

THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



Friday, March 11, 2005

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Staten Island Ferry report was completed in just over one year and, on March 8th, was unanimously adopted by the Board. Congratulations to Marine Safety, Research and Engineering, General Council and Safety Recommendations and Communications staff for a job well done.

As part of our continued pursuit of safety in all modes, the Positive Train Control symposium helped further dialogue designed to make rail passengers, operators and communities surrounding rail routes safer. Thanks to **Jim Southworth**, the Office of

Railroad Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigations and staff from our NTSB Academy for their work in offering this very successful symposium.

The management appointments announced this week reflect the depth of professional talent we are privileged to have at the National Transportation Safety Board. The new positions held by **Dan Campbell, Joe Osterman, Joe Kolly, Karen Lanier** and **Bruce Magladry** reflect on their nearly 120 years of professional experience, and will be the foundation for the future of the Board.

Ellen Engleman Conners

Board Meets on Staten Island Ferry Accident

The National Transportation Safety Board met in its Washington, DC headquarters on March 8th to deliberate on the cause of a fatal accident involving a New York City passenger ferry. On October 15, 2003, the Staten Island ferry *Andrew J. Barberi*, owned and operated by the New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT), was at the end of a regularly scheduled trip from Manhattan to Staten Island when it struck a maintenance pier at the Staten Island Ferry terminal. Ten passengers died in the accident and an eleventh passenger died two months later as a result of injuries sustained in the crash. In addition, 70 people were injured in the crash.

The Board determined that the probable cause of the accident was the assistant captain's unexplained incapacitation and the failure of the NYC DOT to implement and oversee safe, effective operating procedures for its ferries. Contributing to the cause of the accident was the failure of the captain to exercise his command responsibilities of the *Andrew J. Barberi* by ensuring the safety of its operations.

The Board made recommendations to the NYC DOT, U.S. Coast Guard, the states operating public ferries as well as the Passenger Vessel Association.



The interior of the Staten Island Ferry after colliding with a maintenance pier.



Damage to the ferry *Andrew J. Barberi*.

NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



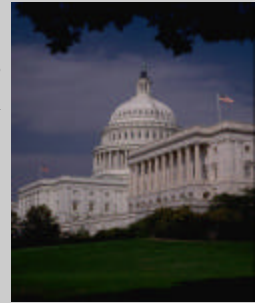
Awards Reminder

The NTSB will be holding its 2004 Annual Awards Ceremony in the NTSB Board Room on Tuesday, March 15th at 1:30pm. All employees are invited to attend the event, which will honor achievements in nine areas. Immediately after the ceremony, there will be a celebration of the 30-Year Anniversary of the enactment of the 1974 Independent Safety Board Act, which made the Board a separate, independent agency.

On the Hill...

The Office of Government and Industry Affairs (GIA) gave updates on recent accidents to Congressman Olver and Congressman Sanchez.

The abstract from the March 8th Board meeting on Staten Island Ferry accident was also sent to Members of Congress and staff.



Positive Train Control Symposium Meets with Great Success



Some of the 160 participants at the PTC symposium.

The NTSB's Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigation, along with the NTSB Academy, sponsored a Positive Train Control (PTC) symposium at the NTSB Academy. The symposium was developed to encourage dialogue amongst suppliers, industry and government regarding issues surrounding automatic control systems to override mistakes made by human operators. Over 160 participants listened to presentations on status of test systems, operations efficiency, research and system development costs, operational and interoperability issues and alternative concepts. PTC has been on the NTSB Most Wanted list of safety improvements since the list was created in 1990.

NTSB Announces Management Changes

Chairman Engleman Connors announced several key appointments to the agency's management team this week, including a new Executive Director and Managing Director.

- **Dan Campbell**, has been named Executive Director, where he will concentrate on planning, policy and transition issues.
- **Joseph Osterman**, formerly Director of the Board's Office of Highway Safety, will be the Board's new Managing Director.
- **Bruce Magladry** has been named Acting Director of the Office of Highway Safety.
- **Dr. Joseph Kolly** has been named Deputy Director of the Office of Research and Engineering.
- **Karen Lanier** has been named as the Board's Deputy General Counsel.

Chairman Visits Boeing Manufacturing Facility



Chairman Engleman Connors (L) speaks with Boeing Aviation Safety Director Marlene Nelson during a visit to Renton, WA, as Boeing's David Traynham, Steve Atkins and the NTSB's **Cheryl McCullough** look on.