

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

DGNO TRAIN ACCIDENT IN CADIZ YARD, * Accident No.: RRD18FR010
DALLAS, TEXAS, AUGUST 13, 2018 *

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Interview of: DUSTIN DAVIS

Hotel Indigo
Dallas, Texas

Tuesday,
August 14, 2018

APPEARANCES:

TOMAS TORRES, Rail Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

MICHAEL HOEPF, Ph.D., Human Performance Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

BRET STRICKLAND, Operating Practices Inspector
Federal Railroad Administration

JOHN DUNN, Safety Team
SMART TD

ROBERT HOLTZ, Vice President of Operations,
Central Region
Genesee & Wyoming Inc.

DAVID BROWN II, Chief Operating Officer
Genesee & Wyoming Incorporated

KIM DAVIS
(On behalf of Mr. Davis)

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I N T E R V I E W

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2 MR. TORRES: Okay. This is a NTSB informal interview. My
3 name's Tomas Torres, T-O-M-A-S, T-O-R-R-E-S. Today's date is
4 August the 14th. We are at the Indigo Hotel in Dallas, Texas
5 interviewing a conductor in connection with a accident that
6 occurred in Dallas, Texas on August the 13th. The NTSB accident
7 number is RRD18FR010.

8 The purpose of the investigation is to increase safety, not
9 to assign fault, blame or liability. A transcript or summary of
10 the interview will go in the public docket.

11 The interviewee can have one representative of the
12 interviewee's choice. You have somebody?

13 MR. DAVIS: My wife.

14 MR. TORRES: Okay. Do you understand this is being, being
15 recorded?

16 MR. DAVIS: Yes, I do.

17 MR. TORRES: Okay. Please state you name and spell it.

18 MR. DAVIS: Dustin Davis. That's D-U-S-T-I-N, Davis,
19 D-A-V-I-S.

20 MR. TORRES: Okay, and your wife?

21 MR. DAVIS: Kim Davis, K-I-M, D-A-V-I-S.

22 MR. TORRES: Thank you.

23 DR. HOEPF: Hi, I'm Mike Hoepf with the NTSB. My last name
24 is spelled H-O-E-P-F.

25 MR. STRICKLAND: Bret Strickland, FRA operating practices.

1 That's S-T-R-I-C-K-L-A-N-D.

2 MR. DUNN: John Dunn, D-U-N-N, with SMART Transportation
3 Division, Safety Team.

4 MR. HOLTZ: Robert Holtz, Vice President of Operations,
5 Central Region. Last name is spelled H-O-L-T-Z.

6 MR. BROWN: David Brown, Chief Operating Officer, Genesee &
7 Wyoming, B-R-O-W-N, the Second.

8 MR. TORRES: Okay. Thank you.

9 INTERVIEW OF DUSTIN DAVIS

10 BY MR. TORRES:

11 Q. Tomas with the NTSB. Dustin, are you familiar with job --
12 this route?

13 A. Yes, I am.

14 Q. Can you explain to us how it works, you know, like when you
15 go on duty?

16 A. Like my job in specific, or --

17 Q. Well, you know, like this particular job, you know, how does
18 it --

19 A. This particular job?

20 Q. -- how does it work? Yeah.

21 A. Julio just got this job. It was a bid. He was on the
22 Relief 2, and they just switched it up to where he started in
23 Mockingbird. And every night he would either do American Iron and
24 Texas Star, and then after that, he'd put his cars away in Cadiz
25 and then take interchange and go back to Mockingbird.

1 Q. And those tracks in Cadiz, are those tracks only for your
2 railroad or does UP and everybody else go in there?

3 A. No. Union Pacific owns them, but they give us the usage
4 rights to go in there and switch on those tracks for our customers
5 and our cars on -- train cars.

6 Q. So only your railroad goes in there, basically?

7 A. As far as I know, yes. I know UP, even though they own it,
8 they don't go in there.

9 MR. TORRES: Um-hum. All right. At this time I'd like to
10 pass it on to Dr. Hoepf.

11 DR. HOEPF: Okay. Thanks, Tomas.

12 BY DR. HOEPF:

13 Q. Dustin, so, you know, we just kind of want to talk a little
14 bit about just what you know about Julio. Can you describe your
15 relationship?

16 A. Julio was my best friend. We did everything together. I
17 first met him in the army. We did our tour together, I mean, we
18 were inseparable. He's one of the best people I've ever known in
19 my life. He cared. I mean, he tried to do everything right. If
20 you needed something, he was always there, no matter what, day or
21 night.

22 Q. I'm really sorry for your loss. I -- we really appreciate
23 you coming in today. And, you know, like I said, it's -- we're
24 just -- all we're trying to do is prevent these kinds of tragedies
25 in the future. So, you know, we're really just kind of looking

1 for if you have any insight, and it's certainly okay if you don't,
2 but if there's anything you're aware of that, you know, was
3 anything stressful in Julio's life? Any --

4 A. No.

5 Q. -- sleep -- did he have trouble sleeping? Anything that you
6 would -- anything that would pop into your mind that might have
7 any bearing at all on --

8 A. No, nothing. I mean, he was one of the happiest people I
9 knew. Every day I'd see him, he was always happy. I mean, the
10 last day I remember seeing him, which was Sunday before he went to
11 work, he got up and we went out there and we were watching a dumb
12 movie, and just -- we were talking and then I went into the
13 kitchen to play with my son, play a game, and Julio came in there
14 and he just picked my son up, said he loved him, kissed him on the
15 cheek and said I'll be home in the morning. There was nothing
16 wrong with him; he was good.

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. No problems, no nothing.

19 Q. Okay. Happy, healthy guy. Makes us even more sad.

20 Is there -- the only thing I've got for you or questions I've
21 got, really, are -- something we kind of try to do is just build a
22 72-hour history for people and just see like -- and a lot of that
23 pertains to sleep, you know, fatigue, things like that.

24 Can you just, to the best extent of your recollection, can
25 you recall, you know, to the extent that you know what Julio was

1 up to on Sunday, Saturday, Friday, just kind of recount his
2 schedule, I guess?

3 A. Friday, she spent most of the day with him Friday. Is she
4 allowed to talk, or --

5 Q. Yeah. I mean --

6 MRS. DAVIS: Friday -- Julio kept a really strict sleep
7 schedule even on his day's off, because he said he didn't want to
8 mess up his work week. So, on Friday, he got up in the afternoon
9 and he was hungry, and he decided that we were going to go out to
10 eat. And Dustin wasn't home yet, so we went out to eat and got
11 ice cream and then just came home. And I saw him the next morning
12 and he was still on his sleep schedule. He goes to sleep at 6:00
13 in the morning, sleeps through the day into the afternoon, because
14 he has to be at work by 6 at night.

15 Saturday, he, he got up around 4, and -

16 MR. DAVIS: That's when he texted me saying, hey, where are
17 you guys at?

18 MRS. DAVIS: Yeah. He got up around 4 and he played a
19 computer game in his room until -- I didn't see him again after
20 that until he got up the next afternoon, which was Sunday
21 afternoon, and he got up around 4 then too, because he stuck to
22 his schedule. He hung out with us for about an hour before he had
23 to go -- before he had to go. And that was how he spent his
24 weekend.

25 DR. HOEPF: Thank you guys, so much, for trying to -- I know

1 it's, I know it's difficult. I'm going to go ahead and just see
2 if anybody else has any questions?

3 MR. STRICKLAND: No. No questions from me. Thank you.

4 MR. DUNN: No questions.

5 MR. TORRES: Do you have any?

6 DR. HOEPF: No, I --

7 MR. TORRES: No, we're just trying to get an idea of what,
8 you know -- we're just trying to piece everything together, you
9 know, anything that might have contributed to what happened. Like
10 I say, we're not trying to fault anybody, but if we can try to
11 prevent this from happening again to any employee, you know,
12 that's our goal. So we're not looking for any fault on anyone's
13 part. So, but if that's all we have, you know --

14 BY DR. HOEPF:

15 Q. Do you have, yeah, any comments about --

16 MR. TORRES: Any comments?

17 BY DR. HOEPF:

18 Q. -- about what we would -- just how he liked his job? Okay.
19 Was he, you know, was he -- did he like where he -- he started --
20 he had been doing his job for a while. Was it going okay for him?

21 A. Yeah. He was excited to get to work with Daniel. I know
22 Daniel enjoyed it too.

23 Q. Yeah. So you guys all got along?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Okay. Yeah, like I said, we're just looking for anything

1 that -- you know, is he struggling with his work, anything like
2 that? You know, was there difficulty working night shifts?

3 A. No.

4 DR. HOEPF: Yeah. Okay. Well, thanks guys. I'm not going
5 to just keep you in here any longer than need be.

6 MR. TORRES: Yeah.

7 DR. HOEPF: We just, you know, we just open doors and close
8 them, and we just wanted to see if you guys were, like I said,
9 aware of anything that might have disrupted his sleep. You know
10 some people struggle with, you know, working the night shift and
11 that kind of thing. And that's, you know, that's really all
12 wanted to get. So thank you again for coming in.

13 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

14 MR. TORRES: Thank you. This will conclude the interview.

15 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

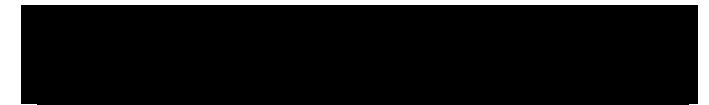
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 DALLAS, TEXAS, AUGUST 13, 2018
 Interview of Dustin Davis

ACCIDENT NO.: RRD18FR010

PLACE: Dallas, Texas

DATE: August 14, 2018

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.



Deborah Dowling Sweigart
Transcriber