



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

# Memorandum

Detroit Metro ATCT  
Bldg. 801  
Detroit Metro Airport  
Detroit, MI 48242

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Partial Transcript; Aircraft  
Accident; NWA985; Detroit, MI; March 17, 2001

Date: March 23, 2001

From: Detroit Metro ATCT

Reply to  
Attn. of:

To: Aircraft Accident File DTW-ATCT-190

This transcription covers the Ground Control Northwest position for the time period from March 17, 2001, 1140 UTC, to March 17, 2001, 1152 UTC.

Agencies Making Transmissions

Abbreviations

Northwest Airlines Flight 985  
Detroit Metro, Ground Control Northwest

NWA985  
GNW

I hereby certify that the following is a true transcription of the recorded conversations pertaining to the subject aircraft accident involving NWA985.

Lisa Green

1140

1141

1142

1143

1144

1145

1145:23 NWA985

morning ground northwest nine eighty five spot four for the taxi we will need de-ice

1145:30 GNW

northwest nine eighty five roger hold short three center at foxtrot ground east roundin the corner

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NWA985

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1145:36 NWA985

hold short uh three center at foxtrot uh east ground northwest  
nine eighty five

1146

1147

1148

1149

1150

1151

1152

End of Transcript



U.S. Department  
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**Federal Aviation  
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# Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Partial Transcript; Aircraft  
Accident; NWA985; Detroit, MI; March 17, 2001

Date: March 28, 2001

From: Detroit Metro ATCT

Reply to  
Attn. of:

To: Aircraft Accident File DTW-ATCT-190

This transcription covers the Detroit Metro ATCT Ground Control Northeast position for the time period from March 17, 2001, 1140 UTC, to March 17, 2001, 1210 UTC.

Agencies Making Transmissions

Abbreviations

Northwest Airlines Flight 985  
Detroit Metro, Ground Control Northeast

NWA985  
GNE

I hereby certify that the following is a true transcription of the recorded conversations pertaining to the subject aircraft accident involving NWA985.

Lisa Green

1140

1141

1142

1143

1144

1145

1145:23 NWA985

morning ground northwest nine eighty five spot four for the taxi we will need deice

1146

1147

1147:37 NWA985

northwest nine eighty five is with you joining hotel

1147:42 GNE

northwest nine eighty five ground hold short of three center at foxtrot for the deice pad

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NWA985

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1147:46 NWA985 hold short of three center on uh foxtrot northwest nine eighty five

1149:46 GNE northwest nine eighty five cross three center to the deice pad call me when you're finished

1149:50 NWA985 northwest nine eighty five uh cleared to cross three center we'll talk to you on the way out

1150

1151

1152

1153

1154

1155

1156

1157

1158

1159

1200

1201

1202

1202:53 NWA985 (\*hello) ground northwest nine eighty five is at uh three center ice pad for the taxi

1202:59 GNE northwest nine eighty five taxi to runway three center information echo is current follow the airbus and uh have a good day

1203:09 NWA985 we are the bus and three center northwest nine eighty five

1203:12 GNE that is you ok verify that you do have echo

1203:16 NWA985 we do not have echo we can get it

1203:18 GNE i'll read it to you real quick here weather uh i f r wind three four zero at six visibility one and one half light snow and mist ceiling uh variable at uh indefinite ceiling one hundred temperature minus two dew point minus three altimeters three zero zero four

1203:39 NWA985 oh four northwest nine eighty five thank you

1204

1205

1206

1207

1208

1209

1210

End of Transcript

\*This portion of the re-recording is not entirely clear, but this represents the best interpretation possible under the circumstances.



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# Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Partial Transcript; Aircraft  
Accident; NWA985; Detroit, MI; March 17, 2001

Date: March 28, 2001

From: Detroit Metro ATCT

Reply to  
Attn. of:

To: Aircraft Accident File DTW-ATCT-190

This transcription covers the Detroit Metro ATCT Local Northeast position for the time period from March 17, 2001, 1158 UTC, to March 17, 2001, 1215 UTC.

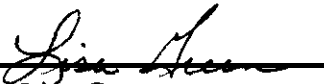
Agencies Making Transmissions

Detroit, Metro Local Control Northeast  
Northwest Airlines Flight 985

Abbreviations

LNE  
NWA985

I hereby certify that the following is a true transcription of the recorded conversations pertaining to the subject aircraft accident involving NWA985.

  
Lisa Green

1158  
1159  
1200  
1201  
1202  
1203  
1204  
1205

1205:28 LNE thank you northwest nine eighty five metro tower pilots discretion  
runway three center taxi into position and hold caution wake  
turbulence

1205:34 NWA985 position and hold three center northwest nine eighty five  
1206  
1207

1207:14 LNE northwest nine eighty five runway three center fly heading zero  
five zero cleared for takeoff

1207:20 NWA985 zero five zero cleared to go northwest nine eighty five

1208

1208:34 NWA985 evacuate evacuate

1208:55 NWA985 tower nine eighty five we're down

1208:59 LNE northwest nine eighty five roger

1209:14 LNE northwest nine eighty five uh metro tower can you say your  
position due to the visibility

1209:18 NWA985 nine eighty five we're down off the end of the runway send a truck  
we're off three center we're crashed

1209:22 LNE roger

1210

1211

1212

1213

1214

1215

End of Transcript