

**MEETING DATE October 22, 2003**

**SUBJECT Staff Response to Commission Inquiry - Cleaning Chemicals for Exterior Washing of Subway Cars**

At its meeting of August 27, 2003, the Commission moved that staff be requested to select, at random, five other transit properties and report back on what products they use.

Initially, five properties were contacted through the New York Regional Rail Car Consortium (NYRCC) but this was extended to eight in order to find a comparable fleet. The results of the survey are attached for review. Most of the properties contacted use cars constructed of stainless steel that employ different wash systems. Only two properties, Washington and New Jersey, have aluminium cars and use acid/alkali chemicals in their wash systems. Neither of these properties washed with the same frequency. Factors such as indoor/outdoor storage, local environmental conditions, usage profiles, frequency of washing, as well as standards of cleanliness, will all influence the selection of chemicals.

In summary, there are other vendors of chemicals but the results and costs can vary widely making comparisons difficult. Commission staff will contact the suppliers to determine if any of the specified chemicals are suitable for our application.

Chief General Manager

6-25-3

Attachment: Subway Car Wash Chemicals – Peer Property Survey

**Subway Car Wash Chemicals – Peer Property Survey**

<i>Transit Authority</i>	<i>Subway Car Construction</i>	<i>Wash System Description</i>	<i>Chemical(s)</i>
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Toronto Transit Commission (TTC)	Aluminium	Drive through brush system (cars washed weekly)	Brightest Acid Clean and Railway A.P.C. (alkaline)
Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)	No reply received		
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)	Aluminium	Drive through brush system (cars washed daily)	ArcaShock (a and Caustic Soda 50%
New Jersey Transit (NJT)	Aluminium	Drive through brush system (cars washed monthly)	PenBlast (ac and PenTrans 302 NJT
New York City Transit (NYCT)	Stainless Steel	Drive through brush system	Oxalic Acid w/Deter
South Eastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA)	Stainless Steel	Drive through brush system (cars washed daily)	PenBlitz P228 and P215 (alkali
Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)	Stainless Steel	Drive through brush system (cars washed weekly)	Compound 2450 (C Railwash "LPH" (C SECO-101 (a

Delaware River Port Authority (PATCO)	Stainless Steel	Drive through brush system	PenBlast 510 M
Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PATH)	Stainless Steel	Drive through brush system	Simple Green (a or Simple Green Crysta