



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

The Administrator

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

FEB - 6 1996

The Honorable Jim Hall
Chairman
National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, D.C. 20594

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to recommendation H-95-37 concerning an accident involving a cargo tank carrying liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in White Plains, New York, on July 27, 1994. The front end of the tank fractured, releasing the LPG which ignited and propelled the tank onto a frame house, engulfing it in flames. The driver was killed, 23 people were injured, and an area with a radius of approximately 400 feet was engulfed by fire. The recommendation states as follows:

In cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, study methods and develop standards to improve the crashworthiness on front heads of cargo tanks used to transport liquefied flammable gases and potentially lethal nonflammable compressed gases.

RSPA agrees with the NTSB that the crashworthiness of the front end of cargo tanks used to carry liquefied flammable gases and potentially lethal nonflammable compressed gases needs further evaluation. RSPA will work with the Federal Highway Administration to initiate research to examine the various factors and issues involved, and will take appropriate rulemaking action. In light of this action we request that recommendation H-95-37 be classified as "Open-Acceptable Action".

Sincerely,

Dr. D.K. Sharma

