

ress of the program is examined and evaluated at the regional and headquarters levels to assure a total coordinated effort.

12. Is there a continual program review within the agency, other than the annual budgetary review, to determine more effective and efficient ways to achieve these program objectives?

Yes. There is a continuing review of reports received from the field staff and the motor carrier industry to identify problem areas, trend in commercial vehicle accidents, areas of noncompliance, and the need for regulatory changes. This review is necessary for the Bureau to carry out its program objectives—preventing or reducing the severity of accidents in commercial motor carrier operations.

13. To your knowledge, does this program duplicate or parallel work being done by any other agency?

While the States do have safety responsibility for intrastate commercial vehicles, the Bureau's work in interstate field complements and does not duplicate State activities. We deal with basic accident cause factors peculiar to motor carrier operations, examine motor carrier records and operation in the States, and provide leadership and a solid base of uniform motor carrier safety standards. The States look to us for leadership and minimum motor carrier safety regulations.

14. Is your organizational structure such that the program is being carried out most efficiently and effectively?

Yes. The headquarters staff is organized into two divisions; one having responsibility for the formulation of regulations and the other division provides technical guidance to the field staff and performs reviews of field reports as a means of appraising the efforts of the field staff. The productivity of our safety effort is due to a clear legislative mandate, a well-defined area of responsibility, and an organization structure designed to effectively carry out our program objectives.

15. Are there any outstanding GAO reports on this program? If so, what is the status of the GAO recommendations the report contains?

No.

16. What significant problems, if any, are you facing in accomplishing the program objectives?

There has been developed a body of rules and regulations designed to reduce highway casualties attributable to commercial motor carrier operations. These rules and regulations are basically sound. However, the limited amount of resources devoted to effectively administering them has made it necessary to rely heavily on voluntary compliance by the motor carrier industry in the accident reducing effort.

17. Do you administer any grants, loans, or other disbursed funds related to this program? If so, is the size of your administrative staff commensurate with the magnitude of the outlays?

No.

18. If your appropriations were reduced, how would you absorb the cut—by an overall reduction, or by cutting or curtailing certain activities?

The appropriation reductions would have to be absorbed through reduction of staff personnel in all program activities.

19. If additional funds were available, what would you do with the new money?

Increase the number of investigators in the field as a means of inspecting a greater number of vehicles and investigating more accidents involving motor carrier vehicles and thereby increasing the level of compliance with motor carrier safety and hazardous materials regulations.

Activity 5 (Federal Highway Administration): Forest Highways

1. What is the nature of and authority for this program?

The forest highway system, which is approximately 25,600 miles in length, is composed of main and secondary roads within or adjacent to the national forests. It is located in 40 of the 50 States and in Puerto Rico. Approximately 13,100 miles of the system are located in the 12 most westerly States and in South Dakota. About 12,500 miles are located in 26 Eastern States and in Puerto Rico.

The authority is contained in the Biennial Highway Acts. (Public Law 89-574) (23 U.S.C. 101 et seq.)

2. Who is the person primarily in charge of this program at the operative level (name and title)?

F. C. Turner, Director, Bureau of Public Roads.