



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

Office of the Chairman

MAR 17 2008

The Honorable Carl T. Johnson
Administrator
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for the August 9, 2007, response signed by Ms. Stacey L. Gerard, Assistant Administrator/Chief Safety Officer, to the National Transportation Safety Board regarding Safety Recommendations R-07-4 and -5, stated below. The Safety Board issued these recommendations to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), as a result of the Board's investigation of the collision of two Canadian National Railway Company freight trains near Anding, Mississippi, on July 10, 2005.

R-07-4

With the assistance of the Federal Railroad Administration, require that railroads immediately provide to emergency responders accurate, real-time information regarding the identity and location of all hazardous materials on a train.

R-07-5

Require and verify that States and their communities that receive funds through the Hazardous Materials and Emergency Preparedness [HMEP] grant program conduct training exercises and drills with the joint participation of railroads and other transporters of hazardous materials operating within their jurisdictions as a means of evaluating State, regional, and local emergency hazardous materials response plans.

The Safety Board notes PHMSA's agreement that effective emergency response depends on thorough, accurate, real-time information, planning, and training. PHMSA is examining (1) ways to improve the availability of accurate and immediate information for emergency responders at the scene of an accident and (2) strategies for enhancing emergency response planning and training efforts, including more targeted use of the HMEP grant program funds.

The Safety Board also notes that PHMSA is currently evaluating the emergency response issues raised in the recommendation and the Federal, State, and local government and industry programs intended to address those issues. These efforts by PHMSA constitute an acceptable response to the recommendations; accordingly, Safety Recommendations R-07-4 and -5 are

classified "Open—Acceptable Response." The Board would appreciate receiving periodic updates as you continue actions to fully implement Safety Recommendations R-07-4 and -5.

Thank you for your response to these recommendations and your commitment to transportation safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark V. Rosenker', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mark V. Rosenker
Chairman

cc: Ms. Linda Lawson, Director
Office of Safety, Energy, and Environment
Office of Transportation Policy

Ms. Stacey L. Gerard
Assistant Administrator/Chief Safety Officer