

# REMOTE CONTROL LOCOMOTIVE OPERATIONS

Safety Oversight  
and  
Preparation of  
Report to Congress

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee  
January 26, 2005

# Interim Report to Congress

- Submitted to Congress in May 2004
- Findings for seven month period
  - RCL vs. Conventional Operations
    - RCL train accidents – 13% lower
    - RCL employee injuries – 57% lower

# Final Report - May 2005

- Issues pending review
  - Main track operations
  - RCO's riding cars
  - Point protection/remote control zone (RCZ) procedures
  - Remote camera protection at highway x'ings
  - Electromagnetic field (EMF) emissions
  - Security
  - Configuration management (revision control)
  - A/I data analysis

# Other RCL Studies

- Risk assessment
- Root cause analysis
- RCO focus group report

# FRA Concerns

- Operating rules compliance
  - Point protection
    - Failure to observe track in front of movement
- RCZ procedures
  - Many modifications over short time period
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> hand information concerning RCZ conditions
  - Inconsistencies throughout industry
- Situational awareness
  - Ability to move RCL without sense of movement or direction
- Configuration management (revision control)

# RSAC Discussion

- Questions?
- Additional issues for consideration?

# Where to Get More Information

- Safety advisory found at:  
[/www.fra.dot.gov/safety/public advisories/safety advisories/2001-01](http://www.fra.dot.gov/safety/public%20advisories/safety%20advisories/2001-01)
- RCL Q&As found at:  
[/www.fra.dot.gov/safety/operating practices/locomotive engineer certification/questions and answers](http://www.fra.dot.gov/safety/operating%20practices/locomotive%20engineer%20certification/questions%20and%20answers)
- FRA RCL contact – John Conklin
  - Telephone: 202-493-6318
  - Email at: [john.conklin@fra.dot.gov](mailto:john.conklin@fra.dot.gov)