



## Metropolitan Transportation Authority

State of New York

December 6, 2013

Joseph C. Szabo  
Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Szabo:

I am writing in response to your letter of December 3, 2013 regarding the December 1 derailment along MTA Metro-North Railroad's Hudson Line. Thank you for your condolences on this terrible tragedy. Please be assured that we too recognize the gravity of this incident and are committed to taking all necessary steps to ensure that nothing like this ever happens again on any MTA property.

With respect to your request for more information regarding the safety stand-downs at Metro-North and MTA Long Island Rail Road, they were held yesterday at both railroads. At Metro-North, approximately 3,000 people were trained during the day, plus approximately 1,500 additional employees overnight last night as new shifts reported for duty. The stand-down was conducted at 20 locations throughout the service territory, and Metro-North President Howard Permut and other members of his executive team attended numerous safety discussions throughout the day.

Long Island Rail Road also began their safety stand-down yesterday. Approximately 4,900 employees participated in over 200 sessions across multiple tours in over 80 locations. More sessions are scheduled for today and Saturday to enable employees whose relief days include Thursday to participate in the event. LIRR President Helena Williams participated in a session in the Penn Station crew room.

At both railroads, the safety messages were generally well-received by employees, and both railroads are compiling the feedback received from our employees in an effort to identify common themes. The goal is to develop corporate and departmental strategies for enhancing the safety culture at both railroads, including the possibility of more frequent informal employee sessions at which safety issues are discussed.

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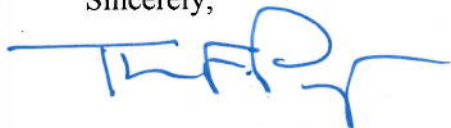
In addition, though not FRA-covered properties, MTA New York City Transit and MTA Bridges & Tunnels will also be conducting safety stand-downs with their employees beginning next week.

You have also requested that Metro-North and LIRR immediately implement a C3RS program. You have my commitment that this will be done, and that we will provide regular updates on implementation at both railroads.

We are also in receipt of the Emergency Order issued by FRA today. We understand your priorities and will continue to work with your staff to identify the most appropriate and expeditious technological and operational solutions to address the hazards revealed by the December 1 derailment. We will continue keep you apprised of the status of our efforts in that regard.

Howard Permut, Helena Williams and I would be happy to come to Washington in the near future to brief you on these efforts and to answer any questions that you may have about safety at the two railroads. Please let me know if you are amenable to meeting, and we will take the lead in setting something up.

Sincerely,



Thomas F. Prendergast  
MTA Chairman and Chief Executive Officer