

Rock Products Committee

Dispute Resolution Process

The RPC strives to reach consensus where “Consensus” is defined as a decision you can live with and support outside the committee. A dispute is a disagreement between two or more people. RPC members shall strive to resolve disputes at the lowest level. When there is a dispute, the RPC members involved will first try to achieve a resolution where consensus is acceptable to all parties.

When a dispute continues for some period of time without any movement towards solution, you are at impasse. For issues where consensus is not reached in the Sub task Group to avoid impasse and the associated frustrations any member involved may tell the other party that they feel the issue has become a disagreement that is not being resolved and thus move it into the dispute resolution process.

One of the cornerstones of partnering is the Dispute Resolution Ladder. The RPC has established a Dispute Resolution Ladder starting at the Sub Task Group level I and ending at the RPC Co-Chairs level III. In level III, the dispute resolution ladder includes optional use of an Independent Peer Review Panel composed of technical experts to make recommendations to the RPC Co-Chairs for resolution of disputes.

RPC Dispute Resolution Ladder

LEVEL	WHO	WHEN
I	Sub Task Group (STG) If an issue cannot be resolved by the members of a Sub Task Group (STG), the STG Co-Chairs should first try to facilitate resolution of the issue. If an issue cannot be resolved by the STG than the STG Co-Chairs must define and agree on, in writing, the problem statement or specific scope of the issue. STG should consider use of a subject matter expert technical advisory for resolving disputes (See Dispute Resolution Assistance).	At the Time of Impasse
II	Task Group (TG)Co-Chairs If the issue cannot be resolved by the STG Co-Chairs (LEVEL I), either the Caltrans or Industry STG Co-Chairs can elevate the issue to the TG Co-Chairs. The scope of the issue will remain as defined in writing by the STG Co-Chairs. TG should consider use of a Dispute Resolution Advisory to resolve disputes (See Dispute Resolution Assistance).	2 Weeks
III	RPC Co-Chairs If the issue cannot be resolved by the TG Co-Chairs (LEVEL II), either the Caltrans or Industry TG Co-Chairs can request elevation of the issue to RPC Co-Chairs. In addition to submitting the issue, as defined in writing by the Sub-Task Group (STG) Co-Chairs, the TG Co-Chairs will submit a paper briefly describing their position on the issue. The RPC Co-Chairs will decide when complex technical issue(s) should be referred to an Independent Peer Review Panel (IPRP) for recommendations (See Independent Peer Review Panel Process). The IPRP would provide non-binding recommendations to the RPC Co-Chairs for resolving the disputed issue.	2 Weeks