



Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Memorandum

To: Board Members
From: Richard C. Loeb *RL*
Cc: Leadership Team
Subject: Board Action Report – Notation Item 2013-50
Date: September 19, 2013

On September 18, 2013, Notation Item 2013-50 was calendared. The item would have provided for a public meeting to discuss the Most Wanted Program and the status of open investigations.

Voting Summary – Notation Item 2013-50

Disposition: CALENDARED

Disposition date: September 18, 2013

	Approve	Disapprove	Calendar	Not Participating	Date
R. Moure-Eraso			X		9/18/2013
M. Griffon	X				9/15/2013
B. Rosenberg	X				9/17/2013



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board
Office of Chairperson
MEMORANDUM

September 18th, 2013

To: Beth Rosenberg and Mark Griffon

From: Rafael Moure-Eraso *Rafael Moure-Eraso*

Subject: Calendaring of Notation Item 2013-50, re: Date of a Future Public Meeting on CSB Most Wanted List Program and Discussion of Open Investigations

I support board members' desire for meetings on these important topics, including the plans for expanding the "Most Wanted List" of safety improvements and for concluding various open investigations. My primary concern is with the proposed timing of this event according to what might appear to be an unrealistic schedule. Consistent with the wishes of both the Board and outside stakeholders, I have directed the CSB staff to apply every effort over the next several months to the advancement and the completion of vital investigations, such as the Tesoro-Anacortes, West Fertilizer, Chevron-Richmond, Williams Olefins, and Deepwater Horizon cases. The completion of these cases will free up significant resources that can then be intelligently focused on the resolution of certain older cases. In the meantime, these complex tasks are more than a full-time job for our limited staff, who are stretched to the breaking point and already making tough decisions about cancelling holiday plans with their families just to complete the work already at hand and scheduled. I cannot in good conscience add to their burdens by assenting to yet another public meeting, the 8th this year, coming on top of four already held since January 1, and three more that have been scheduled between now and December 31. That will be a total of seven already finished or scheduled CSB public meetings around the country -- in 4 different cities -- just this year, a remarkable achievement in transparency and public engagement for an agency our size. Seven public meetings equals the total number conducted under the late Chairman Merritt from January 1, 2005, until the end of her term in August 2007. And it exceeds the total of six public meetings that the CSB held from August 2007 until I took office in June 2010, including the tenures of Interim Executive William Wright and Chairman John Bresland.

Furthermore I cannot ask family members in the affected communities to wait even one extra day for conclusive answers on the tragic accidents that cost their loved ones' lives. That would be the inevitable result of diverting CSB staff onto planning and logistics tasks, and supporting an extra public meeting. I look forward to working with the rest of the Board on scheduling public discussions on these topics in a few months, after these major investigations are completed.