

# Key Tank Car Regulation and Rail Transportation Issues

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#### Overview

 Pending Regulations Relating to Tank Railcars

 Industry Activities and Market Reactions to Proposed Rules

 Railroad Regulatory Topics Affecting Crude Oil Shippers



### GKG Law, P.C.

- Located in Washington, D.C.
- Founded in 1955 Transportation focused
  - Railroad, Oil Pipeline, Truck, Ocean
    Carrier, Customs and International
    Trade, Aviation
- Shipper-oriented practice



#### Tank Car Regulation: Overall Context

- Railroads have safely hauled hazardous materials for decades
- 7/6/13 Lac Megantic and subsequent crude oil derailments, combined with oil boom, turned on the political spotlight in Canada and United States
- Regulatory emphasis is on keeping oil in cars
- Class I railroads' can influence shipper behavior independent of regulators
- No notable crude oil derailments since May, 2014



#### PHMSA-2012-0082 (HM-251) NOPR

- Published 8/1/14, but genesis was petitions filed by AAR and others back to 2011
- The Basics:
  - Classification and Certification
  - Railroad routing and speed restrictions
  - Revised tank car specifications
- Thousands of comments; dozens of positions; billions of dollars at stake
  - Could affect up to 150,000 tank cars
  - International component



#### PHMSA-2012-0082 (HM-251) NOPR

- Containment emphasis
  - Puts onus primarily on car suppliers and shippers
    - Classification and certification burdens
    - Huge capital commitments to retrofit cars and/or acquire new railcars
    - ◆Liability allocation
- Routing and speed restrictions; reporting
  - Adverse effects for rail shippers
  - Public disclosure of routing information issues



#### PHMSA-2012-0082 (HM-251) NOPR

- Significant pressure to finalize rules, but date could be in 2Q15
- Judicial challenge seems likely
  - Industry stakeholders; environmental groups; communities, etc.
- Unlikely to be judicially stayed on appeal
- Big challenges await in terms of shop capacity; materials; idled railcars; related line haul issues, etc.



#### DOT/FRA/NTSB

- Positive Train Control
  - Related to PHMSA tank car NOPR
  - Initial timeline 2016; now more like 2018
- ◆ Idle train Securement FRA-2014-0032 NOPR
  - Codification of (most of) DOT Emerg. Order 28
- Increased FRA track inspections
  - Increasing state involvement?
- NTSB 2015 "Most Wanted List"
  - Reinforced tank cars is No. 5 (PTC is No. 4)



### **Transport Canada**

- Lac Megantic put Canadians in overdrive and PHMSA in "catch up" mode
- "Harmonization" is a major issue
  - Consistent as to containment focus
  - -Commodity vs "HHFT" approach
  - Tank car specifications; timelines
  - Train securement hand brake standards



#### Industry/Market Reactions

- Railroads
  - Voluntary actions to increase safety
  - Influencing tank car fleet composition
    - ◆ CN, BNSF, and CP tariff surcharges on non CPC-1232 compliant cars
    - ◆ BNSF "moratorium" on new crude oil trains
    - UP tariff imposing charges on moves of tank cars to repair shops
- Crude Oil Rail Shippers
  - Increased classification and certification burdens
  - Investment in new CPC-1232 cars
  - Crude oil now going east-west, not north south



### Key Railroad Regulatory Issues

- Surface Transportation Board
  - Rail Service
    - ◆NOPR on service metrics –EP 724
  - Rail Rates
    - ◆ "Revenue adequacy" EP 722
    - ◆Fuel surcharges
  - Demurrage
  - Routing Rules
- Pending Legislation S. 2777, STB Reauthorization Act





## Thank you for your attention

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