

Log R-516

SP-20

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ISSUED: June 6, 1985

Forwarded to:

(See Attached List)

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

R-85-53

While large-scale hazardous materials accidents occur in railroad yards infrequently, experience shows that they can result in extensive property damage, injuries, and disruption to communities nearby. Therefore, while the probability of major hazardous materials accidents occurring in railroad yards is low, the risk to the public health and safety in any given incident is high. Unlike other operators of fixed-site facilities, however, railroad yard operators are not required by regulation to prepare emergency plans. For example, under the provisions of 10 CFR 50 and other Nuclear Regulatory Commission directives, nuclear powerplants must develop and rehearse emergency plans. Owners or operators of hazardous waste facilities are subject to the emergency planning requirements of 40 CFR 264 which extend to the facility being responsible for familiarizing local emergency response groups with the facility's layout, the properties of the hazardous materials handled at the facility, and appropriate response procedures. Airport operators certified by the Federal Aviation Administration are required, by 14 CFR 139, to develop emergency plans for various accidents, including a hazardous materials release. Interstate natural gas compressor station operators are required by 49 CFR 192 to develop an emergency plan and provide it to community emergency responders, as well as to familiarize them with the plan.

Since the threat of a large-scale accident exists in railroad yards and since there are no requirements for emergency planning for these facilities, the National Transportation Safety Board surveyed the current status of emergency preparedness at eight railroad yards throughout the United States. Following this survey, the Board conducted a 2-day public hearing to solicit additional views on several related topics. The Board of Inquiry heard from 23 witnesses who represented the railroad industry; involved communities; local emergency response organizations; and local, State, and Federal governments. They testified about means for minimizing the potential for catastrophic releases of hazardous materials in yards and discussed the preparedness of communities and railroad yard operators for handling such emergencies.

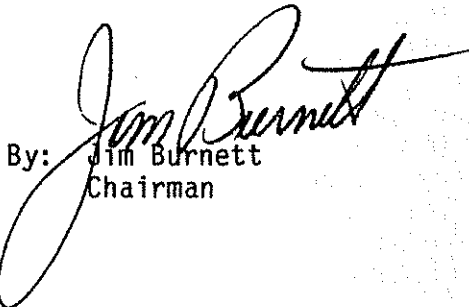
The Safety Board concluded from the testimony given that railroad yards are not recognized as fixed-site, high-risk threats to the public health and safety by those responsible for promoting hazardous materials planning, for preparing response materials, and for conducting the response. In none of the areas studied during this special investigation could the Safety Board find any wide distribution of materials addressing emergency response or providing planning guidance which depicted the railroad yard as an entity deserving of special attention for this purpose. The Safety Board concurs in the testimony at the hearing by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representative that "...the situation would be worthy of increased attention and activity by this agency..." and believes that the point is applicable to other agencies as well. The Safety Board also concurs in the statements made by the FEMA official that an emergency plan, based upon a solid and realistic assessment of risk, is an essential starting point to providing at least a minimal degree of coordination during a community emergency. An important aspect of such an assessment is the correlation of the level of preparedness with the density and the type of the population which potentially would be exposed to the harmful effects of hazardous materials releases from railroad yards.

The Safety Board is encouraged by the activities of some railroads made known to it since the public hearing. However, much additional attention to emergency response planning must be given by operators of railroad yards. Particularly lacking in present activities is the coordination between railroads and communities as to the emergency response needs.

Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the (See Attached List):

In coordination with communities adjacent to your railroad yards, develop and implement emergency planning and response procedures for handling releases of hazardous materials. These procedures should address, at a minimum, initial notification procedures, response actions for the safe handling of releases of the various types of hazardous materials transported, identification of key contact personnel, conduct of emergency drills and exercises, and identification of the resources to be provided and the actions to be taken by the railroad and the community. (Class II, Priority Action) (R-85-53)

BURNETT, Chairman, GOLDMAN, Vice Chairman, and BURSLEY, Member, concurred in this recommendation.

By: 
Jim Burnett
Chairman

Mr. H. D. Huffman
Vice President & General Manager
Alton & Southern Railway Company
1000 South 2nd Street
East St. Louis, Illinois 62207

Mr. J. W. Cunningham
Vice President - Operations
Atlanta & Saint Andrews Bay Railway
P.O. Box 669
Panama City, Florida 32401

Mr. M. R. Seipler
Vice President - Operations
Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad Company
P.O. Box 68
Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146

Mr. H. J. Umberger
Vice President - Operations
Cambria & Indiana Railroad
1275 Daly Avenue
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015

Mr. B. L. Thomas
President
Chicago & Illinois Midland Railway Company
P.O. Box 139
Springfield, Illinois 62705

Mr. T. D. Moore, Jr.
Executive Vice President -
General Manager
Clinchfield Railroad Company
229 Nolichucky Avenue
Erwin, Tennessee 37650

Mr. R. B. Hasselman
Senior Vice President - Operations
Consolidated Rail Corporation
Six Penn Central Plaza
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

Mr. W. J. Holtman
President and Chief Executive Officer
Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad
P.O. Box 5482
Denver, Colorado 80217

Mr. F. G. Turpin
President & Chief Executive Officer
The Alaska Railroad
Pouch 7-2111
Anchorage, Alaska 9951-07069

Mr. J. R. Fitzgerald
Vice President - Operations
Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company
80 East Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Mr. R. E. Dowdy
President & General Manager
Belt Railway Company of Chicago
6900 South Central Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60638

Mr. C. J. Bryant
Senior Vice President - Operations
Burlington Northern Railroad Company
9401 Indian Creek Pkwy.
Overland Park, Kansas 66210

Mr. R. G. Rayburn
Executive Vice President - Operations
Chessie System
Two North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Mr. J. A. Zito
Senior Vice President - Operations
Chicago & Northwestern Transportation Company
165 North Canal Street
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Mr. A. E. Michon
President
Colorado and Southern Railway Company
2000 Executive Tower
Denver, Colorado 80202

Mr. J. R. Williams
General Manager
Delaware and Hudson Railway Company
Delaware and Hudson Building
Albany, New York 12207

Mr. C. McPhail
Vice President & General Manager
Detroit & Mackinac Railway
120 Oak Street
Tawas City, Michigan 48226

Mr. A. G. Dustin
President, Chief Executive
& Operating Officer
Boston & Maine Corporation
150 Causeway Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Mr. C. O. Ferner
General Manager
Duluth Missabe & Iron Range Railway
500 Missabe Building
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Mr. K. C. Dufford
Vice President - Transportation
Seaboard System Railroad, Inc.
500 Water Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Mr. A. E. Michon
President
Ft. Worth and Denver Railway Company
P.O. Box 943
Ft. Worth, Texas 76101

Mr. E. R. Adams
Senior Vice President-Operations
Grand Trunk Western Railroad
131 W. Lafayette Boulevard
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Mr. E. T. Walker
Vice President & General Manager
Illinois Terminal Railroad Company
P.O. Box 7282
St. Louis, Missouri 63177

Mr. J. E. Gregg
General Manager
Kansas City Southern Lines
114 West 11th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

Mr. J. J. Soullion
President & Chief Executive Officer
Lake Superior & Ishpeming Railroad Company
105 East Washington Street
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Mr. L. W. Littlefield
Vice President-Operations
and Maintenance
Bangor & Aroostock Railroad Company
Northern Main Junction Park Route 2
Bangor, Maine 04401

Mr. W. G. Blades
Vice President & General Manager
Detroit & Toledo Shore Line Railroad
131 West Lafayette Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Mr. F. A. Fitzpatrick
Vice President-Operations
Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company
P.O. Box 536
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230

Mr. R. W. Wyckoff
Senior Vice President-Operations
Florida East Coast Railway Company
1 Malaga Street
St. Augustine, Florida 32084

Mr. M. S. Jones, Jr.
President-General Manager
Georgia Railroad
1590 Marietta Boulevard, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30318

Mr. S. P. Selby
Vice President-Operations
Green Bay and Western Railroad Company
207 W. Mason Street
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54303

Mr. R. F. Stewart
Acting President & Chief Executive Officer
Illinois Central Gulf Railroad
233 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Mr. D. N. Nelson
General Manager
Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad
2721-161st Street
Hammond, Indiana 46323

Mr. V. E. Coe
President & General Manager
Kansas City Terminal Railway Company
Room 207 - Union Station
Kansas City, Missouri 64108

Mr. D. A. Fink
Chairman and Chief
Executive Officer
Maine Central Railroad Company
242 St. John Street
Portland, Maine 04102

Mr. G. A. Gillette
Vice President-Operations
Minneapolis Northfield & Southern
Railroad Company
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427

Mr. D. M. Cavanaugh
Vice President-Operations & Maintenance
Soo Line Railroad Company
Box 530
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440

Mr. P. F. Cruikshank, Jr.
Vice President-Operations & Maintenance
The Milwaukee Road
516 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Mr. T. G. Todd
Vice President-Operations
Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad Company
101 East Main Street
Denison, Texas 75020

Mr. R. D. Krebs
Vice President-Operations
Southern Pacific Transportation Company
One Market Plaza
San Francisco, California 94105

Mr. R. E. T. Thompson
Chief Executive Officer & President
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad
4 Station Court Commerce Court
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Mr. D. E. Gratz
Superintendent
Monongahela Railway Company
53 Market Street
Brownsville, Pennsylvania 15417

Mr. J. J. Newbauer, Jr.
President
Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac
Railroad
P.O. Box 11281
Richmond, Virginia 23230

Mr. F. S. Morrison
President & General Manager
Norfolk and Portsmouth Belt Line
Railroad Company
220 Law Building
Norfolk, Virginia 23514

Mr. R. F. Dunlap
President
Norfolk and Western Railway
8 North Jefferson Street
Roanoke, Virginia 24042

Mr. B. C. Davidson
President
Terminal Railroad Association
of St. Louis
2016 Madison Avenue
Granite City, Illinois 62046

Mr. F. K. Turner
General Manager
Norfolk, Franklin & Danville Railway
181 South Main Street
Suffolk, Virginia 23434

Mr. A. R. Ramos
Chairman and Chief Executive
Officer
Texas Mexican Railway Company
P.O. Box 419
Laredo, Texas 78040

Mr. W. R. Weaver
President
Pittsburg & Shawmut Railroad Company
R. D. #2 - Middle Street
Brookville, Pennsylvania 15825

Mr. D. H. Hoffman
President
Union Railroad Company
P. O. Box 68
Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146

Mr. J. L. Wulfson
President
Vermont Railway, Inc.
267 Battery Street
Burlington, Vermont 05401

Mr. R. G. Flannery
President
Union Pacific System
1416 Dodge Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68179

Mr. R. C. Vanderclute
President
The Washington Terminal Company
400 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Mr. A. W. Polich
Vice President & Chief Engineer
Toledo, Peoria & Western Railroad Company
2000 East Washington Street
East Peoria, Illinois 61611