

# EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CORROSION Working Party “ CATHODIC PROTECTION ” (EFC WP 16)

## Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting September 14<sup>th</sup> 2000 (Eurocorr'2000, London)

### Welcome, Apologies

The meeting was opened by M. Roche, reminding the topics to be discussed. After the usual apologies for the people who could not attend the meeting and the attendance list for those who could (see appendix 1), the intended agenda (as depicted in the invitation, see appendix 2) started the session. 19 attendants participated to the meeting. X.Campaignole accepted to be the secretary for the meeting and to write the draft of the minutes.

### Approval of 4<sup>th</sup> meeting's minutes

M. Pourbaix asked by mail to modify his country's position (Belgium). They are in favour of a unified system but self qualification within the companies should also be possible. Belgium could also organise its own certification. Except this modification, the minutes were approved.

### Certification (personnel and companies)

#### *Comparative EFC Document*

It is critical to define the skills and knowledge for each level and make comparisons between countries, as it must be the same everywhere. A comparative document was presented by M. Roche at CEOCOR in Brussels on May 9<sup>th</sup> 2000, after discussion at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. This document was distributed to the participants. The document reviews the current practices in European countries and also mentions the American NACE certification. The content of the document was again discussed by the attendants. The document, corrected as requested during the meeting, is put as a draft of the EFC document in appendix 3 for **final comments and adoption during the next meeting**.

- **Italy** (Bini) mentioned that the UNI standard is now officially published (UNI 10875, April 2000). At this time there are 49 level 3 certified (on dossier), 14 level 2 (soon 30) and 8 level 1. Companies prefer to certify 2<sup>nd</sup> than 1<sup>st</sup> levels as the 2<sup>nd</sup> is more required. However, SNAM will proceed to certification for level 1 personnel. There are ongoing discussions on a possible certification for coatings for buried structures.
- **UK** (Wyatt) certification is led by the Institute of Corrosion. There are three range qualification levels : *technician*, *professional member* (equivalent to NACE's CP specialist) and *fellow* (equivalent to NACE's corrosion expert). There is a commercial training/examination for the technician level. The document's description is correct. At this time there are about 10 to 20 technicians certified, 1200 professional (but only 150 out of them in CP), 250 fellows (but only 15 to 20 in CP). Except for the technician level, those certifications are neither explicit, nor formal about the domain of competence. They are more or less like the American Professional Engineer level. It is the individual experience that allows the distinction between activity skills. There is a strong opposition in UK for anything too specific. Rather, they are looking for a flexible frame.
- **Netherlands** agrees with the document. They will follow the general guidelines. They are ready to change the period of validity of the certification from 3 to 5 years.
- **Spain** is favourable to certification, but nothing is going on yet. So far, they are setting up some training.
- **Poland** is in favour of certification. They just finished certification for coatings and should start soon for CP

(possibly next year).

- **Croatia** is in favour of certification as they encounter many problems concerning their gas transmission system. Training courses are organised by the companies (1 week long), but are distinct from the certification itself.
- **Romania** has regulations (11 standards) since 1965, renewed in 1995 but nobody cares about them.. Training and certification are needed as the country is getting involved in international projects with western countries. There are many CP designers and operators in the country. Bucarest is subject to serious stray currents concerns.
- **Portugal** has much interest in certification especially concerning its new distribution system, however there is no certification/regulation/training yet.
- **NACE** new system has three levels of certification without any specific application sector. It was launched in 2000.

### ***CEN/TC219/WG5 on “ Qualification and Certification of Operators in the field of Cathodic Protection ”***

As decided in November 1999 in Paris, France and Italy have sent the English translation of their standards to CEN TC219 secretary who sent them for evaluation and comment to the members of the European countries. As a result, the launching of a new working group on "Qualification and Certification of CP personnel" in TC219 (WG5) has been proposed to BT. We are presently waiting for the actual working group launching with CEN formal agreement. The first meeting is expected soon in 2001. The country representatives will be appointed by their country certification organizations.

There are several options for an European scheme; for the time being there is a consensus on the following :

- 1- Only certification of individuals.
- 2- 3 levels of competence (as in NACE) but relevant tasks and knowledge need to be clarified (for instance who can design what). Level 2 is supposed to design simple CP system, but simple remains to be defined, and should be validated by a level 3 to comply with eventual local regulations.
- 3- Application sectors : 1<sup>st</sup> one will be land applications, but specialisation could be limited to level 3. Level 1 could be an all sectors certification, level 2 needs to be discussed.
- 4- Acceptance criteria for examination should be based on experience and education.
- 5- Mandatory training/examination with agreement of training/examination centres. A unique book of questions could be published, but it is unlikely to meet a general agreement on it within a reasonable time. There is an on going European procedure concerning the graduate engineer status. B. Wyatt will bring it to WG5. It is expected to be a certification similar to the American PE with an expiration date. The CEOCOR is presently preparing a training manual on the basics for buried pipelines (proposal so far).

## **Technical Topics and Free Discussions**

For the 1<sup>st</sup> time, a session was totally devoted to CP (mainly on measurements on pipelines) at Eurocorr'2000 (see proceedings for further details). Up to 60 people attended this session. A common session held with WP9 was also a success about Marine applications of CP. Moreover, papers concerning CP have been gathered during the session on Concrete.

M.Roche presented the draft of the 3-year programme sent to EFC on request of STAC; after discussion the objective on "recommendations for CP measurement and coating survey techniques for buried pipelines" has been put in first position, "involvement in certification" being put in second position considering that the certification is on its way at the CEN. The final EFC WP16 Work Programme is given in appendix 4. The main activity will be now to work on experiences for writing a "State of the Art report for the Assessment of CP of buried pipelines" to be published in 2003 as an EFC Publication (green book). There is an acute need for some sort of collaboration with CEOCOR such as a jointing group. Both EFC and CEOCOR are involved in CP. The first is involved in all the aspects of CP and the second only in buried water or gas pipelines. However the

relations between the two organisations should be more complementary. For instance, both will held their annual meetings at the same time in 2001 which is a pity because many people are interested with both events. The publication of the state of the art report on CP could be produced by a jointed group. A joint meeting between EFC WP 16 and CEOCOR sector A would be advisable. This meeting could be attached to the next EFC WP 16 one (the day before or after or a part of the day). M.Roche will contact CEOCOR (MM. Leroy and Di Biase) to present this proposal.

M. Wyatt has agreed on preparing and proposing the report on CP assessment for buried pipes draft frame and outline, seeking :

- all techniques in use, compared and contrasted,
  - \* measurement of CP,
  - \* coatings defects,
- every body should co-operate,
- formal presentations of those techniques should be proposed during symposia.

This document will more or less be an update of the existing 1988 NACE/Institute of Corrosion report and will become EFC WP 16 main task (besides the Eurocorr symposia).

## Next Meetings

**Next EFC WP16 meetings :** In **Barcelona (Spain) Tuesday 27 March 2001** on invitation of A.Gomila, then in Italy during Eurocorr'2001 (at the same dates as the CEOCOR meeting in Biarritz, France).

### Other meetings :

There will not be any Eurocorr in 2002 as there is already the International Corrosion Conference in Grenada, Spain. In 2002 there should also be in an EFC Workshop on Certification in Corrosion Prevention in France (Aix-en-Provence) together with the "3rd CEFRACTOR Seminar on CP and associated coatings". Also, **a Symposium on CP, Theory and Practice will be organised in Poland (Gdansk) on CP on 9-10 May 2002**, joined with a meeting of EFC WP16 (EFC event nr 250). As those meetings are conflicting, the French and Polish conveyers should make arrangement to avoid redundancy.

Note : Since the meeting, and due to the date of ICC Grenada Conference in September, the dates for the 2 joined events organised by CEFRACTOR in Aix-en-Provence have been settled as follows :

- **Workshop on Certified Corrosion Prevention on June 4-5, 2002 (EFC event nr 253)**
- **CEFRACOR Seminar on CP and Associated Coatings on June 6-7, 2002 (EFC event nr 254).**

In 2003, Eurocorr will take place in Hungary.

X.CAMPAIGNOLE, Secretary

M.ROCHE, Chairman

Please note the new position and address of Marcel Roche:

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4 appendices