

Docket No. SA-533

Exhibit No. 7-J

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Record of Conversation Director of Maintenance

(2 Pages)

CEN09MA142 Section 2

Attachment 2.2 Record of Conversation Director of Maintenance



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Kristi Dunks
Air Safety Investigator

Date: January 24, 2009

Person Contacted: Tom Strom, Director of Maintenance, Empire Airlines

Subject: CEN09MA142

The Director of Maintenance was asked to provide an overview of the operations conducted at Empire Airlines. Empire Airlines is based in Hayden, Idaho, and is approved for cargo operations under 14 CFR Part 135 and 121. At the time of the accident, the fleet of aircraft consisted of 10 ATR-42 airplanes, 3 ATR-72 airplanes, and 35 Cessna 208 (Caravan) airplanes. Empire Airlines has sixteen bases of operation. Fourteen of these locations conduct 14 CFR Part 121 operations.

The operator employs between 34 to 40 mechanics, with approximately 2 to 3 mechanics at each base of operation. All maintenance information is called into the headquarters office in Hayden, Idaho, where all of the maintenance records are maintained electronically. Paper copies of the work are logged at the base facilities. Maintenance personnel based in Midland completed routine maintenance items. Maintenance personnel located in Hayden completed additional maintenance, including the heavy checks.

The maintenance program is conducted through a Continuous Airworthiness Maintenance Program (CAMP) which follows the manufacturer's maintenance guidance and check requirements. Empire Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) is also based in Hayden, Idaho, and accomplishes all of the heavy checks on the airplanes.