



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

The Administrator

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

JUL 20 2000

The Honorable James E. Hall
Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW
Washington, DC 20594

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in further response to Recommendation A-98-80 and your June 28, 2000 letter requesting additional information on RSPA's current and planned activities. The recommendation states:

Require, within two years, that air carriers transporting hazardous materials have the means, 24 hours per day, to quickly retrieve and provide consolidated and specific information about the identity (including proper shipping name), hazard class, quantity, number of packages, and location of all hazardous materials on an airplane in a timely manner to emergency responders.

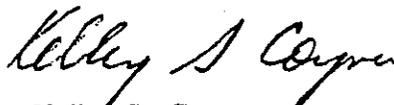
(A-98-80)

The Safety Board issued the same recommendation to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). In our September 30, 1998 letter to you on this recommendation, we stated that we were working with the FAA to develop an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) to seek public comment on these recommendations. RSPA believes that it needs extensive public input in order to appropriately evaluate the means and costs of implementing the recommendation. An ANPRM is the vehicle for receiving that public input. RSPA and the FAA are in the final stages of developing the ANPRM and anticipate publishing it in the Federal Register by September 1, 2000.

I request that A-98-80 be continued to be classified as "Open-Acceptable Action." We thank you for consideration of our request.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Jack Murray, Associate Administrator for Policy and Program Support, at (202)-366-4831.

Sincerely,


Kelley S. Coyner

