



U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Memorandum

To: Board Members

From: Steven Messer
Acting General Counsel

STEVEN
MESSER

Digitally signed by
STEVEN MESSER
Date: 2026.03.17
10:23:52 -04'00'

Cc: Charles Barbee
Adam Henson
Leadership Team

Subject: Board Action Report – Notation Item 2026-25 | Recommendation to American Petroleum Institute (API) (2024-01-H-R1) from the Remote Isolation of Process Equipment safety study (2024-01-H)

Date: March 17, 2026

On March 16, 2026, the Board approved Notation Item 2026-25, thereby designating Recommendation 2024-01-H-R1 to American Petroleum Institute (API) from the Remote Isolation of Process Equipment safety study (2024-01-H) with the status of Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response.

Voting Summary – Notation Item 2026-25

Disposition: APPROVED

Disposition date: March 16, 2026

	Approve	Disapprove	Calendar	Not Participating	Date
S. Johnson	X				3/13/2026
S. Owens	X				3/16/2026



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE

SUMMARY

Report:	Remote Isolation of Process Equipment
Recommendation Number:	2024-01-H-R1
Date Issued:	July 25, 2024
Recipient:	American Petroleum Institute (API)
New Status:	Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response
Date of Status Change:	March 16, 2026

Recommendation Text:

Develop a new publication or revise an existing publication or publications that should be applicable to various facility types such as refineries, chemical and petrochemical facilities, terminals, etc. with major process equipment and atmospheric storage tanks, that details conditions that necessitate the installation of remote isolation devices [use “shall” instead of “should” language] that may be automatically activated or remotely activated from a safe location, particularly during an emergency. When establishing these conditions refer to the guidance published by CCPS entitled Guidelines for Fire Protection in Chemical, Petrochemical, and Hydrocarbon Processing Facilities, Sections 8.1.10 and 8.1.11. At a minimum, the conditions should address major process equipment and atmospheric storage tanks, material volumes/weight as well as flammability, corrosivity, and toxicity.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) has reviewed and investigated numerous incidents where the consequences escalated following a loss of containment due to the lack of effective remote isolation equipment. These incidents resulted in serious injuries, fatalities, environmental contamination, and severe damage to facilities.

Following the 2019 incident at the TPC Group chemical plant in Port Neches, TX, the CSB concluded that improved requirements for remote isolation are necessary. The CSB initiated this Safety Study to review the incidents investigated by the CSB and determine the action needed to address deficiencies in both industry guidance and federal regulations.

The CSB found that although guidance has been available for many years, it has not been consistently followed. The CSB concluded that stronger remote isolation requirements are needed. As a result of these findings, the CSB issued one recommendation to the American Petroleum Institute (API). This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2024-01-H-R1.

B. Response to the Recommendation

API has notified the CSB that they intend to implement the recommendation. They have provided a plan of action and proposed language for inclusion in API Recommended Practice 553 *Refinery Valves and Accessories for Control and Safety Instrumented Systems* that appears to satisfy the objectives of the recommendation. Additionally, they have provided a timetable for completion.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

Based upon the information above, the Board voted to change CSB Recommendation No. 2024-01-H-R1 to: “Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response.”