



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: August 26, 2014

In reply refer to: R-14-22 and -23

Mr. Edward R. Hamberger
President
Association of American Railroads
425 Third St. SW
Washington, DC 20024

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. The NTSB determines the probable cause of the accidents and issues safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, the NTSB carries out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinates the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the Association of American Railroads to take action on the safety recommendations being issued in this letter.

On July 29, 2014, the NTSB adopted its report concerning the November 30, 2012, accident, in which a Consolidated Rail Corporation train containing hazardous materials derailed, spilling vinyl chloride into Mantua Creek in Paulsboro, New Jersey.¹ Additional information about this accident and the resulting recommendations may be found in the report of the investigation, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number RAR-14/01.

As a result of this investigation, the NTSB reiterated Safety Recommendations R-12-03, R-07-02, and R-07-04 and issued 20 new recommendations, including one to the Consolidated Rail Corporation, one to the US Department of Transportation, three to the Federal Railroad Administration, four to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, two to the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, one to the International Association of

¹ *Conrail Freight Train Derailment with Vinyl Chloride Release, Paulsboro, New Jersey, November 30, 2012, Railroad Accident Report NTSB/RAR-14/01* (Washington, DC: NTSB, 2014).

Fire Chiefs, one to the National Volunteer Fire Council, two to the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management, one to the New Jersey Bureau of Fire Department Services, one to the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, one to the New Jersey Department of Health and the following two recommendations to the Association of American Railroads:

R-14-22

Amend the *United States Hazardous Materials Instructions for Rail* to require train crews to immediately provide their train consists and the emergency response information for all hazardous materials on the train to federal, state, or local emergency response officials when accidents occur.

R-14-23

Update the Hazardous Materials Shipping Descriptions and Emergency Response database to ensure that emergency response information provided for hazardous materials shipments is consistent with and is at least as protective as guidance contained in the *Emergency Response Guidebook*.

These safety recommendations are derived from the NTSB's investigation and are consistent with the evidence we found and the analysis we performed. Acting Chairman HART and Members SUMWALT, ROSEKIND, and WEENER concurred in these recommendations.

The NTSB is vitally interested in these recommendations because they are designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement them. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendations by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to correspondence@ntsb.gov. If it exceeds 10 megabytes, including attachments, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions. Please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

[Original Signed]

By: Christopher A. Hart,
Acting Chairman