

September 29, 2009

J. Larry Breeden
Union Pacific Railroad
General Manager of Operating Practices
1400 Douglas Street
Mail Stop 1020
Omaha, NE 68179

Dear Mr. Breeden,

Under Title IV of the Railroad Safety Enhancement Act (Sec. 401. §20162), entitled Minimum training standards and plans, safety-related railroad employees must receive appropriate training in a timely manner to comply with federal standards to identify defective conditions and initiate immediate remedial action to correct critical defects. However, training is sorely lacking on our railroad.

It is difficult to comply with the various federal laws and regulations if you are not educated on these laws and regulations. Specifically, I am writing today to discuss a particular issue of great importance on our subdivision. Train and Engine employees of the Union Pacific will find it hard to comply with safety rules without understanding the rules of safe train make-up pertaining to maximum train length and tonnage restrictions. In fact, most train and engine employees can not recognize a repeater or determine if it is working.

Additionally, train and engine employees also need to be able to understand what the difference between engines working in FTE verses working in CTE and how this affects EPA/EDBA and tonnage of train make up that are being run on the North Platte Subdivision.

In order to comply with 49 CFR §240.127 (Criteria for examining skill performances), new technology training can be done at the controls of a Type I or Type II simulator programmed to replicate trains normally operated on segments of railroad. I would like to bring to your attention that, while the Union Pacific currently has this type of simulator in use in Cheyenne, not all train and engine employees are being trained with the required knowledge of new technologies. Crews are being asked to link DPU's of trains being picked up on line without the knowledge of how to do so. These individuals clearly need training in order to be able to do their jobs safely.

With the ever increasing use of new technologies I hope the railroads will use all appropriate tools to train its employees to create a safe environment for all parties concerned. I hope we could start now on the training issues.

In Safety We remain,

Yours truly,

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