



U.S. Department
of Transportation

*Federal Railroad
Administration*

Memorandum

Date: May 15, 2008

Subject: Summary of Congressional briefings on Interim Final Rule, RIN 2137-AE02, Hazardous Materials: Enhancing Rail Transportation Safety and Security for Hazardous Materials Shipments

From: Roberta Stewart, Office of Chief Counsel

To: Docket No. PHMSA-RSPA-2004-18730

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a summary of two Congressional briefings that took place after the publication of the Interim Final Rule (IFR) described above on April 16, 2008.

On April 23, 2008, a briefing was provided to staff members for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security. On April 24, 2008, a briefing was provided to staff members for the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

Representatives from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) attended both briefings and provided a factual summary of the provisions contained in the IFR. PHMSA and FRA also provided information on how the IFR fits in with other ongoing safety initiatives, such as the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on improving the safety of railroad tank car transportation of hazardous materials (Docket No. FRA-2006-25169, issued on April 1, 2008). After PHMSA and FRA answered questions from committee staff members regarding the IFR, the briefings were concluded.