On April 1, 2010, the Board approved Notation Item 757, thereby taking the following actions:

a. Approving, and authorizing the issuance of, the CSB safety video entitled, “No Place to Hang Out: The Danger of Oil Sites.”

b. Authorizing and directing the Chairman, in conjunction with the public release of the video, to issue a statement on behalf of the Board urging oil and gas production companies to ensure that they provide adequate security and warning signage around sites that have tank fire or explosion hazards; and further urging state legislatures, local governments, and regulators to review rules governing oil and gas tank sites to ensure they require adequate barriers, security measures, and warning signs.

**Voting Summary – Notation Item 757**

**Disposition:** APPROVED

**Disposition date:** April 1, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Approve</th>
<th>Disapprove</th>
<th>Calendar</th>
<th>Participating</th>
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<td>J. Bresland</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>W. Wark</td>
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Subject: Approval of Safety Video on Oil Tank Hazards

Whereas,

1. The Board is authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(6)(C)(i) to “investigate . . . and report to the public in writing the facts, conditions, and circumstances and the cause or probable cause of any accidental release resulting in a fatality, serious injury or substantial property damages;”

2. The Board is further authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 7412(r)(6)(C)(ii) to “issue periodic reports to the Congress, Federal, State and local agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, concerned with the safety of chemical production, processing, handling and storage, and other interested persons recommending measures to reduce the likelihood or the consequences of accidental releases and proposing corrective steps to make chemical production, processing, handling and storage as safe and free from risk of injury as is possible;”

3. At approximately 4:00 a.m. on October 31, 2009, two teenagers who were alone at a rural oil production site in Carnes, Mississippi, were killed when an oil storage tank suddenly exploded. The teenagers were members of the public and were not employed by the oil site operator;

4. The Forrest County Sheriff’s Office, the Carnes Volunteer Fire Department, the Forrest County Emergency Management Agency, the Mississippi Oil and Gas Board, and the Forrest County Coroner responded to the incident and provided information to the CSB. Reports of the medical examiner concluded that both deaths were accidental and resulted from blunt force injuries sustained in the tank explosion;

5. According to a report of the Mississippi Oil and Gas Board, which is a state environmental regulatory agency, the storage tank which exploded contained approximately 14 barrels of oil and had a flammable atmosphere. The explosion likely occurred when the two victims were above the tank, which was readily accessible via an unsecured catwalk. The explosion propelled the tank approximately 75 yards through the air and propelled the victims
approximately 40 yards, over an earthen berm. There was no conclusive evidence to identify
the ignition source and there were no surviving eyewitnesses;

6. The accident site did not have fences, barriers, gates, warning signs, or other security
measures to discourage entrance;

7. Some jurisdictions have requirements for fencing around oil sites. For example, the City of
Laurel, Mississippi, which is located in Jones County adjacent to Forrest County, requires oil
and gas sites to be fenced. The State of California requires barbed wire fencing around
oilfield facilities “where it is necessary to protect life and property.” The State of Colorado
requires fencing of oil and gas production sites that are located in high-density areas or
within 1000 feet of schools or other high-occupancy facilities. For sites in urbanized areas,
the State of Ohio requires 8-foot security fencing, lockable gates, warning signs, designation
of no-smoking areas around tanks, and securing of tank hatches at all times when a site is
unattended;

8. The CSB could not identify any federal, state, or local laws or regulations that would have
required fencing or other security measures at the accident site in Carnes, Mississippi.
Following the accident, CSB staff observed a number of other unsecured oil sites nearby in
Forrest County;

9. Based on witness testimony, the CSB determined that oil and gas production sites, which are
often unattended, are common locations for gathering, socializing, and other recreational
activities among teenagers in Forrest County and in other parts of the country;

10. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, in 2008 Mississippi had a total of 3,788
operating oil and gas wells. The number of operating wells grew by 43% between 2002 and
2008, consistent with broader trends across the U.S. as oil and gas prices generally increased.

11. Media reports collected by the CSB indicate that approximately 36 teenagers and 6 young
adults have been killed since 1983 in accidental oil tank explosions resulting from the
ignition of vapor, often from a match, cigarette, or lighter; the victims were members of the
public and not site employees. A number of members of the public also have been injured in
explosions. Recent multiple-fatality accidents include a 2003 explosion in Long Lake,
Texas, that killed four teenagers; a 2003 explosion in Palestine, Texas, that killed three
teenagers; a 2005 explosion in Ripley, Oklahoma, that killed a teenager and a young adult; a
2007 explosion in Mercedes, Texas, that killed three teenagers; and a 2007 explosion in
Routt National Forest, Colorado, that killed two teenagers;

12. The ongoing serious accidents likely reflect (a) a lack of uniform, effective security measures
and warning signage at oil and gas production sites to discourage unauthorized entry; and
(b) a lack of understanding among teenagers and adults of the serious explosion hazards from
crude oil, gas condensate, or other forms of petroleum that may create a flammable
atmosphere inside or near storage tanks;

13. The American Petroleum Institute (API), which is the largest U.S. trade association
representing the oil and gas industry, develops recommended safety practices that are widely
followed by petroleum and chemical companies. In 2001, following a CSB safety recommendation that resulted from a fatal explosion at a Louisiana oil and gas production facility, the API developed the *Recommended Practice for Occupational Safety for Onshore Oil and Gas Production Operations* (RP 74). RP 74 includes safety guidance for fire prevention and protection, including requirements for designating areas where there are fire hazards, prohibiting smoking and ignition sources within those areas and posting conspicuous warning signs, and properly labeling tanks that contain flammable liquids. These recommended safety measures were not in place at the accident site in Carnes, Mississippi;

14. Although Appendix A of RP 74 suggests “No Smoking,” “No Trespassing,” and “Authorized Personnel Only” signs at oil site entrances, RP 74 does not include any guidance on fencing, physical barriers, gates, locking or securing of tank catwalks and tank hatches, or specific tank explosion warning signs to prevent fatal accidents resulting from unauthorized entry by minors and others; and

15. In light of these findings, CSB staff have prepared a proposed 11-minute safety video entitled, “No Place to Hang Out: The Danger of Oil Sites.”

Therefore, the Board hereby votes to:

a. Approve, and authorize the issuance of, the CSB safety video entitled, “No Place to Hang Out: The Danger of Oil Sites.”

b. Authorize and direct the Chairman, in conjunction with the public release of the video, to issue a statement on behalf of the Board urging oil and gas production companies to ensure that they provide adequate security and warning signage around sites that have tank fire or explosion hazards; and further urging state legislatures, local governments, and regulators to review rules governing oil and gas tank sites to ensure they require adequate barriers, security measures, and warning signs.

_____ I APPROVE this notation item AS PRESENTED.

_____ I CALENDAR this notation item for discussion at a Board meeting.

_____ Some of my concerns are discussed below or on the attached memorandum.

_____ I DISAPPROVE this notation item.

_____ A dissent is attached.

_____ I will not file a dissent.

_____ I am NOT PARTICIPATING.

Date: ____________

Member: ______________________________