



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

Office of the Chairman

FEB 6 2012

The Honorable Cynthia L. Quarterman  
Administrator  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Quarterman:

Thank you for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) April 4, 2011, letter to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) regarding the status of several recommendations. We addressed Safety Recommendations A-07-107, A-07-108, A-08-1, A-08-2, and R-07-5 in separate correspondence. This letter addresses Safety Recommendation H-04-23, stated below, which was issued to PHMSA on July 1, 2004, as a result of our investigation of a nurse tank failure with hazardous materials release near Calamus, Iowa, on April 15, 2003. I apologize for the delay in replying.

## H-04-23

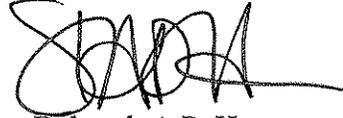
Require periodic nondestructive testing to be conducted on nurse tanks to identify material flaws that could develop and grow during a tank's service and result in a tank failure.

The NTSB notes that PHMSA published a final rule on February 1, 2011, amending the Hazardous Materials Regulations by incorporating provisions contained in certain cargo tank special permits, including a permit addressing nurse tanks. While this rulemaking is intended for only a specific group of nurse tanks—those with missing or illegible ASME plates—we applaud PHMSA's continued efforts to address nurse tank safety. PHMSA indicated that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is also conducting research on nurse tank safety. We encourage PHMSA to monitor the research progress and update the NTSB with any new findings. In the meantime, pending the issuance of a requirement that periodic nondestructive testing be conducted on all nurse tanks, Safety Recommendation H-04-23 remains classified "Open—Acceptable Response."

We would appreciate receiving periodic updates on the status of work to address Safety Recommendation H-04-23. If you would like to submit an update electronically rather than in hard copy, you may send it to the following e-mail address: [correspondence@ntsb.gov](mailto:correspondence@ntsb.gov). If your response includes attachments that exceed 5 megabytes, please e-mail us asking for instructions on how to use our secure mailbox. To avoid

confusion, please use only one method of submission (that is, do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hersman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Deborah A.P. Hersman  
Chairman

cc: Ms. Linda Lawson, Director  
Office of Safety, Energy, and Environment  
Office of Transportation Policy