



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Research and
Special Programs
Administration

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

NOV 5 1991

The Honorable James L. Kolstad
Chairman
National Transportation Safety Board
L'Enfant Plaza
Washington, DC 20594

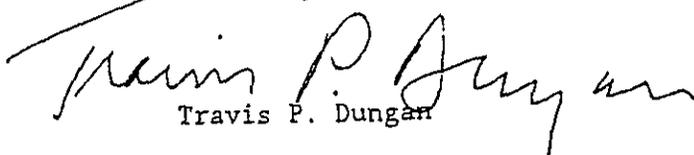
Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to safety recommendation H-90-91 which is the result of an accident involving a tractor-semitrailer off-loading sulfur dioxide into a storage tank in Ashland, Virginia. The recommendation states:

Require controls for internal shut-off valves for the discharge system to be installed at remote locations on all newly constructed and currently authorized Department of Transportation specification cargo tanks that are used for the transportation of any hazardous materials.

At the present time there are some MC-331 and MC-338 cargo tanks that are not required to have remote shut-off devices. RSPA agrees with safety recommendation H-90-91 that all cargo tanks that are used for the transportation of hazardous materials should have remote shut-off valves. We are developing a miscellaneous rulemaking on cargo tanks under Docket HM-183C to respond to petitions for rulemaking. In this rulemaking under HM-183C, we also will include requirements for remote activation of shut-off valves for cargo tanks used to transport hazardous materials. As a result of this action, we request that safety recommendation H-90-91 be classified as "Open-Acceptable Action" pending publication of the final rule.

Sincerely,


Travis P. Dungan

