

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
 - 2nd/3rd 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)
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