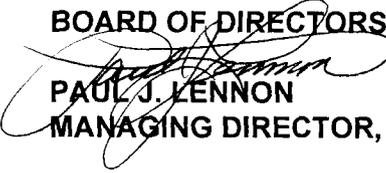




July 27, 1998

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TO: **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
FROM: 
PAUL J. KENNON
MANAGING DIRECTOR, SAFETY

SUBJECT: **FIRST CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC)
AUDIT OF THE MTA RAIL SYSTEM SAFETY PROGRAM PLAN**

ISSUE

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) conducted the first triennial on-site rail system safety audit of the MTA during the two-week period from June 15 to June 26, 1998. A post-audit conference was also held with MTA staff on June 26, 1998 to summarize the findings and recommendations of the audit.

The results of the audit show that MTA is effectively implementing its System Safety Program Plan. The audit revealed that management has a clear understanding of the policies and procedures important to safety. Furthermore, MTA staff demonstrated their understanding of their duties and responsibilities relative to carrying out these policies and procedures.

BACKGROUND

CPUC General Order No. 164 and the Federal Transit Administration's Final Rule, 49 CFR Part 659, require the CPUC staff to perform triennial on-site safety audits of each transit agency operating a rail fixed guideway system in California.

The purpose of the audit is to verify compliance with, and evaluate the effectiveness of, the MTA's System Safety Program Plan. It also provides an opportunity to highlight system weaknesses and deficiencies. Specific recommendations are developed to address system deficiencies.

The audit involved the use of 55 separate checklists addressing various elements of the System Safety Program Plan. The audit resulted in twenty recommendations being made by the CPUC.

On July 1, 1998, the CPUC issued a draft audit report which was subsequently distributed to all concerned departments for comments. It is anticipated that the CPUC will issue its final audit report by the end of August 1998. Within 30 days after the receipt of the final report, MTA will submit its corrective action plan.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

On July 23, 1998, MTA staff met with the CPUC Audit Team to discuss and clarify the recommendations. During this meeting, staff informed the CPUC that a majority of the recommendations had already been implemented.

The final step in the audit process is implementation the remaining recommendations by means of the corrective action plan. Semiannually, the CPUC will monitor progress made toward completion of the corrective action plan.

Prepared by: Robert Torres