

To the WUTC:

I am a switchman for the BNSF Railway. I am also licensed as a Remote Control Operator. I am concerned that the introduction of this technology is bad for rail workers and the public.

The change in crew size from three people to two increases the risk to public safety. A remote control crew has one less set of eyes, one less person's experience to help insure that everything is being done as safely as possible and to react to unexpected events that frequently arise in RR operations. The cut in the size of the crew puts significantly greater responsibility on those who are left on the job. One must add to that the poor record that the RR industry (and the federal government) have demonstrated in guaranteeing adequate rest between shifts for RR employees.

RR workers take our responsibility for safe operations and work practices seriously. We continue to do so despite the added burden of this new technology. However, two people doing the work of three in an industry that affects public safety every day is a poor idea. Two tired people doing the work of three has even greater potential for serious danger -- to the public and RR crews themselves.

I hope you will examine this issue very carefully and that it is not too late to reverse this dangerous course.

Respectfully,
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