

U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigations Board

Business Meeting

March 5, 2021

Conducted Remotely

U.S. CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Katherine Lemos, Chairman & CEO

STAFF PRESENT:

Stephen Klejst, Director of Investigations

Chuck Barbee, Director of Recommendations

Mark Kaszniak, Senior Recommendations Specialist

1 OPERATOR: Welcome to the Chemical Safety Board business
2 meeting conference call. My name is John and I'll be your
3 operator for today's call. At this time, all participants are in
4 a listen-only mode. Please note the conference is being
5 recorded. And now I'll turn the call over to Dr. Katherine
6 Lemos. Dr. Lemos, you may begin.

7 CHAIR LEMOS: So, welcome everyone. We will now call to
8 order this public meeting of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard
9 Investigation Board, referred to as the CSB. My name is Dr.
10 Katherine Lemos, the Chairman and CEO for the agency.

11 Today we meet in open session, as required by the Government
12 in the Sunshine Act, to discuss operations and agency activities.
13 Due to COVID, this meeting is being conducted completely remote.
14 So, unlike previous meetings, we're not in our conference room in
15 headquarters.

16 The CSB is an independent, non-regulatory federal agency
17 that investigates major chemical incidents at fixed facilities.
18 The investigations examine and evaluate a wide range of aspects,
19 to include equipment and system design, regulations, industry
20 standards and guidance, training, operations, and procedures, and
21 human and organizational factors.

22 And with the facts, we conduct analysis to determine the
23 probable cause and contributing factors of the event and may also
24 issue safety recommendations for the purpose of preventing
25 similar incidents in the future.

26 So, we have another great agenda for today. For the first
27 part of the meeting, I'll review some strategic topics, to
28 include management priorities and challenges, the CSB's
29 accomplishments in Fiscal Year 20 and our progress to date in
30 Fiscal Year FY21 towards meeting our priorities and overcoming
31 our challenges, and what to expect from the CSB as an agency
32 moving forward. I'll close my part of the meeting by reviewing
33 deployments since our last public meeting in October.

34 Following this, we'll turn to Director Klejst and his team
35 of investigative and recommendations experts to let you know
36 about staff products that are currently in review by the Board.
37 He'll provide a status update of the Incident Reporting Rule
38 Guidance and highlight five of the safety recommendations we've
39 recently brought to closure.

40 So, I want to take the opportunity to highlight my
41 priorities as Chairman. It's important to keep a clear sight on
42 what we're working towards. The first is a focus on the mission,
43 which is to drive chemical safety change, which is to continue
delivering

44 high-quality safety products in the community. And we look
45 forward to maximizing our incident reporting database to guide
46 our deployments.

47 The second priority is to drive efficiency of operations
48 within the agency, expanding our workforce and improving business
49 partnerships. And this translates to hiring investigative and
50 technical staff and support staff that fuels and enables their
51 ability to produce.

52 As many know, as a small agency, we conduct...we contract out
53 a healthy portion of our support functions to business partners.
54 And timely and productive outcomes of our products requires a
55 daily investment in managing these relationships and taking a
56 fresh look moving forward.

57 And Number 3, to strengthen stakeholder and federal
58 counterpart relationships to maximize our resources. It has been
59 a pleasure to meet the many stakeholders across the chemical
60 industry, and I appreciate your contributions to safety.

61 Further, our enabling legislation directs us to work closely
62 with our federal counterparts, and I'm positive that even
63 stronger partnerships will contribute to our productivity and
64 impact.

65 As we also discussed last July, in the public meeting, we
66 are addressing our challenges head-on and taking a proactive
67 approach to move our agency forward to meet our mission.

68 One of the most obvious challenges is carrying out the role
69 of the Board as the only Board Member. As I've said many times,
70 I very much look forward to new members joining me at the CSB.
71 And I trust that our productivity and efficiency will motivate
72 interest and others to join us.

73 Another challenge is Board Member roles and
74 responsibilities. Our policies regarding Board Member roles and
75 responsibilities are currently not in alignment with our enabling
76 legislation. Board Members are selected for their technical
77 expertise, as explained in the United States Code. Currently,
78 many administrative activities are assigned to the Board that
79 should be in the hands of staff. And this causes an
80 inefficiency.

81 I had anticipated and announced changes in our policies by
82 the end of Fiscal Year 21, but am glad to finally say that these
83 changes will be in effect very soon. The outcome of these
84 changes are that staff will be empowered to execute on business
85 decisions and Board Members will more vigorously pursue the

86 agency's mission through technical reviews, stakeholder
87 collaboration and community outreach.

88 Both of these management challenges were highlighted by the
89 EPA Office of Inspector General and we have given them our full
90 commitment to address these.

91 I'd now like to turn to the CSB's accomplishments in Fiscal
92 Year 20 and our progress to date in Fiscal Year 21 towards
93 meeting our priorities and overcoming our challenges.

94 You may notice that we posted our Impact Report for Fiscal
95 Year 20 on the web and sent out emails. I'm...I'm just going to
96 provide some of the highlights from this report that I think
97 are...are critical and show our value.

98 We had seven deployments to new investigations or new
99 incidents. We hired six new investigators. We voted on 15
100 recommendation status changes. Of those 15, eight were closed
101 and seven were advanced. And we produced four Factual Update
102 Reports. Finally, we closed one investigation.

103 So, in Fiscal Year 2021, I look forward to an even more
104 productive set of outcomes, as we work transparently and with
105 accountability in fulfilling the CSB's mission to drive chemical
106 safety change through independent investigations for...to protect

107 people and the environment. And when I say people, I mean both
108 workers, as well as the community members.

109 So, we are already making some great progress only a few days
110 into the second quarter of FY21. Today is the 5th of March, which
111 is, you know, five days into the second quarter. We already have
112 three deployments, which I'll talk about later. We have hired
113 two new investigators and we have a group of new investigator
114 positions set to post in the very near future. And we voted on
115 28 recommendation status changes. 22 of them were closed, and six
116 were advanced.

117 So, I want to contrast that to FY21. So, the fact that we
118 have 22 closed versus eight in the fiscal year, just in the first
119 quarter, is...is pretty astounding.

120 We've also hired some critical staff to meet our priorities
121 and address our challenges. In January, we hired a senior
122 advisor and executive counsel, Mr. David LaCerte, who will serve
123 as our Acting Managing Director. He will be addressing our many
124 staffing gaps, as well as enhancing the efficiency of our agency
125 through internal processes and strong business relationships.

126 Mr. LaCerte is working to finalize our Board Order for Board
127 Member Roles and Responsibilities, which is based on the work of
128 our previous staff Deputy General Counsel. So he's taking it over

129 the finish line. It's not a new product. He's just taking it to
130 the finish line, as I promised last fall.

131 In November we hired a senior advisor, Mr. Bruce Walker, to
132 serve as our government liaison, to manage and integrate our
133 communications and stakeholder relations, and to enhance our
134 relationships with our federal counterparts. And we can already
135 see the benefit he brings through our three press releases during
136 the deployment to Foundation Food Groups in Atlanta last month as
137 well as our press release with an update of facts from the Belle,
138 West Virginia deployment in late November.

139 Mr. Walker is also leading our agency responses to an on-
140 going GAO Engagement on Chemical Facilities and Climate Change.

141 So what can we expect, or what can you expect, from the CSB
142 moving forward? And the types of things that I've presented so
143 far are not new...is not new information. Our priorities are the
144 same as I presented last July and September--our challenges,
145 what we're dealing with, and our commitments moving forward. And
146 I would...I would say that about the transparency and communication
147 that you should expect that I've already communicated and want
148 you to hear and believe.

149 You've already seen our focus on more frequent updates to
150 recent events, as just mentioned. As Chairman, I intend to ensure

151 that all our investigations receive timely updates to inform
152 workers and communities of our activities.

153 So, as the board member on scene for the deployment to the
154 recent incident in Gainesville, Georgia, which is outside
155 Atlanta, I was able to gain insight first-hand to the impact this
156 particular incident had on the local workforce and their families
157 and friends, and their interest in working towards a higher
158 degree of community and worker safety.

159 Transparency and communication also include public meetings
160 during the release of Community Updates. And to the extent
161 possible with COVID, these meetings will be held live in the
162 impacted communities. We will also hold Board Meetings for the
163 closure of investigations, which will allow our investigative
164 team to walk through the facts and analysis and how they arrived
165 at their conclusions and recommendations. And will also provide
166 for transparency into how the Board arrived at its assessments
167 and decisions.

168 I also want to refer everyone to CSB.gov for recent Board
169 activities and the status of investigations. When going online,
170 you'll notice that since joining, the CSB has advanced 37
171 notations, all of which are posted on our website. You'll see
172 that the CSB is moving forward with recommendation status changes

173 extremely quickly. When I started at the agency, we had 144 open
174 recommendations. That was at the end of April of last year. To
175 date, we have closed on 26 safety recommendations, and are down
176 to a total of 118 open. And I'll...I'll steal a line from our
177 Manager of our...Director of Recommendations. We have an all-time
178 high of 86% closure rate for our safety recommendations across
179 the board.

180 The largest contributors to delays in the closure are the
181 fact that some recommendations were not accepted and some of them
182 require a development and implementation of regulatory standards,
183 which takes a long time, as we know.

184 The CSB has also posted investigation information pages for
185 each of its 19 open investigations.

186 So I'll close by reviewing three new deployments since our
187 last public meeting in October.

188 Most recent is our deployment to an incident involving a
189 release of liquid nitrogen at Foundation Food Groups, a poultry
190 processing plant in Gainesville, Georgia, on January 28th of this
191 year. The incident resulted in six fatalities and multiple
192 injuries. And you can find several updates at csb.gov under the
193 Foundation Foods Investigation Information page. We did one

194 visual press briefing and we provided two informational press
195 updates.

196 The CSB also deployed to an explosion at Optima Chemical LLC
197 in Belle, West Virginia, on December 8 of 2020. The incident led
198 to one fatality and two injuries, as well as a shelter-in-place
199 for community members within a two-mile radius of the facility.
200 We recently released an update on this investigation and plan to
201 have more information available in the very near future.

202 Finally, the CSB deployed to an incident at the Wacker
203 Polysilicon North America facility in Charleston, Tennessee, on
204 November 13th, 2020, involving a release of hydrochloric acid.
205 Seven workers were exposed. One of the workers was fatally
206 injured and three other workers sustained serious injuries.

207 I want to reiterate that the time that our agency spends on
208 the ground in incident investigation does not account for the
209 impact that it has upon the community, to include the workers and
210 the family members and friends.

211 I'll now turn to the meeting...turn the meeting over to
212 Director Klejst, Director of Investigations and Recommendations,
213 and his team of investigative and recommendations experts to let
214 you know about staff products that are currently in review by the
215 Board, to provide a status update of the Incident Reporting Rule

216 Guidance, and highlight five of the many safety recommendations
217 we've recently brought to closure since our previous meeting.
218 Director Klejst.

219 DIRECTOR KLEJST: Thank you, Chairman Lemos. The Office of
220 Recommendations is working to finalize the evaluation of the next
221 group of 18 responses received from recommendation recipients.
222 Staff's proposed action for the Board's consideration will be
223 completed within the next several weeks.

224 The Office of Investigations completed a draft report,
225 prepared on the CSB's investigation of the incident that occurred
226 on October 26, 2019, at the Aghorn Operating facility in Odessa,
227 Texas. After a Board review is complete, and Board comments are
228 addressed to the satisfaction, a public Board Meeting will be
229 convened to share the outcome of the investigation.

230 The CSB's Accidental Release Reporting Rule went into effect
231 on March 23rd of 2020. Over the past year, the agency received
232 over 12 submissions from organizations requesting guidance on the
233 application of the reporting rule.

234 Staff from the Office of General Counsel and the Office of
235 Investigations reviewed the submissions and prepared a guidance
236 document that can be used by organizations to assist them in
237 determining if an event qualifies as a reportable event under the

238 reporting rule. The document is in final staff...in final staff
239 review phase, and we look forward to providing this guidance to
240 the community.

241 I'll now turn it over to our Director of Recommendations,
242 Mr. Chuck Barbee, to present five of the recently closed safety
243 recommendations we'd like to highlight at this meeting. Director
244 Barbee.

245 DIRECTOR BARBEE: Thank you, Executive Director Klejst.

246 The first two recommendations we will highlight come from
247 the CSB's Chevron Refinery fire investigation. One of those was
248 to Chevron and the other was to API. And here's the incident
249 brief.

250 On August 6, 2012, the Chevron Refinery in Richmond,
251 California, experienced a catastrophic pipe failure in a crude
252 unit, causing the release of flammable hydrocarbon process fluid,
253 which partially vaporized into a large cloud. 19 Chevron
254 employees engulfed by the vapor cloud escaped, narrowly avoiding
255 serious injury. The ignition and subsequent continued burning of
256 the hydrocarbon process fluid resulted in a large plume of
257 unknown particulates and vapor. Approximately 15,000 people from
258 the surrounding area sought medical treatment in the weeks
259 following the incident.

260 The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board's
261 investigation found that the pipe failure was caused by
262 sulfidation corrosion, a damage mechanism that causes piping
263 walls to thin over time. The CSB found multiple reasons for the
264 failure to detect this serious damage.

265 As a result of this incident, the CSB issued 37
266 recommendations and two of those were urgent. We'll first
267 discuss the Urgent Recommendation made to Chevron. From this
268 investigation, we issued Chevron five recommendations. And the
269 two that were urgent are to Chevron. And as a result actually of
270 this one being closed, all of them are now closed.

271 This recommendation is Number 2012-3-I-CA, Urgent Rec Number
272 2. And it says at all California Chevron U.S. refineries, report
273 leading and lagging process safety indicators, such as the action
274 item completion status...status of recommendations from damage
275 mechanism hazard reviews, to the federal, state, and local
276 regulatory agencies that have chemical release prevention
277 authority.

278 Here's what Chevron did, okay. Pursuant to the newly
279 adopted California process safety management regulations that
280 became effective on October 1, 2017, refineries must develop,

281 implement, and maintain an effective program to track and
282 document process safety performance indicators.

283 Chevron USA currently reports leading and lagging
284 indicators...or process safety indicator data for its Richmond
285 refinery to Contra Costa Health Services, as required by the City
286 of Richmond and the Contra Costa County Industrial Safety
287 Ordinance.

288 In addition, newly adopted California Accidental Release
289 Prevention Program Regulations, called "CalARP," require all of
290 California's covered facilities, which include the Chevron
291 Richmond and El Segundo refineries, to report process safety
292 indicators for the previous calendar year by June 30th.

293 Chevron USA informed the CSB that on June 30th of 2019, the
294 Chevron Richmond refinery provided leading and lagging process
295 safety indicator data to its Unified Program Agency and to
296 Cal/OES on June 28th, 2019. An updated version was sent to both
297 agencies on May 11th, 2020. The Chevron El Segundo refinery
298 provided its leading and lagging process safety indicator data to
299 its Unified Program Agency and to Cal/OSHA on June 26th, 2019.

300 As a result, on January 20th, 2021, the Board voted to change
301 the status of this recommendation to "Closed - Acceptable
302 Alternative Action". The sole reason it was "Acceptable

303 Alternative Action" instead of "Acceptable Action" was that,
304 under normal circumstances, Cal/OSHA only reviews process safety
305 indicator data when they conduct a Program Quality Verification
306 inspection, and they have not yet scheduled one. And that was
307 the only reason.

308 CHAIR LEMOS: So, thank you so much, Director Barbee. A
309 question. What types of process safety indicators do petroleum
310 refineries provide to their local unified program agency?

311 DIRECTOR BARBEE: Ah, that's a good question. The newly
312 adopted California Accidental Release Prevention Program, or
313 CalARP regulations, require all of California's covered
314 facilities, including refineries, to report the following process
315 safety indicators annually:

316 1, past due inspections for piping and pressure vessels. 2,
317 past due process hazard analysis corrective actions and seismic
318 corrective actions. 3, past due incident investigation
319 corrective actions for major incidents. 4, the number of major
320 incidents that have occurred since the updated regulations were
321 passed. 5, the number of temporary piping and equipment repairs
322 installed on hydrocarbon and high energy utility systems that are
323 past their date of replacement with a permanent repair and the
324 total number of temporary piping and equipment repairs installed

325 on hydrocarbon and high energy utility systems. And 6, site-
326 specific indicators, consisting of activities and other events
327 that are measured in order to evaluate the performance of process
328 safety systems for the purpose of continuous improvement.

329 CHAIR LEMOS: So, another question for you, Director Barbee.
330 When California petroleum refineries submit their indicator data
331 to their local unified program agency, is this information
332 publicly available?

333 DIRECTOR BARBEE: Yes, it is. Data is available from every
334 refinery on the California Governor's Office of Emergency
335 Services website. In addition, Contra Costa County's website
336 contains annual process safety performance indicator data for
337 four refineries located in Contra Costa County. These are
338 Chevron Richmond Refinery, Marathon, Phillips 66 Rodeo Refinery,
339 and PBF Energy.

340 Now we'll move on to a recommendation to API for this same
341 incident. As a result of this incident, we issued API six
342 recommendations and this one is specific to R26.

343 It says, "Revise API RP 939-C," which is the "Guidelines for
344 Avoiding Sulfidation Corrosion Failures in Oil Refineries to
345 establish minimum requirements for preventing catastrophic
346 rupture of low-silicon carbon steel piping. At a minimum:

347 a. Require users to identify carbon steel piping circuits
348 susceptible to sulfidation corrosion that may contain low-
349 silicon components. These circuits have the potential to
350 contain carbon steel components that were not manufactured to
351 the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) A106
352 specification and may contain less than .10 weight percent
353 silicon content. b. For piping circuits contained to meet the
354 specifications detailed in [R26(a)], require users to either (1)
355 enact a program to inspect every component within the piping
356 circuit once, known as [a] 100% component inspection (per the
357 requirements established pursuant to recommendation [R28(c)]),
358 or (2) replace the identified at-risk carbon steel piping with a
359 steel alloy that is more resistant to sulfidation corrosion."

360 And "c. If low-silicone components or components with
361 accelerated corrosion are identified in a carbon steel piping
362 circuit meeting the specifications detailed in [R26(a)], require
363 designation of these components as permanent Condition Monitoring
364 Locations" [or] (CMLs) [under the piping components...or] until the
365 piping components [are com...]are replaced."

366 Excuse me. That was a long recommendation. Alright. Now, in
367 this case, API addressed all the issues raised by the CSB
368 recommendation, but they tend...they retained the typical "should"

369 language associated with its recommended practice guidance
370 documents. As such, on January 20th, 2021, the Board voted to
371 change the status of this recommendation to "Closed, Acceptable
372 Alternative Action".

373 CHAIR LEMOS: So, thank you so much, Director Barbee. Can
374 you tell me how does API 939-Charlie address piping that has been
375 identified as being susceptible to sulfidation corrosion?

376 DIRECTOR BARBEE: Ah. When low-silicone carbon steel piping
377 components are identified, 939-Charlie relies on API 570, Piping
378 Inspection Code, to manage their replacement. API 570 addresses
379 requirements for piping inspection plans, inspection analysis and
380 evaluation, performing remaining life calculations, and
381 recommendations for repair and replacement.

382 By following API 570, effective company management systems
383 should ensure that susceptible low-silicone carbon steel piping
384 components are replaced before they fail.

385 CHAIR LEMOS: Great...great response, Director Barbee. One
386 final question on this one. So why do we think this "should"
387 language, which is...which is very policy-oriented...this "should"
388 language is sufficient versus what the actual recommendation
389 language asked for?

390 DIRECTOR BARBEE: Ah. API 939-Charlie is a recommended
391 practice rather than a standard. Recommended practices generally
392 include recommendations rather than requirements. The CSB's
393 recommendation did not address turning this into a standard. And
394 so the CSB is...is accepting that 939-Charlie includes "should"
395 language instead of "shall" language.

396 However, this is not a hard rule. There are times that
397 "shall" language is required and it's primarily for applicability
398 issues, which is not the case with this recommended practice.

399 The next two recommendations come from the CSB's BP America
400 Refinery explosion investigation, which is also referred to as
401 the BP Texas City investigation.

402 And here's what happened: On March 23rd, 2005, the BP Texas
403 City refinery experienced severe explosions and fire in an
404 isomerization unit (ISOM) and we're going to call that "ISOM"
405 from here moving forward, that resulted in 15 deaths, 180
406 injuries, and significant monetary losses.

407 The accident was caused by the overfilling of a raffinate
408 splitter tower during startup that, in turn, opened pressure
409 relief devices and dumped flammable liquid into a blowdown drum
410 with a stack that was open to the atmosphere. The flammable
411 liquid released from the stack exceeded the capacity of both the

412 blowdown drum and its stack and was released into the surrounding
413 area where it...where it ignited, resulting in the explosions and
414 fire.

415 The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board
416 investigation found that the incident was caused by multiple
417 technical, system, and organizational deficiencies, and the
418 agency issued recommendations to various parties.

419 Among the findings, the CSB investigation concluded that the
420 ISOM operators were likely fatigued from working long hours over
421 consecutive days during the turnaround of the unit prior to
422 startup. Additionally, the CSB found that there were no federal
423 safety regulations, industry safety guidelines, or voluntary
424 standards to manage and prevent fatigue as a risk factor.

425 Now, as a result of this investigation, the CSB issued 26
426 recommendations, two of which were "urgent". The two
427 recommendation recipients we're going to talk about here are API
428 and USW, United Steelworkers. So the CSB issued five
429 recommendations to API, two of which were "urgent" and only one
430 of those remains open and that's a non-urgent one. And the CSB
431 issued two recommendations to the United Steelworkers and only
432 one of them remains open.

433 The recommendation in this particular case is R7(a and b)
434 and it refers to both these recommendation recipients together in
435 that paragraph.

436 It says: "Work together"--and this is API and the United
437 Steelworkers--"to develop two new consensus American National
438 Standard Institute [or] (ANSI) standards. In the second standard,
439 develop fatigue prevention guidelines for the refining and
440 petrochemical industries that, at a minimum, limit hours and days
441 of work and address shift work."

442 "In the development of each standard, ensure that the
443 committees a. are accredited and conform to ANSI principles of
444 openness, balance, due process, and consensus; [and] b. include
445 representation of diverse sectors such as industry, labor,
446 government, public interest and environmental organizations and
447 experts from relevant scientific organizations and disciplines."

448 Now, in this case, API is accredited by ANSI and developed
449 the proposed Second Edition of Recommended Practice 755 in
450 accordance with ANSI standards. API RP 755 met all the
451 requirements of the recommendation specific to developing fatigue
452 prevention guidelines and the API RP 755 Revision Committee had
453 diverse representation by the following sectors: industry,
454 engineering, contractors, government, consultants, trade

455 associations, professional societies, labor, and others. And the
456 United Steelworkers was one of the participants in those API...or
457 RP 755 Revision Committee meetings. As a result, on January 20th,
458 2021, the Board voted to change the status of this
459 recommendation to both API and the United Steelworkers to
460 "Closed - Acceptable Action".

461 CHAIR LEMOS: Thank you so much, Director Barbee. I know
462 this is a...a seminal incident investigation, for which the
463 Chemical Safety Board is well known. Can you tell me what...what
464 is it about this particular recommendation that was so ground-
465 breaking, that we needed to highlight it today?

466 DIRECTOR BARBEE: Absolutely, Chairman Lemos. And, as you
467 and I both come from the other investigative backgrounds, this
468 was the first fatigue standard ever considered for the petroleum
469 industry. It's just...it's ground-breaking. I cannot stress how
470 major this was.

471 CHAIR LEMOS: I would agree with you. I've not...I've not
472 seen any other fatigue standard in our industry, in the chemical
473 industry, considered. Yet I see them throughout the other
474 domains, to include aviation, rail, marine, etc. So I...I think
475 this is monumental.

476 My second question would be, why is part b. of this
477 recommendation so important?

478 DIRECTOR BARBEE: Ah. This type of recommendation, in part
479 ...b. And it was basically to...to the United Steelworkers, saying
480 that they need to participate in this. Like I say, this type of
481 recommendation allows the CSB to directly influence who
482 participates with the primary recommendation recipient in
483 implementing a recommendation. And we're not bound by specific
484 numbers, so we could have easily required several more additional
485 participants.

486 This is important to keep in mind when developing or
487 modifying consensus standards. ANSI requires a balance as to
488 committee makeup and, you know, committee participation is
489 voluntary. So it's important to remember that the CSB, like I
490 say, it has the ability to influence that balance, when
491 appropriate.

492 The last recommendation comes from the CSB's Caribbean
493 Petroleum Refining tank explosion and fire investigation that
494 will be presented by Senior Recommendations Specialist Mark
495 Kaszniak of my staff. Mr. Kaszniak, please proceed with your
496 presentation.

497 SPECIALIST KASZNIAK: Thank you, Director Barbee. On
498 October 23, 2009, explosions and fire occurred at the Caribbean
499 Petroleum Corporation, commonly referred to as CAPECO, facility
500 in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. While offloading the contents of the
501 tanker ship, the CAPE BRUNY, into the CAPECO onshore tank farm,
502 an estimated 200,000 gallons of gasoline overflowed from an
503 aboveground storage tank into a secondary containment dike that
504 had an open drain.

505 During the overflow, some of the gasoline, which sprayed
506 from the tank's roof vents and hit the tank's wind girder as it
507 fell, aerosolized, forming a large vapor cloud, estimated to
508 encompass an area of about 107 acres, that subsequently ignited
509 after reaching an ignition source in CAPECO's wastewater
510 treatment facility.

511 The ensuing blast, multiple secondary explosions, and fire
512 resulted in significant damage to 17 of 48 petroleum storage
513 tanks on the site. The blast created a pressure wave that
514 registered 2.9 on the Richter scale and damaged approximately 300
515 homes and businesses up to one-and-a-quarter miles away from the
516 site.

517 Although there were no fatalities and only three people
518 experienced minor injuries offsite as a result of the initial

519 blast, the fires burned for almost 60 hours. Petroleum products
520 leaked into the soil, nearby wetlands, and navigable waterways in
521 the surrounding area.

522 As a part of its investigation, the Chemical Safety Board
523 analyzed relevant regulatory, industry, and consensus standards
524 for safety and management of bulk...bulk aboveground storage
525 facilities. The CSB noted that in its investigation report that a
526 number of industry trade groups, professional associations, and
527 code officials, such as the American Petroleum Institute, or
528 known as API, the National Fire Protection Association, and
529 International Code Council, publish national consensus standards
530 that apply to aboveground storage tanks at these terminal
531 facilities.

532 In its review of API's national consensus standards, the CSB
533 determined that while API Standard 2350, entitled "Overfill
534 Protection for Storage Tanks in Petroleum Facilities," and the
535 API Manual of Petroleum Measurement Standards Chapter 3.1A, were
536 the most relevant to overfilling of tanks at storage terminals,
537 many other API standards need to be taken into consideration for
538 proper management of above...of, excuse me, aboveground storage
539 tank operations at terminal facilities.

540 For example...one...one...one is API Standard Number 2003,
541 entitled "Protections Against Ignitions Arising from Static,
542 Lightning, and Stray Currents," that provides best practices for
543 preventing static and stray electrical currents, as well as
544 charts that compare pipe diameter, flow velocities, and flow
545 rates that minimize static and stray currents during tank
546 filling, thus reducing the possibility of a fire/explosion. But
547 this standard is not specific to tank filling operations itself.

548 Consequently, the Board issued a recommendation to API to
549 create one standard practice, or publicize the existence of all
550 standards and recommended practices, governing aboveground
551 storage tank operations, including references to international
552 standards and best practices at tank terminals that would enable
553 facilities to readily access these good engineering practices.

554 So, the number of investigation...number of recommendations
555 issued with regard to this investigation were nine in total.
556 Three of those recommendations were issued to API and, after the
557 closure of this recommendation, there are two recommendations
558 that remain open.

559 So, this recommendation was Recommendation Number 9. And
560 it stated, "Develop a single publication or resource describing
561 all API standards and other relevant codes, standards, guidance,
and

information for filling operations of aboveground storage tank
562 [terminals] in petroleum facilities that describes [the
563 following]: a. The required design and management practices for
564 control of filling operations; b. The minimum set of independent
565 overfill protection safeguards [of the...of the control...]if the
566 control fails; and c. Operational challenges [such as]
567 (monitoring/calculating flow rates, ability to maintain constant
568 line pressures, and influences of valve cracking) related to
569 loading multiple tanks concurrently from a single product
570 source."

571 So, API, in late 2020, published API Standard 2610 that
572 addressed all the requirements listed in the CSB recommendation,
573 with the exception of information regarding loading multiple
574 tanks concurrently. As a result, on January 20th, 2021, the Board
575 voted to...to close this recommendation as an "Acceptable
576 Alternative Action".

577 CHAIR LEMOS: So, thank you so much, Mr. Kaszniak. Why is
578 this particular recommendation being closed as an "Acceptable
579 Alternative Action" versus "Acceptable Action"?

580 SPECIALIST KASZNIAK: Well the reason for that, Dr. Lemos,
581 is that the third edition of Standard addresses all the
582 requirements contained in the CSB recommendation. However the
583 provisions listed in Section 11.2, pertaining to flow rates and

584 line pressures are not explicitly linked, while for loading
585 multiple tanks...they're not...from a single product source that were
586 mentioned in the CSB recommendation, are not explicitly linked in
587 the recommendation. The user has to consult another referenced
588 standard that is listed in the API 2610 to find this information.
589 So that is why we...that the Board closed it as an "Acceptable
590 Alternative Action."

591 CHAIR LEMOS: That's helpful so much. Thank you, Mr.
592 Kaszniak. Second question I have would be how many standards and
593 other guidance documents apply to terminals and their storage
594 tanks?

595 SPECIALIST KASZNIAK: Well, the third edition of API 2610
596 lists 194 technical references that may be applicable to
597 terminals and tank facilities. They include a variety of
598 international standards, U.S. regulatory standards, building
599 codes, as well as API and various other industry consensus and
600 specification standards.

601 DIRECTOR KLEJST: Thank you, Mr. Barbee and thank you, Mr.
602 Kaszniak. Chairman Lemos, thank you for the opportunity to
603 provide this update on the staff's accomplishments.

604 CHAIR LEMOS: Thank you so much, Director Klejst, and to our
605 Recommendations Team. I know a lot of time...a lot of time and

606 effort goes into these recommendation status changes. And the...the
607 CSB is moving forward quickly on the recommendations front. Thank
608 you to the entire team that has worked tirelessly to make this
609 happen.

610 This concludes the agenda items for our second public
611 business...public business meeting for FY21. We are still planning
612 to hold our next public meeting at the end of April, on schedule.

613 In closing, I want to thank everyone for attending today's
614 meeting. I urge you to continue monitoring our website, and if
615 you haven't already done so, to sign up for CSB news alerts.

616 All of us share a strong interest in preventing chemical
617 incidents in the future, and we need to work together as a
618 community to do so. If you would like to provide a public
619 comment, you may do so by writing meeting@csb.gov.

620 I want to thank you for your attendance, and with that, this
621 meeting is adjourned.

622 OPERATOR: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. This concludes
623 today's conference. Thank you for participating and you may now
624 disconnect.