National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: October 16, 2015

In reply refer to: M-15-10

Mr. Gary LaGrange
President and Chief Executive Officer
Port of New Orleans
1350 Port of New Orleans Place
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

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 Port of New Orleans to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

On September 22, 2015, we adopted our report concerning the August 13, 2014, accident in which the *Cory Michael* tow allided with the Florida Avenue Bridge.[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, www.ntsb.gov, under report number MAR-15/02.

As a result of this investigation, we issued five new recommendations, including two to the US Coast Guard, one to Boh Bros. Construction Co., one to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the following recommendation to the Port of New Orleans:

M-15-10

Conduct periodic safety audits to ensure that personnel involved in bridge operations perform their duties according to expectations.

Chairman HART, Vice Chairman DINH-ZARR, and Members SUMWALT and WEENER concurred in this recommendation.

[1] *Allision of Crane Barge, Pushed by Towing Vessel* Cory Michael, *with the Florida Avenue Bridge, New Orleans, Louisiana, August 13, 2014*. NTSB/MAR-15/02 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2015).

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,
Chairman