

FRA Fails to Finalize Rule on Train Crew Staffing by Year's End



The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), which promulgated a Proposed Rule on Train Crew Staffing in March 2016, failed to release a Final Rule by the end of the year, despite assurances that it would be complete by November. Apparently, the agency is going to simply take no action in anticipation of the new administration due to take office in January.

FRA Administrator Sarah Feinberg will become the second FRA chief in as many years (Joe Szabo was the first) to make a half-hearted attempt to restrict the carriers' ability to employ single employee train crews, only to meet with stiff resistance and ultimately fail to succeed. At this point, railroad workers would be wise to hold no more false hopes in regulatory agencies or politicians, and to get on with the business of preparing for a showdown with the carriers on the property.