National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: November 24, 2014

In reply refer to: R-14-65

Mr. Patrick Nowakowski
President
Long Island Railroad
Jamaica Station Building
93-02 Sutphin Boulevard
Jamaica, NY 11435

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. We determine the probable cause of the accidents and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we carry out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinate 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 Long Island Railroad to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

On November 19, 2014, we adopted our report *Organizational Factors in Metro-North Railroad Accidents* in which the results of five investigations involving Metro-North Railroad were discussed. The accidents examined included: (1) the May 17, 2013, derailment and subsequent collision in Bridgeport, Connecticut; (2) the May 28, 2013, employee fatality in West Haven, Connecticut;.(3) the July 18, 2013, CSX derailment on Metro-North tracks in The Bronx, New York; (4) the December 1, 2013, derailment in The Bronx, New York; and (5) the March 10, 2014, employee fatality in Manhattan, New York.[1] Additional information about these accidents and the resulting recommendations may be found in the report of the investigation, which can be accessed at our website, http://www.ntsb.gov, under report number SIR-14/04.

[1] National Transportation Safety Board. *Organizational Factors in Metro-North Railroad Accidents.* SIR-14/04 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2014).

As a result of this investigation, we reiterated Safety Recommendations R-12-16, R-13-21, and R-14-34; reclassified Safety Recommendations R-08-06, R-14-07, and R-14-12; and issued 17 new recommendations, including eight to the Metro-North Railroad; three to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority; two to the Federal Railroad Administration; one to the Association of American Railroads, the American Public Transportation Association, the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers; one to the American College of Physicians; one to the American Academy of Family Physicians; and the following recommendation to the Long Island Railroad:

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> Develop and implement protocols to routinely screen and fully evaluate your safety-sensitive employees for sleep disorders and ensure that such disorders are adequately addressed, if diagnosed.

Acting Chairman HART and Members SUMWALT, ROSEKIND, and WEENER concurred in this recommendation.

The NTSB is vitally interested in this recommendation because it is 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 it. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendation 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