

Rail Issues Panel Transportation Coordination Group Meeting

**Presentation to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board
Arlington, VA**

**Robert J. Rooney
June 14, 1995**

Rail Issues Panel

- **Association of American Railroads (AAR)** R. E. Fronczak
- **Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)** E. W. Pritchard
K. R. Blackwell
- **American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO),
Standing Committee on Rail Transportation** O. F. Sonefeld
- **CRWMS M&O Contractor** L. Green
- **Mineral County, Nevada** V. E. Poe
- **Panel Moderator** R. J. Rooney

Introductory Comments

- **Bob Rooney—Moderator**
 - Improved railroad infrastructure since economic deregulation in 1980
 - Future abandonments and line sales will affect intermodal mix
- **Larry Green—M&O**
 - Summarized rail transportability of Large MPC Study Report
 - Minimal restrictions on 6-axle rail car capacity of 394,500 lbs. GWR
 - Continued monitoring necessary

Introductory Comments

- **Vernon Poe—Mineral County, Nevada**
 - **Concern about 125-ton MPC on rail infrastructure and recoverability**
 - **Concern about train dynamics of 125-ton MPC**
 - **Prefers 75-ton MPC single design**
 - **Recommends examination of dedicated train option**

Introductory Comments

- **Bob Fronczak—AAR**
 - **AAR policy is to seek risk management plan before transportation system design**
 - **Railroad operating goal of timetable-authorized speed without passing restrictions**
 - **Recommends use of dedicated trains**
 - **AAR's current crash-worthiness research plan**

Introductory Comments

- **Ed Pritchard—FRA**
 - **FRA's role in SNF transport**
 - **FRA's role in accident investigations**
 - **Inspection plan (NIP)**
 - **Inspection disciplines**
 - ◆ **Track, signal and train control, operating practices, motive power and equipment, hazardous materials**
 - **HMTUSA-mandated reports**
 - ◆ **Dedicated trains, mode and route**

Introductory Comments

- **Kevin Blackwell—FRA**
 - **Current procedures for SNF shipments**
 - **CRWMS would strain FRA's inspection resources**
 - **FRA's current state participation**

Introductory Comments

- **Otto Sonefeld—AASHTO**
 - **State DOT rail planning function**
 - **Growth of short line and regional railroads**
 - **Interchanges between railroads must be planned carefully**
 - **Capacity constraints on rail lines**
 - **Rail cars are becoming increasingly specialized**
 - **Commercial considerations and logistics management firms**

Comments Among Panelists

- **Bob Fronczak—AAR**
 - **DOE needs to factor railroad company plans into DOE planning (e.g., abandonments)**
 - **Railroad concerns about MPC recovery time in a derailment**
 - **Not convinced that sole reliance on 75-ton MPC is necessary**
 - **Relationship between train speed and risk needs more study**

Comments Among Panelists

- **Kevin Blackwell—FRA**
 - **FRA has begun dialogue with railroads on emergency response planning**
- **Otto Sonefeld—AASHTO**
 - **When notified of SNF shipments, Governors will turn to State Secretary of Transportation for review of route**

Questions and Comments from Audience to Panel

- **R. Halstead—State of Nevada**
 - **Little discussion of routing and avoidance of urban areas**
- **W. Craig—State of Utah**
 - **Definition of FRA's enhanced inspection program for SNF?**
- **D. Salisbury—Community Awareness Project**
 - **Concern about routing in rural areas and the notification process**

Questions and Comments from Audience to Panel

- **A. Johnson—Eureka County, Nevada**
 - **Are long rail spurs subject to safety regulation similar to mainlines?**
- **B. McBride—League of Women Voters**
 - **Questions on shipment notification process and cause of difference between highway and railroad hazardous materials routing regulations**

Questions and Comments from Audience to Panel

- **R. Halstead—State of Nevada**
 - **Without a rail line to a storage site, is the 125-ton MPC a problem for heavy haul?**
 - **Recommend 75-MPC system**
 - **Report appears over-optimistic on site to mainline track structure**