



JUL 30 1996

The Honorable Jim Hall
Chairman
National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, DC 20594

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter addresses actions that the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) has taken on two NTSB safety recommendations dealing with cargo tank safety, H-90-91 and H-91-34.

H-90-91

H-90-91 recommends that controls for internal shut-off valves on discharge systems be installed at remote locations on all newly constructed and currently authorized Department of Transportation specification cargo tanks used for the transportation of hazardous materials. This recommendation was adopted in section 178.337-11 of a final rule published under HM-183C for construction of new cargo tanks. The retrofit of previously constructed cargo tanks will be addressed in a future rulemaking proceeding.

H-91-34

H-91-34 recommends that all fittings and devices mounted on manhole cover of cargo tanks be required to meet the same performance standard to withstand the static internal fluid pressure as that required for the manhole cover. This recommendation was adopted in section 178.345-5(f) under HM-183C.

As a result of these responsive actions, RSPA requests that H-90-91 remain classified as "Open-Acceptable Action" and that H-91-34 be classified as "Closed-Acceptable Response." If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Bill Vincent, Director, Office of Policy and Program Support, at 202-366-4831.

Sincerely,

Dr. D.K. Sharma

