



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

January 31, 1990

Office of the Chairman

Mr. Travis P. Dungan
Administrator
Research and Special Programs Administration
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Dungan:

Thank you for your response to the National Transportation Safety Board's Safety Recommendation R-89-53. This recommendation requested the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) to assist and cooperate with the Federal Railroad Administration in amending 49 CFR Part 179 to require that closure fittings on hazardous materials rail tanks be designed to maintain their integrity in accidents that are typically survivable by the rail tank.

The Safety Board understands that the Association of American Railroads is presently evaluating specific information to determine the need to require specific design parameters for closure fittings on tank cars. We look forward to receiving a further response on this recommendation and the RSPA's efforts to amend 49 CFR Part 179 to meet the intent of R-89-53. In the meantime, this recommendation has been classified as "Open--Acceptable Action."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James L. Kolstad".

James L. Kolstad
Acting Chairman

