

May 29, 2003

Mr. Jerry Trimarco
Chief Executive Officer
Emery Worldwide Airlines
One Emery Plaza
Vandalia, Ohio 45377

Dear Mr. Trimarco:

Thank you for your January 14, 2003, letter concerning the National Transportation Safety Board's inclusion of interview summaries for Messrs. Paul Hall and Shawn Dukes in the public docket for the Emery Worldwide Airlines (EWA) flight 17 accident investigation. In your letter, you state that the interview summaries are "inaccurate" and request that they be removed from the public docket. You also request that the full Board consider the ramifications of the agency's action in this matter and that the Board establish a policy to prevent this from recurring.

It is common practice for Safety Board investigators to record the details of an interview by preparing an interview summary. As previously indicated in the December 3, 2002, letter from the investigator in charge of the EWA flight 17 investigation, Mr. Frank Hildrup, to the EWA party representative, Mr. Dick Hagquist, the Board investigator who conducted the interviews and produced the interview summaries has indicated that he believes his summaries are an accurate reflection of statements made during the interviews in question. The other Safety Board investigator who was present during Mr. Dukes' interview also concurs that the interview summary accurately reflects Mr. Dukes' statements. Consequently, they are the best evidence the Safety Board has of the contemporaneous recollections of these witnesses. A subsequent refusal of a witness to sign a summary is not a basis to keep the summary from the docket. Your correspondence claiming the "inaccuracies," as well as this reply, will be placed in the docket, allowing a full record of the disagreement. Therefore, the Safety Board's interview summaries and the mechanics' statements will remain in the public docket.

It is important that the Safety Board ensure the accuracy and integrity of its investigations, and our process for collecting witness statements is designed to do that. Further, the circumstances raised by your letter do not justify a departure from this practice, which has been in place for 35 years.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ellen G. Engleman
Chairman