



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: March 8, 2013

In reply refer to: R-13-9 through -13

Mr. Claude Mongeau
President and CEO
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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 Canadian National Railway to take action on the safety recommendations being issued in this letter.

On February 12, 2013, the NTSB adopted its report concerning the September 30, 2010, accident, in which two Canadian National Railway freight trains collided near Two Harbors, Minnesota.¹ Additional information about this accident and the resulting recommendations may be found in the investigation report, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number NTSB/RAR-13/01.

As a result of this investigation, the NTSB issued a total of 12 new recommendations, reiterated 4 recommendations, and superseded and classified 2 recommendations to the Federal Railroad Administration, Union Pacific Railroad, Canadian Pacific Railway Limited, Kansas City Southern Railway Company, Norfolk Southern Railroad, American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, BNSF Railway, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen,

¹ For more information, see *Collision of Two Canadian National Railway Freight Trains near Two Harbors, Minnesota, September 30, 2010*, Railroad Summary Report NTSB/RAR-13/01 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2013), available online at <http://www.nts.gov>.

and the United Transportation Union, including 5 recommendations to Canadian National Railway:

R-13-9

Discontinue the use of after-arrival track authorities in nonsignaled territory not equipped with positive train control.

R-13-10

Develop and implement specific training that will result in operating personnel acquiring and using strategies and skills based on the principles of crew resource management.

R-13-11

Incorporate the use of handheld signal detection devices into your operational efficiency program on the use of portable electronic devices.

R-13-12

Evaluate your operational testing program, and verify that the testing of track authority procedures and unauthorized use of portable electronic devices is adequate to ensure consistent, safe operation.

R-13-13

Work with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and the United Transportation Union, to develop and implement a nonpunitive peer audit program for the North Division, focused on rule compliance and operational safety.

These safety recommendations are derived from the NTSB's investigation and are consistent with the evidence we found and the analysis we performed. Chairman HERSMAN, Vice 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.

By: [Original Signed]
Deborah A.P. Hersman
Chairman