



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594
Safety Recommendation

SP-20

Date: July 21, 1986

In reply refer to: M-86-94

Mr. William N. Robertson
President
Agri-Trans Corporation
Box 8550
St. Louis, Missouri 63127

Log - M-318 B
7/22/86

About 1710, on December 12, 1985, the 382-foot-long U.S. passenger vessel MISSISSIPPI QUEEN and the U.S. towboat CRIMSON GLORY with its tow of 28 barges, approximately 1,150 feet in overall length, collided on the Mississippi River near Donaldsonville, Louisiana. The MISSISSIPPI QUEEN was holed and began to flood; however, the passenger vessel was grounded after the collision and all 405 passengers and crew were safely evacuated. The CRIMSON GLORY sustained minor damage and stood by to aid the MISSISSIPPI QUEEN. The estimated cost of repair to the two vessels was over \$7 million. 1/

The watch on the CRIMSON GLORY at the time of the collision consisted of the pilot, a mate, two deckhands and an oiler; however, the pilot did not post a lookout. There was a deckhand in the pilothouse at the time of the accident; however, he had not been assigned navigation or lookout duties. Since the pilot was making a difficult maneuver at the time of the accident, a properly stationed lookout could have assisted the pilot's workload by providing timely information on the closing distance between the two vessels. The pilot stated that he only could occasionally check the location of the overtaking MISSISSIPPI QUEEN because he was concentrating on his flanking maneuver. Although not a factor in this accident, the use of a properly stationed lookout during this critical maneuver and similar maneuvers would be prudent seamanship.


Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Agri-Trans Corporation:

Require that the operators of company vessels post a lookout while maneuvering in proximity to other vessels. (Class II, Priority Action)
(M-86-94)

1/ For more detailed information, read Marine Accident Report—"Collision Between U.S. Passenger Vessel MISSISSIPPI QUEEN and U.S. Towboat CRIMSON GLORY in the Mississippi River, near Donaldsonville, Louisiana, on December 12, 1985" (NTSB/MAR-86/09).

The National Transportation Safety Board is an independent Federal agency with the statutory responsibility ". . . to promote transportation safety by conducting independent accident investigations and by formulating safety improvement recommendations" (Public Law 93-633). The Safety Board is vitally interested in any actions taken as a result of its safety recommendations and would appreciate a response from you regarding action taken or contemplated with respect to the recommendation in this letter. Please refer to Safety Recommendation M-86-94 in your reply.

GOLDMAN, Acting Chairman, and BURNETT, LAUBER, and NALL, Members, concurred in this recommendation.


By: Patricia A. Goldman
Acting Chairman