

Below is the quote from Jack Whitley of U.S. DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration on the “new operational requirements” as presented at the June 25 IEPR workshop in Berkeley, CA.

“This rule proposes new operational requirements for certain trains transporting a large volume of flammable materials, improvements in tank car standards, and revision of the general requirements for offerors to ensure proper classification and characterization of mined gases and liquids. These new requirements are designed to lessen the frequency and consequences of derailments involving ethanol, crude oil, and certain trains transporting a large volume of flammable materials. The growing reliance on trains to transport large volumes of flammable materials poses a significant risk to life, property, and the environment. These significant risks have been highlighted by the recent derailments of trains carrying crude oil in Casselton, North Dakota, Aliceville, Alabama, and Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, Canada. The proposed changes also address National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommendations on accurate classification, enhanced tank cars, rail routing, oversight, and adequate response capabilities.”