewood (P) Ltd
- Dr. Sanjay Rana, MD, Parsan Overseas (P) Ltd
- Sh. Sunir Garg Director, Gypsum Structural India (P) Ltd.
- Sh. Tariq Salman, GM Worldwide Machinery Solutions
- Sh. Navin Khanna, MD, Tempobur
- Sh. Puneet Chhabra, Div. Manager, Escorts Ltd.
- Prof. Niranjana Swarup, ED, IndSTT

Input received through email from:- Mr. Sudhir Agarwal, Vichitra Construction
Others confirmed participants

- Sh. Sunil Bhargava, Rank Mercantile (P) Ltd.
- Sh. Rajesh Sharma, Partner, LR Sharma & Co.
- Sh. H.S. Bakshi, Bakshi the Driller,
- Sh. Gunjan Sharma, Shanivi Construction
- Sh. Gagan Aggarwal, Gagan Traders
- Sh. Sandeep Talwar, Super Drilling (P) Ltd.
- Sh. Harpreet Singh, Wintek Trading Co.
- Sh. Sanjay Gupta, Nandini Impex

These participants confirmed their participation but could not join the meeting. They have indicated their interest in providing their inputs for the activities and therefore are listed here.

Sh. Chander Verma chaired the meeting and raised the matter of defending Trenchless Technology in face of frequent press reports about road cavings in New Delhi. Chairman informed the participants that though there are several reasons cited, but Trenchless is incorrectly being highlighted as a major damage agent. Chairman also informed that as the nodal organization, IndSTT intends to issue appropriate rebuttals & undertake other actions on behalf of the Trenchless fraternity. Chairman subsequently sought the acceptance of the participants for the course of action and participants provided the same.

Subsequently the meeting agenda was circulated to the participants and point-wise discussions were conducted. The discussions are reported as under:

1. Agenda Point number 1

Agenda point was for preparation of a theme note highlighting the misinterpretations by collecting points from all concerned. The issue was discussed at length and several points for inclusion were suggested. Input from Mr. Sudhir Agarwal were read out in the beginning by Prof. Swarup wherein Mr. Agarwal had indicated that the cave-ins can be attributed to the age of pipelines and the hectic work pace due to CWG and DMRC works. Dr. Sanjay Rana indicated that issues related to the adherence to codal provisions and design requirements, need to be included in the note. Mr. Garg mentioned about the issues related to inappropriate technology selection by the clients. Mr. Haque indicated that the reports need to be countered by highlighting other factors and invoking the geotechnical points related to Terzaghi's principles. There were other remarks from other participants on various matters like absence of subsurface utility survey reports and data, human errors in execution and supervision, both from service providers as well as the project or right-of-way owners ends, absence of tested and certified manpower and likewise. After a detailed discussion it was decided that all the present participants, as well as the confirmed participants who could not reach the meeting but had confirmed the participation, would be requested to provide the inputs for the theme note. The theme note would address at least the following issues:

- Appropriate technology selection;
- Issues to address appropriate design and supervision;
- Use of trenchless codes of practices
- Training of project owners engineers for proper project execution;
- Other issues as may be suggested by the participants.

It was decided that the draft theme note would be circulated for approval to all the participants and after the approval the same shall be placed for press notifications. Participants agreed for the same. To initiate the process it was decided that the minutes of the meeting would be drafted and circulated immediately so that the final theme note could be prepared soon.

2. Agenda Point Number 2

In order to initiate the overall sensitization, it was decided to call for a press meeting immediately once the theme note gets approved. It was decided to develop a list of press reporting organizations for inviting them to the press meeting where the participants could present the other side of the story to the press reporters.

3. Agenda Point Number 3

As the anticipated damage to the industry is perceived to be grave, it was decided to submit a memorandum to MOS, PM Office followed by a workshop, where all project departments are invited. Secretary IndSTT indicated that this would be done with a lead time of fifteen days from the date of theme note development.

4. Agenda Point Number 4

During the initial discussions a point of reforming the industry also emerged and it was decided to prepare a white paper for initiating reforms.

5. Agenda Point Number 5

One of the reform point noted was the absence of the certified operators. It was proposed to establish a working group under the chair of Dr. Sanjay Rana for evaluating and certifying the workers competencies and equipment job compliance. Dr. Rana agreed to the proposal.

6. Agenda Point Number 6

As a sequel to point number 5 it was proposed to initiate a Third Party Testing & Certification drive immediately. As the Vocational Qualification Criteria details for the operators, and the codes, are already developed by IndSTT, this initiation work could be undertaken immediately to avoid further damage to the subsurface networks. In addition credit point award for Continued Professional Development for the participation in IndSTT events was also proposed. It was decided that the committee should issue the necessary directives.

7. Agenda Point Number 7

Mr. Haque indicated that as the long term strategy the industry must have detailed training activities as in short term this can not be used to defend the technology or the related cave-ins. It was subsequently agreed that different stakeholders, both, project owners as well as the right-of-way owners and service providers, be invited to send their officers/personnel for Executive Development Programs, and short term diplomas/post Diplomas.

8. Agenda Point Number 8

To counter the negative publicity given to Trenchless Technology, it was proposed that a major thrust be applied to technology usage by calling upon major consultancy/Engineering houses to take up TT.

The meeting concluded with thanks to the chair.

For Indian Society for Trenchless Technology

(Prof. Niranjan Swarup)
Executive Director