

Federal Railroad Administration

DOE TRANSPORTATION EXTERNAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

Pueblo, CO.

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Dedicated Train Study - Report to Congress

- November 2003 - FRA's Ofc. Of Research & Development (RDV), as lead on the Dedicated Train Study (DTS), received draft final report from the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (VNTSC), the contractor conducting the study.
- February, 2004 – FRA completed review of DFR and submitted editorial corrections back to VNTSC. Final draft of the DTS with editorial corrections received from VNTSC in February, 2004.
- March to September 2004 - FRA conducted a final full review of DTS and “Officially Coordinated” by briefing appropriate DOT Ofc of Secretary of Transportation (OST), Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Admin. (PHMSA – formerly RSPA), Department of Energy (DOE) and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) representatives.
- This “official coordination” was part of the standard vetting process on any Report to Congress where other Federal government agencies could potentially be affected.

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- November 1, 2004 - FRA initially submitted draft final DTS Report to Congress to the DOT Ofc. of Secretary (OST) for review and clearance.
- December 2004 - FRA received Q&A's/comments from DOT OST and proceeded to address them to the extent possible to facilitate the OST clearance process.
- The studies original findings were not affected during this Q&A/comment process!
- February 2005 - FRA resubmitted the DTS Report to Congress to DOT OST for clearance.

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- June 2005 - DTS Report to Congress cleared by the Ofc of Management & Budget (OMB). Currently with the DOT Secretary's staff awaiting clearance sign-off for delivery to Congress. When delivered to Congress it will be publicly available.
- July 2005 – Issuance by DOE of their policy concerning the use of dedicated trains in transporting SNF to Yucca Mtn.
- DTS Status as of September 19, 2005 – Still with the DOT Office of the Secretary awaiting final clearance sign-off. FRA checks with OST weekly as to its status.

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Dedicated Train Study- Report to Congress

- FRA will ensure that once publicly available it will be put on FRA's website as soon as possible. FRA will notify, via e-mail, those whom have an interest in it – including the four state regional group primary points of contact.
- Public comment on the final draft DTS was not mandated – the study itself has no regulatory requirements.
- In accordance with HMTUSA '90, which mandated the study, FRA has commenced the process of evaluating the potential need for any regulatory action based on the results of the study.
- FRA has set an 18 month timeline to conduct this evaluation which is already being conducted and will solicit comments and determine any regulatory actions necessary via the established regulatory development process.

Federal Railroad Administration Position on the Use of Dedicated Trains

- At this time FRA does not have any formal position on the use of Dedicated Trains for the transportation of SNF/HLRW.
- FRA is cognizant of the fact that rail movements of this material have occurred over the past 40 + years in regular train consists and that these movements have been done safely and securely.
- However, FRA also recognizes that there are operational efficiencies in the rail operating environment to be gained in using dedicated consists: for example, rail transit times, train dynamics and the ability to further reduce the already low risk of radiation exposure to railroad personnel and the general public in incident free transportation, as well as in the event of an accident.
- FRA is forgoing an official position on the use of dedicated trains pending the process of evaluating the results of the study and the required cost/benefit analysis in determining whether further regulations governing the rail transportation of these materials are required.

Questions?

Web Sites:

FRA

<http://www.fra.dot.gov>

FRA Safety Data

<http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/officeofsafety>

PHMSA Hazardous Materials

<http://hazmat.dot.gov>

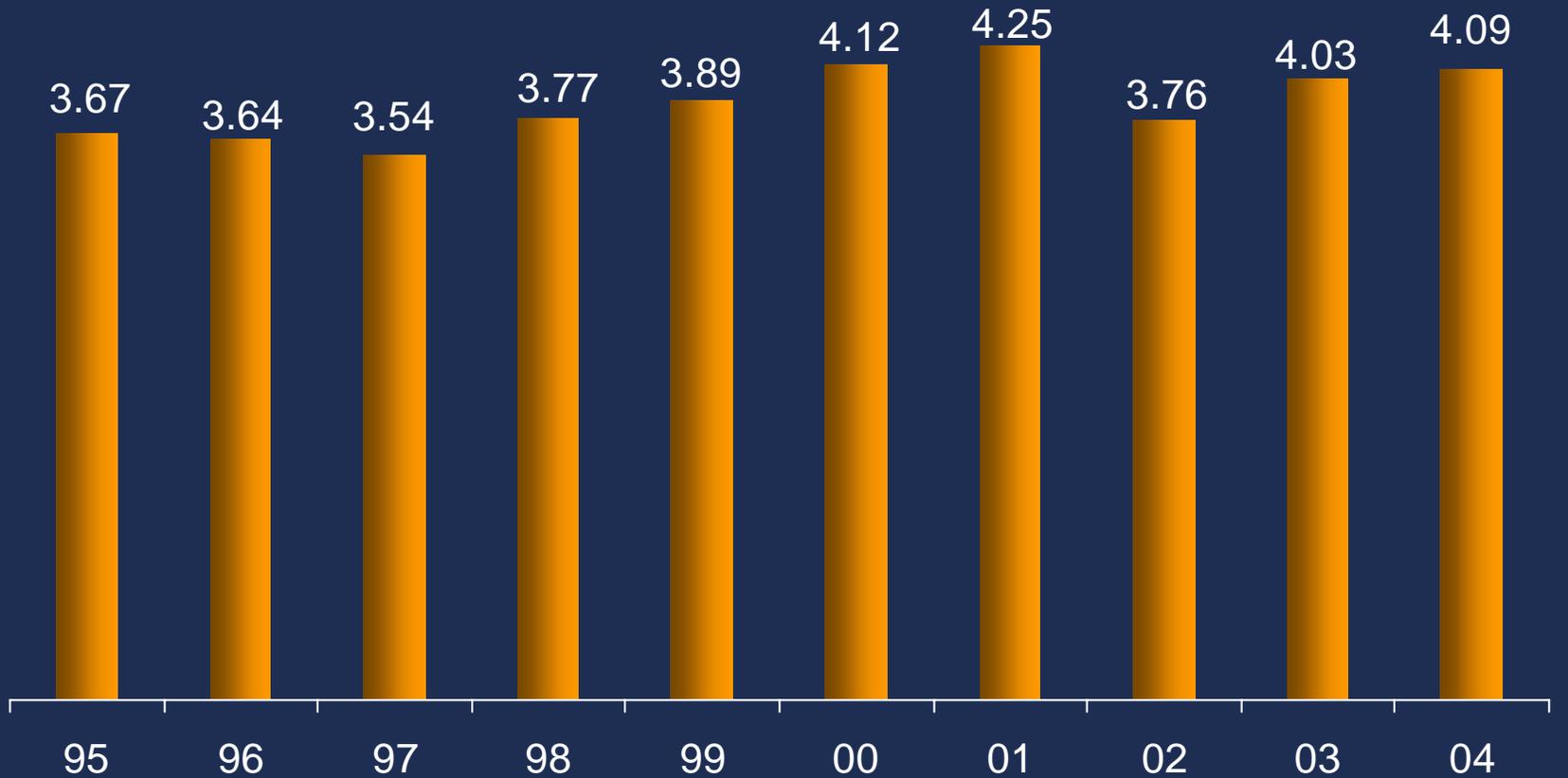
Government Printing Office

<http://www.gpo.gov>



Industry Overview

Train Accidents/Incidents Rate



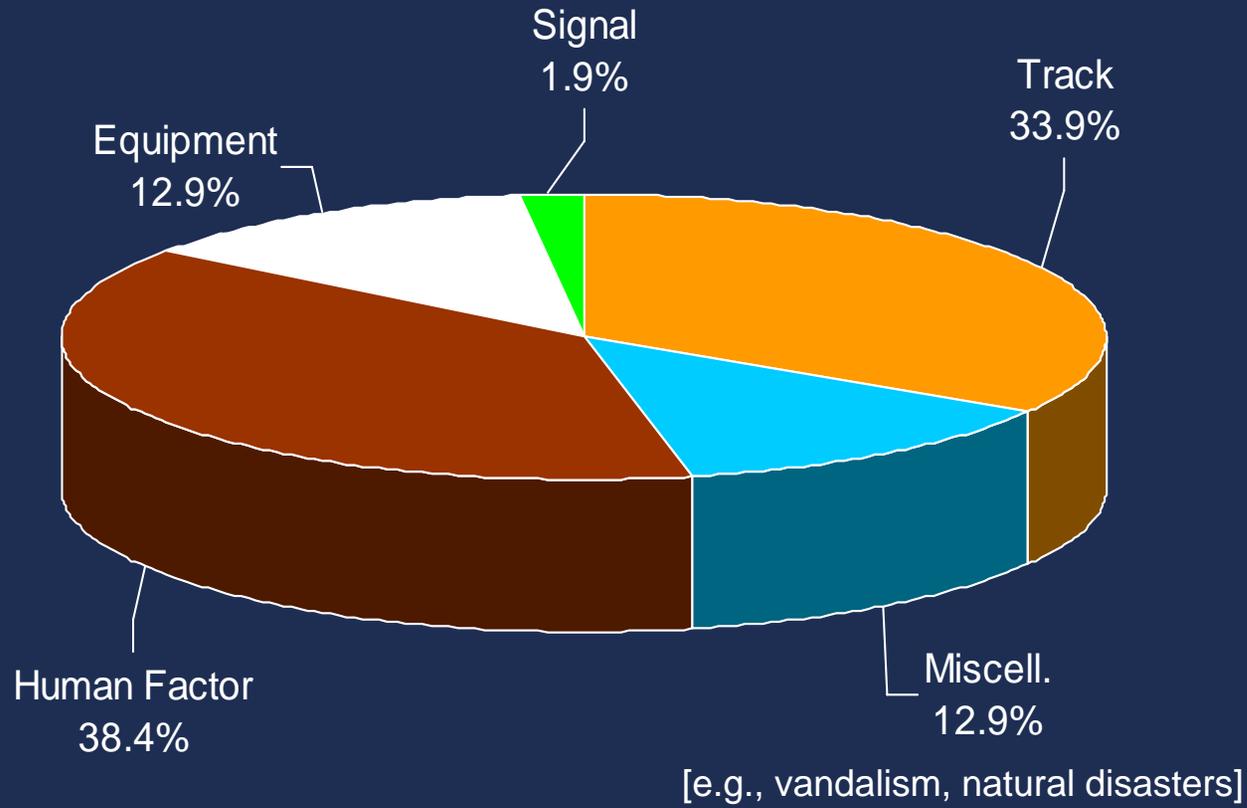
Rate = Train accidents per million train-miles

2004 Values Preliminary

Industry Overview

Train Accident Cause Categories

2000 - 2004 excludes highway-rail grade crossing accidents



2004 Values Preliminary