DCA09MR007 WMATA Rear-End Collision Washington, DC June 22, 2009

Signals & Train Control Group Attachment 11

NTSB Interview #2, WMATA, CIT - ATC Mechanic

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

Investigation of:

*

COLLISION OF TWO WASHINGTON

METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY TRAINS ON THE RED LINE NEAR TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

JUNE 22, 2009

* Docket No.: DCA-09-MR-007

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Interview of: JONITA DOWLING

WMATA Headquarters Jackson Graham Building, Room 2G02 Washington, D.C.

Saturday, June 27, 2009

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice, at 10:13 a.m.

BEFORE: RUBEN PAYAN, Investigator-in-Charge National Transportation Safety Board 490 L'Enfant Plaza East, Southwest

Washington, D.C. 20594

(202) 314-6639

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1 INTERVIEW

- 2 (10:13 a.m.)
- 3 MR. PAYAN: All right. Today is Saturday, June 27th.
- 4 It's just after 10 a.m. We're in the Jackson Graham Building of
- 5 the WMATA headquarters, and we're here to interview Jonita Dowling
- 6 in connection with a train accident that happened on Tuesday, June
- 7 22nd, at Fort Totten Station. The NTSB accident number is DCA-09-
- 8 MR 007.
- 9 For the record, I'd like to go around the room and
- 10 introduce everybody. Again, my name is Ruben Payan, P-a-y-a-n.
- 11 I'm one of the investigators with the National Transportation
- 12 Safety Board.
- MR. HEILMANN: My name is Harry Heilmann. I'm with
- 14 Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, assistant chief
- 15 engineer in charge of automatic train control technology.
- MR. GARLAND: My name's Anthony Garland. I'm with Local
- 17 689, ATU.
- 18 MR. BASSETT: My name's Matt Bassett. I'm with the
- 19 Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, which is
- 20 one of the three agencies on the Tri-State Oversight Committee.
- 21 MR. HAUBER: Good morning. My name is Dan Hauber, H-a-
- 22 u-b-e-r, also representing the Tri-State Oversight Committee.
- MR. NABB: I'm Al Nabb, assistant general superintendent
- 24 of Automatic Train Control and Communications in the Office of
- 25 Track Structure Systems Maintenance, Department of Rail Service

- 1 Delivery.
- 2 MR. TYLER: My name is Paul Tyler with the law firm of
- 3 Gromfine, Taylor and Tyler. I am legal counsel for Amalgamated
- 4 Transit Union Local 689.
- 5 MR. ROBINSON: David T. Robinson, Amalgamated 689, union
- 6 rep.
- 7 MR. McELVEEN: Levern McElveen. That's M-c-E-l-v-e-e-n.
- 8 I'm with the Federal Transit Administration, a party to the
- 9 investigation.
- 10 MR. JONES: Good morning. Mark Jones. I'm the deputy
- 11 chief of the Railroad Division, NTSB.
- MR. PAYAN: Okay. Very good.
- 13 INTERVIEW OF JONITA DOWLING
- 14 BY MR. PAYAN:
- 15 Q. Is it okay if I call you Juanita?
- 16 A. Jonita.
- 17 Q. Jonita. I'm sorry. Jonita.
- 18 Okay. After we're done, I'll get all your -- the
- 19 boilerplate information as far as the hire date and all that. But
- 20 let's start with, can you spell -- can you state your name and
- 21 spell your last name?
- 22 A. Jonita Dowling, D-o-w-l-i-n-g.
- Q. Okay. And who is your current employer?
- A. WMATA.
- Q. WMATA. Okay. And your position?

- 1 A. I'm a AA ATC technician.
- Q. Okay. Now as you're aware, there was a collision at
- 3 Fort -- near Fort Totten this past Tuesday and that's the reason
- 4 we're here. Can you -- I want to go back to June 17th. We heard
- 5 there was a -- well, we've seen records that there was some work
- 6 being done out at -- between Fort Totten and Takoma Park or Takoma
- 7 Park Station. Can you kind of take us through what was going on
- 8 and what role you had in that work?
- 9 A. What was going on, we were replacing Wee-Z bonds, old
- 10 GRS Wee-Z bonds with new US&S minibonds. My role, basically,
- 11 pretty much a crew leader. I was in the room to adjust a circuit
- 12 while my crew was wayside replacing the track equipment.
- Q. Okay. Kind of take me through the day when you went on
- 14 duty and what actions you took throughout the day.
- 15 A. Well, I came in. We come in at 2230. We get our
- 16 assignments from supervisor Wayne Curtis or Christopher Lucas.
- 17 That night we were -- I think all of us but maybe one of us, was
- 18 assigned to the bond replacement project. They informed us which
- 19 Wee-Z bond they wanted us to replace that night. And we start to
- 20 gather up our materials and equipment and head out in our separate
- 21 vehicles, or maybe all in one vehicle depending on how many people
- 22 we have, and we go out to the station.
- 23 That night it took quite a while for us to get rights to
- 24 go onto the track. We waited at the station until we were given
- 25 permission to start our work or to set up our work zone. That's

- 1 what we do, set up a safety zone --
- Q. Okay.
- 3 A. -- first. I think that night Victor Grubbs might have
- 4 been in charge of the work zone that night. So he went and set up
- 5 the work zone. After he's finished setting up the work zone, the
- 6 rest of the crew takes all the equipment and heads out to the
- 7 location where we change the bond.
- 8 At that time, I'm generally going into the room to see
- 9 what circuit we're going to be working on as far as the chain
- 10 markers, what I need to set up, you know, set up my O-scope -- I
- 11 mean, my oscilloscope, my meter or what have you, just to go to
- 12 the room to see, you know, what needs to be done.
- 13 That particular night I had a -- she's a C technician.
- 14 Ms. Jackson assisted me that night since we had several people in
- 15 our crew that night. A lot of times when we have that many people
- 16 I like to take a junior person and to OJT with them. So that's
- 17 what we were doing that night.
- 18 So they replaced the -- excuse me, they replaced the
- 19 bond. Bond's name is Wee-Z 15. They informed me that that's the
- 20 bond that they changed and I said okay. We began adjustments. As
- 21 we adjusted the bond, we were having problems as far as the bond
- 22 kept bobbing. It kept -- I don't know if you guys know what that
- 23 means, but --
- 24 O. We do.
- 25 A. Okay.

- 1 Q. We do understand.
- 2 A. When I was adjusting it, it was -- as I was turning the
- 3 level up on the receiver to adjust the sensitivity, the detection
- 4 sensitivity, it wouldn't stay picked. It kept dropping at one
- 5 point. We readjusted a second time. I told the guys let's try it
- 6 again, let's readjust it a second time.
- We were still having the same issue. I told the guys
- 8 that I wanted them to change the shunt strap because I felt like
- 9 maybe because we do this so much that the shunt strap's just worn
- 10 out. Say, why don't you guys change shunt straps, you know. So
- 11 they changed it. We attempted another adjustment. I think that
- 12 it was the third adjustment that we did. The adjustment was going
- 13 fine.
- I still felt like, I still felt like that the -- not the
- 15 adjustment, the detection level that -- I felt like that it was
- 16 taking too long to -- that pick can drop as I was adjusting it.
- 17 But it was -- they were at the levels -- the readings were I felt
- 18 fine. We did the shunt verification test. It passed the
- 19 verification test.
- 20 At one point we were having an issue, like I said, when
- 21 they were doing the verification test, I -- we were having an
- 22 issue with it staying dropped. Like it -- or picked, which one
- 23 was it. Like they would drop it and it would -- it would drop,
- 24 then it would start -- it would start bobbing.
- Okay. And I said, okay, guys I want you to check all

- 1 the connections out there. Because there was a time -- one bond
- 2 that we had before that had a issue with it, the shunts -- the
- 3 straps weren't cut -- they weren't pushed together -- pushed away
- 4 far enough, I felt like, and I told them to open it up.
- 5 Once they did that and separated it more that there was
- 6 a better, much better -- I was getting much more clear readings
- 7 and stuff, not as much noise. And so, I said, guys, open
- 8 everything up, check all the connections to make sure that
- 9 everything was properly installed, there was no like any shorting
- 10 going on, any loose, you know Canon plug connections or anything
- 11 like that.
- 12 So I had to wait -- we had to wait for a while because
- 13 the guys had to get all the tools together and everything to get
- 14 back out there, open everything back up again. So I waited and
- 15 they told me -- they informed me they checked everything. They
- 16 said everything looked good. We, as well, checked the -- make
- 17 sure that the frequencies were what they were supposed to be, that
- 18 the bond was cut for the right, right stuff. So --
- 19 (The lights go out.)
- 20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They have the lights on a time
- 21 line.
- 22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And motion detection.
- 23 MS. DOWLING: But that the bond was cut for the right
- 24 frequencies. I had them double check that to match. And I went
- 25 as well and checked the preventative (ph.) make sure that that

10

- 1 matched the frequencies that were supposed to be out there on the
- 2 wayside. Everything looked good as far as I knew, you know, as
- 3 far as I was concerned, you know. So we continued -- after we
- 4 checked the frequencies and made sure that every -- all the
- 5 connections were good, I had them adjust again. I wanted to make
- 6 sure. So we adjusted again.
- We verify -- I usually have them -- with this project,
- 8 when I'm out there as a AA, I have them verify in three places:
- 9 the receiver, the center, and the transmitter. So it verified.
- 10 It dropped out with all the shunts, with all the verification
- 11 shunts. And at this point we were late clearing because it was
- 12 taking a while to do all this stuff.
- 13 Lucas, Chris Lucas, a supervisor, gave us a call on the
- 14 cell phone. We told him -- I told him that we were having some --
- 15 he said what's the problem? I said we were having some issues
- 16 with the adjustment. I said, but everything's fine; it's fine;
- 17 it's verifying. I said -- he said, well, I want you guys to wait
- 18 two trains to make sure that everything's fine. I said okay.
- 19 That was the extent of that discussion that I had with him. I
- 20 informed the crew on the wayside that we needed to wait for two
- 21 trains to pass before we go back to the shop. They said okay.
- 22 At that time the track circuit started bobbing. I was
- 23 looking at the scope. The readings still looked good. I was very
- 24 unsure why the track circuit was bobbing. The guys were already
- 25 clear of the tracks at that time. It was into revenue at this

- 1 point. And so I was watching it as far as tracking the circuit,
- 2 trying to see -- basically, troubleshooting, you know, trying to
- 3 see what was the issue.
- 4 At this point I told Vic, Victor Grubbs that the track
- 5 circuit was bobbing, told him to come in, you know, need -- get
- 6 some fresh eyes on it, you know. He came in and he was looking at
- 7 it. He said, well, maybe a lot -- he said at one time we had a
- 8 issue, he said, maybe it's the relay driver, you know, is gone bad
- 9 or something. So we got a good relay driver card and we put the
- 10 good relay driver card in. The track circuit continued to do the
- 11 same thing; it kept bobbing. You know, it didn't help the
- 12 problem.
- 13 It wasn't -- I'm trying to think. Trains -- the train
- 14 came past. One train came past. I watched it on the panel. It
- 15 looked good. Followed it through the track circuits. I never saw
- 16 any problem with any circuit, you know, not indicating.
- 17 We, again, as a train -- when a train passed by, the
- 18 circuit continued to bob. At this point, I saw -- I started to
- 19 see the next farther track circuit bobbing as well. I think that
- 20 might have been 312, I think that is. I'm not quite sure from
- 21 memory, but -- and I was like, well, we didn't even work on that
- 22 circuit, you know, so I don't know why that's happening. So I'm
- 23 thinking it's something that was prior existing that was on the
- 24 wayside or something, maybe they would have been having some
- 25 problems.

- 1 At this point, MOC called me. They told me the track
- 2 circuit's bobbing. I said, yeah, I know, I'm still here; I'm
- 3 waiting for some trains to go past. And we stayed. We kept
- 4 trying to figure out what's the problem.
- 5 I'm trying to think -- I think we're still there. Okay.
- 6 Yeah, so another train came past. Again, no problem with
- 7 indication at all. No problem with detection. I saw a train step
- 8 through every track circuit that I could see on the panel.
- 9 I also had -- I was actually watching the relays and I
- 10 also had Ms. Jackson watching the relays as well because, at
- 11 first, you know, she's watching the panel. I said, no, I want you
- 12 to watch the relays. I want you to see what happens with the
- 13 relays as it goes through. Okay. We never had any problem with
- 14 the relays dropping out. We did have a problem with them staying
- 15 picked. You know, it just kept bobbing.
- 16 At this point Vic, Victor Grubbs, he said, well, we
- 17 waited the two trains; I'm going to go back with the rest of the
- 18 crew, head back to the shop, you know. I said, okay, I'm going to
- 19 stay a little longer. Me and Ms. Jackson stayed longer watching
- 20 the problem and trying to, you know, just see how it was happening
- 21 and everything.
- 22 At this point it was almost 6:00. And I was like, okay,
- 23 we're going to have to get the -- tell MOC that another crew needs
- 24 to come and work on the problem because we're about to be off.
- So I called MOC and I said, hey, I waited a couple of

- 1 trains, the track circuit's still bobbing but it's 312 bobbing
- 2 with it. I was like I think there's something else going on, you
- 3 know; you might have to tell another crew to come on out here and
- 4 troubleshoot and continue working on the problem. She goes like,
- 5 okay.
- 6 I said because we didn't work on that circuit, so I'm
- 7 not sure why -- that must have been something that was already
- 8 going on because I noticed -- you know, because 312 didn't start
- 9 bobbing until the train started running. You know, so I was like
- 10 that might have been something that was already going on, you
- 11 know. Because when we're out there working, there are no trains
- 12 running. We don't know the pre-existing problems that might be
- 13 there.
- 14 So after I called MOC and told them that, she's like
- 15 okay. We went on ahead back to the shop and I never heard
- 16 anything else about it. I never heard anything about it. I, you
- 17 know, I assumed that someone else -- the next crew might have went
- 18 out there and worked on it and might have found a problem or
- 19 whatever. Maybe it was a, you know, a clamp or something, you
- 20 know. And that was it. The next thing I heard is this situation,
- 21 so --
- Q. Okay. Thank you for that. I want to go back a little
- 23 and kind of -- I wrote down some questions as you were talking.
- 24 A. Okay.
- 25 Q. You went on duty at 2230. Where did you go on duty?

- 1 A. At Carmen Turner Facility.
- Q. Okay, that's your reporting --
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Okay. And you say you left with your crew. How many
- 5 were --
- 6 A. How many people?
- 7 Q. How many people you had that day? Do you recall?
- 8 A. That's -- I'm sorry, I don't remember.
- 9 Q. If you don't remember, that's fine.
- 10 A. I had a crew of at least -- well, myself included, at
- 11 least six or seven people at least.
- 12 Q. Okay, six or seven. What was the weather like that day?
- 13 A. That night.
- 14 Q. Or night. Yes, or night.
- 15 A. I can't remember if it had rained or not. I think it
- 16 might -- I think during that week we had a lot of rain, but I'm
- 17 not sure if that day -- I don't think that day we had any type of
- 18 like lightening or anything, because we wouldn't have went out in
- 19 that. As far as it might have been -- it may have been drizzling
- 20 or something. I can't really remember. I don't want to say
- 21 something --
- Q. Okay. So it might have been raining days --
- 23 A. It might have been.
- Q. It might have been drizzling on that day, maybe?
- 25 A. It might have been drizzling that day. If it was a

- 1 downpour, we wouldn't have worked in a downpour.
- 2 Q. Okay.
- 3 A. Yeah.
- 4 Q. Okay. That's -- okay, that's what I was wondering.
- 5 When you say you -- after you replaced the Wee-Z bond
- 6 and you started adjusting the track circuit and you said you --
- 7 after it started bobbing, you had them change the shunt strap?
- 8 A. Yeah. I had them change the shunt --
- 9 Q. Can you -- what shunt strap are you talking about?
- 10 A. The strap we use for adjustment.
- 11 Q. Oh, the actual shunt that they use to --
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. Okay. Okay. That's what I was wondering.
- 14 A. Yeah, um-hum.
- 15 Q. Now the verification test, you shunted in three places.
- 16 Was that a .06 shunt or a hard-wire shunt?
- 17 A. A.06.
- 18 O. A.06?
- 19 A. Um-hum.
- Q. So all your tests are done with .06?
- 21 A. As far as the verification --
- 22 Q. Yes.
- 23 A. -- yes.
- Q. Okay. Okay. And how often -- I mean, this -- I know
- 25 it's hard to recall information exact, but had you been doing

- 1 these Wee-Z bond replacements for a while or was this an on and
- 2 off assignment or --
- 3 A. Okay. That's a yes and no question. When I came over
- 4 to this pick we started with doing bond replacements. After I
- 5 want to say about in April, I was moved to off and on doing the
- 6 loop replacement project.
- 7 O. Okay.
- 8 A. At times if we didn't have enough people or if the loops
- 9 weren't -- if they weren't being replaced that day, I would go on
- 10 to the bond crew --
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. -- work with bond crew that day. So this is -- I mean,
- 13 I'm not going -- every day I did not replace bonds, no.
- 14 Q. Okay. That -- I guess that's what I was wondering.
- 15 Were you assigned to -- on a Wee-Z replacement crew or something
- 16 like that?
- 17 A. Oh, as needed --
- 18 O. Okay.
- 19 A. -- you know, I'm shifted.
- 20 Q. Okay. What procedures were you furnished or -- I mean,
- 21 did WMATA have certain procedures you had to follow --
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. -- in the Wee-Z replacement?
- A. Well -- oh, you mean for the Wee-Z replacement?
- 25 Q. Yes.

- 1 A. No, we didn't have an EMI, not that I know of.
- 2 Q. What's an EMI?
- 3 A. A modification procedure.
- 4 Q. Oh, okay. I'm not familiar --
- 5 A. Engineering modification --
- 6 Q. Oh, okay.
- 7 A. -- instructions. I guess that's it.
- 8 MR. PAYAN: Is that what it stands for, Anthony?
- 9 MR. GARLAND: Yes. EMI is Engineering Modification
- 10 Instruction. That's for modification --
- 11 BY MR. PAYAN:
- 12 Q. Okay. So how did you learn or how were you instructed
- 13 to replace the Wee-Z bond?
- 14 A. I wasn't instructed. We just -- I can't speak for
- 15 anybody else. When I got to the project, there was no procedure.
- 16 I was basically OJT when I got there by the experienced guys who
- 17 had already been doing this, as far as how they -- their
- 18 procedures as what they do on the wayside. As far as adjusting
- 19 the track circuit, we just used the same PMI that we use to adjust
- 20 the circuit on any given day of the week.
- Q. Okay. Okay. So now, I guess, we're talking about two
- 22 different procedures. The Wee-Z bond is just replaced and then to
- 23 finish it off you do -- adjust the PMI on a track circuit
- 24 adjustment.
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Is that correct?
- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. The track circuit adjustment, that's the same for
- 4 any kind of Wee-Z bond that's out there or -- let me rephrase the
- 5 question.
- 6 A. It's different for the different module that you use.
- 7 The module that we were using was an old GRS module that was in
- 8 there.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. The US&S modules hadn't been replaced yet at that
- 11 station.
- 12 Q. Okay.
- 13 A. And the bond we installed was a US&S bond.
- 14 Q. Are the procedures different between a GRS and a US&S
- 15 for the track adjustment?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And -- okay, I'm not familiar with the procedures.
- 18 A. I mean, the procedure for the module is different. The
- 19 theory is not. The theory is the same. You pre-shunt 20 feet --
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. -- ahead of the circuit and we verify -- like I say, I
- 22 verify in three places when we do it. I verify 10 feet in front
- 23 of the receiver, in the center of the circuit, and 10 feet in
- 24 front of the transmitter.
- 25 Q. Okay.

- 1 A. On that circuit.
- 2 Q. For GRS or for --
- 3 A. I was doing that for all bonds we replace.
- 4 O. For all bonds? Okay.
- 5 A. For all bonds we replace on this project. When we do a
- 6 normal PMI, we're required to do one verification shunt 10 feet in
- 7 front of the transmitter. For these replacements, I felt -- this
- 8 is my preference --
- 9 Q. Sure.
- 10 A. -- as a AA. I wanted them to shunt in three places.
- 11 Q. Okay. So the procedures only require one 10 feet in
- 12 front of the receiver? Is that what you said? Sorry.
- 13 A. Ten feet in front of the transmitter.
- 14 Q. Transmitter.
- 15 A. A verification shunt.
- 16 Q. Verification.
- 17 A. For a GRS on the PMI. I think on the newer US&S PMI
- 18 they do three. I do --
- 19 Q. Okay. Okay. That's -- okay, that -- I think I
- 20 understand what you're saying now.
- 21 A. Okay.
- Q. Let me, let me -- so one for GRS is required in the PMI?
- A. Um-hum.
- Q. And you're thinking three are required for the US&S?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Okay. All right. I think I understand.
- Now you said you were working on it when it started
- 3 bobbing and the receiver level was raised. After you replaced the
- 4 Wee-Z bond and you started track adjustment and it was working,
- 5 then it started bobbing. You said you went in there and you
- 6 raised the --
- 7 A. Oh, I'm sorry, let me -- I'm sorry, let me clarify.
- 8 When we were doing the adjustment, at the beginning -- I forgot to
- 9 mention this. At the beginning of the adjustment, so to make this
- 10 more clear -- when we first started this adjustment, the receiver
- 11 was already -- I want to say the potentiometer was already topped
- 12 out.
- 13 O. Okay.
- 14 A. Because when we turned it, there was no more detection
- 15 level to get. So I had to raise the power level by one step. So
- 16 you -- you know, I went -- I raised the power level. Let's see, I
- 17 wrote it down. It was from 30 percent to 55 percent.
- 18 O. Okay.
- 19 A. Okay. That was the next step up. I raised the power
- 20 level. Then we went and readjusted. We started the adjustment
- 21 again, okay, which gave us more detection, adjust more receiver.
- 22 Okay. That's what we did. I don't know what you meant by I
- 23 raised the receiver.
- Q. That's -- I think that's what I wanted to clarify.
- 25 A. Okay.

- 1 Q. Okay. Let me go back then. You raised the power level
- 2 from 30 --
- 3 A. Thirty to 55.
- 4 Q. -- 30 to 55. That's exactly -- is that at the
- 5 transmitter end?
- 6 A. Yes, it is.
- 7 Q. Okay. And then I guess you said the receiver, that's
- 8 the -- well, you were adjusting at the receiver end?
- 9 A. Yeah, we adjusted the detection sensitivity.
- 10 Q. That's the sensitivity of the track circuit to detect
- 11 the shunts?
- 12 A. Right.
- 13 Q. Okay. Okay. I just wanted to get it clear in my head.
- 14 I'm going to go around the room now and I'm going to
- 15 stop asking questions for a little while. I'll turn it over to
- 16 Harry.
- 17 MR. HEILMANN: I don't have any questions.
- 18 MR. PAYAN: No questions?
- 19 BY MR. GARLAND:
- Q. Good morning, Ms. Dowling.
- 21 A. Good morning.
- Q. I guess my question, basically, your procedures on work
- 23 orders and finishing work orders and so on. Can you just explain
- 24 to me how do you get your work orders to go out and perform a job?
- 25 A. Normally -- you mean, normally or for CIT?

- 1 Q. Well, on this -- particularly, on the 17th.
- 2 A. On the 17th, there was no work order. No work order.
- 3 Do you mean orders from my supervisor?
- 4 O. Yeah.
- 5 A. Is that what you mean?
- 6 Q. Yes.
- 7 A. Okay. I thought you meant work order like in Maximo or
- 8 something.
- 9 Q. No, no, no.
- 10 A. Okay.
- 11 Q. Just a work order from a supervisor to go start your
- 12 day.
- 13 A. He -- well, I can't speak for him, because I don't know
- 14 what he does upstairs. But he calls us and says, hey, you know,
- 15 Jo, I need you to go out whatever station that we have rights for
- 16 to work that night, and we got rights from this chain marker to
- 17 this chain marker, track whatever. You know, change -- I need you
- 18 to change bond -- he gives me a bond number. Sometimes he doesn't
- 19 give me a bond number, but that particular night I think he did.
- 20 I think he did say 15. It might have been -- at some point --
- 21 sometimes we have -- we pre-place the bonds so that we could
- 22 change -- if we get rights, we can change whatever we have
- 23 available to change. Okay. So it's unclear to me if he might
- 24 have gave me more than one bond number that night to change, but
- 25 we might have only been able to change that one that night.

- 1 Q. So the work order wasn't to replace the bond because of
- 2 any irregularities?
- 3 A. Right.
- 4 Q. It's just that --
- 5 A. It's an old one.
- 6 Q. -- it was an old bond and you're going to be replacing
- 7 with them with the -- oh, I'm sorry, you were replacing it with
- 8 the new GS&S [sic]?
- 9 A. US&S.
- 10 Q. US&S. Okay.
- 11 A. Yeah. As a project -- with the project, we just -- it's
- 12 replacing all the older bonds.
- 13 O. Okay.
- 14 A. So if we have -- we had a station and there's 20 old
- 15 bonds, we changing 20 bonds; maybe not that night, but as time
- 16 goes on. So every day we know we're going out there to change a
- 17 bond. It's not like there's a problem and we go change it. We're
- 18 just going to change it because of the time -- it's a change out,
- 19 pretty much.
- 20 Q. So if you change the bond, there's no need to change a
- 21 module? You just -- it's just the bond, just what you were
- 22 instructed to do?
- 23 A. Yeah, just the bond.
- Q. When you finish that work order, when any ATC personnel
- 25 finish a work order, how do you report whether or not that job has

- 1 been completed or there's a safety failure issue? How do you
- 2 report that process?
- 3 A. Generally, if we have a issue, we give the supervisor a
- 4 call onsite to see what they want us to do as far as if they want
- 5 us to reinstall the old bond or try to troubleshoot. When we
- 6 finish our work, generally every night we go back to the shop and
- 7 we let them know that we got whatever bond replaced that we
- 8 replaced that night. There's datasheets that are involved. He
- 9 gets the datasheets. That's about it.
- 10 Q. I understand. So this particular Wee-Z bond, Wee-Z bond
- 11 15, when you went out to replace it -- and you said that you did
- 12 three tests, initially?
- 13 A. Three of the same tests. I didn't -- we didn't do three
- 14 different tests. Three of the same tests --
- 15 O. Three of the same tests.
- 16 A. -- as far as we started.
- 17 Q. Well, let me --
- 18 A. We started several -- a couple times.
- 19 Q. Let me ask you this.
- 20 A. Okay.
- 21 Q. You did three tests before you realized that the circuit
- 22 12 started bobbing?
- 23 A. Okay. I'm not getting clear on the question here.
- Q. Well, you say you all -- you went there to replace
- 25 circuit 15, bond 15.

- 1 A. Bond 15, yes.
- Q. Right. And then you said after bond -- after you
- 3 replaced it, you stayed for one train?
- 4 A. Uh-huh.
- 5 Q. And then there was another train?
- 6 A. Yeah.
- 7 Q. And then you said on that -- I think the third train
- 8 that came through you noticed that Wee-Z bond -- the circuit 12
- 9 started bobbing?
- 10 A. Yeah, I did.
- 11 Q. Okay. When you noticed circuit 12 started bobbing, is
- 12 that when you notified -- is that when the supervisor called you,
- 13 Chris?
- 14 A. Chris called before we noticed that 12 was bobbing. He
- 15 called before that. He called right after we finished the
- 16 adjustment. He called right after we finished the adjustment for
- 17 Wee-Z 15, which involved us adjusting 304 and 301. So right after
- 18 that, he called. And that's when he told us to stay and watch
- 19 the -- make sure the trains passed through okay.
- 20 Q. But you informed him that the bond that you did replace
- 21 was bobbing and that -- now that bond 12 had started bobbing as
- 22 well?
- A. No. That's not --
- Q. You didn't?
- 25 A. At that time, no. At that time I didn't know 12 was

- 1 bobbing. I mean, that time 12 wasn't bobbing when he called. Who
- 2 I informed that 12 was bobbing was MOC.
- Q. Okay.
- 4 A. Because -- yeah, let me state that. When Lucas called,
- 5 he told us to stay and report to MOC. Well, I didn't speak to him
- 6 when he said that. That's why I didn't include that, because I
- 7 wasn't speaking to him when he said that. Ms. Jackson told me
- 8 that he said that.
- 9 Q. But did you report to MOC?
- 10 A. Because she called -- she talked to him.
- 11 Q. Who reported to MOC?
- 12 A. I report to MOC.
- 13 Q. And you informed them at that time that circuit 12 was
- 14 bobbing?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 O. Okay. In replacing the Wee-Z bonds, have you ever had
- 17 any irregularities with the bonds and the modules?
- 18 A. Yes. Yes. We had a issue at Fort Totten before,
- 19 opposite track where -- on the split circuit where the stations,
- 20 two stations share a circuit. One has a transmitter and one has a
- 21 receiver. At that time, the contractors had replaced GRS modules
- 22 at Brookland and there were US&S AF800Ws at Brookland where the
- 23 receiver of a circuit was. I don't recall the name of it. It was
- 24 a while before this replacement. And there was a GRS transmitter
- 25 on the other end.

- I was told to go out and change a bond and adjust
- 2 circuit. I was not at that time informed that there was -- it was
- 3 a split circuit and that there were two different modules. I
- 4 didn't know how to handle that situation. The track circuit
- 5 was -- at that time I had no procedure for adjusting that type of
- 6 module. I was trying to do the best I could. It was bobbing a
- 7 lot and there was an issue -- it's on the record. I stayed late
- 8 for it. Some other people did. Lucas was there. So I'm not sure
- 9 how that issue was handled after I left. But at the time, yeah,
- 10 we did have some problems with that.
- 11 Like I said before, also on the opposite track we had a
- 12 issue, but that was equipment. You know, I had them check and I
- 13 told you that they found that there -- that these straps were cut
- 14 too close together and I had to move those apart and it resolved
- 15 the problem. There was no longer any problem.
- You know, during the course of work, they come up with
- 17 little problems here and there. But as far as us having a whole
- 18 lot of problems with bobbing track circuits while doing
- 19 adjustments or after we install bonds, no. We don't have a lot of
- 20 those issues, but issues do arise every now and then.
- 21 MR. GARLAND: Okay. That's -- I'm finished.
- MR. PAYAN: Okay. Dan?
- BY MR. HAUBER:
- Q. Okay. Good morning, again. I'm Dan Hauber from the
- 25 Tri-State Oversight Committee. Just a quick question about the

- 1 time line and the status of the track circuit. You had stated
- 2 that while you were adjusting the track circuit or attempting to
- 3 adjust the track circuit that it was bobbing?
- 4 A. Yeah.
- 5 O. And then at the same time you did have some instances
- 6 where you were able to see the trains that you were watching
- 7 moving across the model board and the relays drop out during that
- 8 process. Could you just talk a little bit about how long the
- 9 circuit would successfully stay picked or with what frequency it
- 10 was bobbing, you know, whether it was a couple of minutes or
- 11 longer or shorter?
- 12 A. It was -- because I did time it, but like I say, it was
- 13 a week -- it was more than a week ago. I want to say it was
- 14 bobbing at one point maybe every 30 seconds. At first it was
- 15 bobbing more frequent, maybe, I want to say, every 15, 20 seconds.
- 16 Then it started bobbing less and 312 started bobbing.
- 17 So that's how it started. 312 started bobbing with 304.
- 18 And I was like, we didn't touch 312, you know. And I noticed that
- 19 this happened as the train started to move through. That's why I
- 20 thought it might have been something that was a problem that
- 21 might -- maybe was there before we replaced these bonds -- this
- 22 bond, this particular bond. Yeah, that's it.
- Q. Okay. Thank you.
- A. Um-hum.
- MR. HAUBER: That's it for me, too. Thank you.

- 1 MR. PAYAN: Al?
- BY MR. NABB:
- 3 Q. Just a couple of questions. You mentioned that you
- 4 talked to MOC, I believe, on two separate occasions. First, they
- 5 called you, I guess, when 312 started bobbing and then,
- 6 subsequently, if I understand correctly, before you left, you
- 7 called -- you said she in MOC. Okay, you called MOC and
- 8 indicated, I guess, a need -- you felt a need to send another work
- 9 crew to continue to examine the problem.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Is that correct?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Okay. And then you said you did not hear anything about
- 14 it again?
- 15 A. Right.
- 16 O. Right? Is that correct?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. After that night, did you do any other work out
- 19 of that train control room, install any other bonds or anything,
- 20 between the night of the accident and -- or between the 17th when
- 21 you installed that bond and the night of the accident, were you
- 22 back in that room for any reason?
- 23 A. Me, no.
- Q. No. Okay. So you never went back? Okay.
- 25 A. I did loops. Yeah, I was on the loop project for the

- 1 last two days of that pick.
- Q. Okay. Okay. Let's see, the other thing is you then --
- 3 if you felt another crew needed to work it, then that was MOC's
- 4 responsibility to ensure that was done, is that correct?
- 5 A. Well, let me clarify what you said about the -- when the
- 6 track circuit -- when they first initially called me. When MOC
- 7 called me, they didn't specifically -- I don't remember them -- I
- 8 don't want to misquote what she said. I don't initially remember
- 9 her saying 312.
- 10 Q. Okay.
- 11 A. Okay. But I knew that 304 was bobbing.
- 12 Q. Okay.
- 13 A. So, you know, to me, you know, I get a call, hey, track
- 14 circuit -- yeah, I know, track circuit bobbing; I'm on it. You
- 15 know what I'm saying? I don't recall the exact circuit that she
- 16 said when she called me the first time.
- 17 Q. Okay. So --
- 18 A. As far as the question you just asked me, yeah, I did
- 19 feel like it was -- you mean did I call anybody else to work on
- 20 it, is that what you're trying to ask me, that morning? Like,
- 21 should I have -- do you think that I should have called somebody
- 22 else to work on it or --
- Q. No. Okay. Did you open a work order on the problem?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. No, you did not?

- 1 A. Because usually when MOC calls you about a problem,
- 2 they --
- 3 Q. They open --
- 4 A. -- open the work order.
- Q. Okay.
- 6 A. Yeah.
- 7 Q. Okay. You mentioned here right at the end of your --
- 8 previous about adjusting a -- having no procedures for adjusting a
- 9 split circuit. Could you define what you meant by a split
- 10 circuit?
- 11 A. What I meant was split between a US&S module and a GRS
- 12 module, which are two different -- like I said earlier, they're
- 13 adjusted differently. At that time I did not know. I was
- 14 referring to a whole different circuit, of course. At that time,
- 15 I did not know how to adjust the AF800W.
- So, for me to have a receiver that is totally different
- 17 from the one that -- you know, I was not even told that day that
- 18 it was AF800W module that I had to adjust. I thought it was going
- 19 to be a GRS. I was prepared for that. I was not prepared for the
- 20 AF800W adjustment of that receiver at all. And I did inform my
- 21 supervisor of that. I used those specific words, I was not
- 22 prepared for this; you did not tell me that these were AF800W
- 23 modules, you know, and so forth. But that's what I mean by that.
- Q. Okay. So what you're saying is, on the transmit end you
- 25 had a GRS module; on the receive end was the new US&S AF800

- 1 module, is that what you're --
- 2 A. Um-hum.
- 3 Q. I just wanted -- that's all I had.
- 4 A. Yeah.
- 5 MR. PAYAN: Okay. Mr. McElveen?
- 6 MR. McELVEEN: Yes.
- 7 BY MR. McELVEEN:
- 8 Q. Good morning. Levern McElveen. Ms. Dowling, you said
- 9 when you all went out to start the project you were delayed.
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. Do you recall how long the delay was?
- 12 A. An hour.
- Q. An hour delay? What was the time of the general order,
- 14 like midnight?
- 15 A. I'm confused. What general --
- 16 Q. Did you have a -- do you have a general order that gives
- 17 you access to the track? I'm not sure what your process is of
- 18 getting --
- 19 A. Oh, okay. You mean the time we're supposed to --
- 20 Q. Yeah, what time were you officially -- had access to
- 21 that track?
- 22 A. You mean the time that they gave us permission to go
- 23 onto the track?
- Q. Right. Okay. I guess what I'm asking is, you probably
- 25 have a scheduled time or there would be a scheduled time for the

- 1 work -- and maybe anyone can help me out. If there is not a
- 2 scheduled time through a general order or some pre-order process
- 3 for the track -- and I'm just trying to find out the difference in
- 4 the time that was and the time you started, because you said there
- 5 was a delay.
- 6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You have a general order -- he's
- 7 saying the time that it is scheduled, but you had to wait until
- 8 OCC gives you the track.
- 9 MS. DOWLING: Right. They --
- 10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They have to let you on and that
- 11 depends on how busy they are or whatever.
- MS. DOWLING: Right.
- 13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But the time is from your work
- 14 time to the end, when you have to give back all the red tags and
- 15 everything at 4:00, is what he's asking.
- 16 MS. DOWLING: Okay. So he wants to know what time was
- 17 it on the general orders that we're supposed to go out?
- 18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What time you started.
- 19 BY MR. McELVEEN:
- 20 Q. Well, just give me the time you started. You said you
- 21 were --
- 22 A. Oh, the time we started.
- 23 Q. -- about a hour late getting started.
- A. Well, I got to them at 1 -- I think about 1:45. So
- 25 that's around the time that they went on to start setting up their

- 1 work area.
- Q. Okay. So about an hour late.
- 3 At one point you spoke of a Mr. Victor Grubb. What is
- 4 his title?
- 5 A. I think he's an A. I could be wrong. I think he's an A
- 6 mechanic.
- 7 O. Okay. Let me just get an understanding. If one crew
- 8 goes out and start a job and another crew comes in and finish the
- 9 job, do you ever hear any more in terms of the completion of that
- 10 particular job, or you just move on the next night to another
- 11 assignment and you never hear about the final completion of that
- 12 particular project that you may -- your crew started?
- 13 A. If we can't finish the job that night, we wouldn't leave
- 14 it. I'm a little unsure what you mean.
- 15 Q. Okay. If I'm understanding you correct, you said your
- 16 time -- your crew time was running out.
- 17 A. Okay.
- 18 O. And you called MOC or you called someone and --
- 19 A. Okay. I see what you mean.
- 20 Q. I'm believing that another crew would come in and then
- 21 whenever they got access to the track, they would continue working
- 22 on the problem.
- 23 A. Right.
- Q. That particular night, this particular problem was not
- 25 resolved by your crew.

- 1 A. Right. Okay.
- Q. Okay. So did another crew continue that work or that
- 3 work was -- remained until you came back on the next night?
- 4 A. No, another crew should be continuing that work.
- Q. Okay. And so my question is, if you never get back to
- 6 that particular circuit that you were working on, assuming that
- 7 the next crew completed the task, do you ever hear any more about
- 8 that or you just move on to another task?
- 9 A. That's --
- 10 Q. Pretty much the end of it?
- 11 A. Sometimes if there is an ongoing problem for a while, I
- 12 might hear about it.
- 13 O. Okay.
- 14 A. Sometimes not.
- 15 Q. Okay.
- MR. Mcelveen: That's it. That's it, Ruben.
- 17 MR. PAYAN: Okay. Thank you. Mark?
- 18 BY MR. JONES:
- 19 Q. Just a question or two. Mark Jones. Do you ever get
- 20 involved with regular periodic tests of track circuits, your crew,
- 21 or are you just mainly involved in the installation?
- 22 A. That crew, installation.
- Q. Installation only?
- A. Yeah, we don't do any regular PMIs. We do all renewal
- 25 stuff. EMIs are given out.

- Q. Okay. So are you familiar or have you heard of any, you
- 2 know, issues with periodic testing as far as, you know, any
- 3 problems while they do the periodic, the regular periodic -- the
- 4 regular PMIs?
- 5 A. You mean do we ever have problems when we're doing
- 6 regular PMIs?
- 7 O. Yeah.
- 8 A. I don't know how to answer that question because I don't
- 9 maintain that line.
- 10 Q. Okay. That's fine.
- 11 A. Okay.
- 12 Q. Thank you.
- MR. PAYAN: That's it? All right.
- 14 BY MR. PAYAN:
- 15 Q. Let me try and just do some follow ups here. It kind of
- 16 raised some question in my head. When you were talking about the
- 17 MOC, you were working on the 304 circuit, correct?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 O. And 312 started bobbing?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. And then MOC called you about that?
- 22 A. They called me before I knew that 312 was bobbing.
- Q. Oh, they're the ones that told you it was bobbing or --
- 24 A. I knew it was bobbing because I was in the room. But
- 25 they called. You know, that's part of their job. You know, they

- 1 see the revenue starting and there's a track circuit bobbing.
- Q. Okay.
- A. Hey, Jo, you know, you got a problem there, you know.
- 4 Yup, I'm on it, you know, looking at it.
- Q. Okay.
- 6 A. You know, that's --
- 7 Q. Did you do any adjustments on the 312?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Okay. And when MOC called you -- I guess, that's where
- 10 I'm confused. Was there an incident report open or -- I don't
- 11 know what you call it, a ticket open?
- 12 A. You know what, I don't know. I don't know. Because
- 13 usually I would take a ticket number down if there's one open. If
- 14 I -- like if I report in for a problem -- if I was on the main
- 15 line at that time and they called me and said, hey, Jo, 312 is
- 16 bobbing, I would go in and as I'm working on it, I would write a
- 17 ticket number down that they would give me for that problem. I am
- 18 unsure if there was ticket number opened for that.
- 19 Q. Okay. Is that because they called you instead of you
- 20 calling them for it?
- 21 A. No, that's just because I was in there to install bonds
- 22 and the problem -- you know, for me, the problem was there from --
- 23 before we finished, you know, before we cut out for the day. So I
- 24 didn't -- I wasn't involved in the opening of the ticket. You
- 25 know, I wasn't there, and then I said, okay, I need you to open a

- 1 ticket for this -- you know, when I called and informed her of the
- 2 problem, I just assumed that she would open a ticket --
- Q. Okay.
- 4 A. -- for the next crew, for the main line crew to come and
- 5 work on it, like that.
- 6 Q. So when you left and you assumed there was a crew coming
- 7 in behind you, was it going to be for 304 or 312?
- 8 A. It should have been for both.
- 9 Q. For both?
- 10 A. Uh-huh.
- 11 Q. The MOC knew 304 was also bobbing?
- 12 A. They should have. I said it.
- 13 Q. You said it. Okay.
- 14 A. I said it.
- 15 Q. So when you talked to them, you talked about both?
- 16 A. Yeah, I said 304 --
- 17 Q. 304 and 312?
- 18 A. -- and 312 are bobbing.
- 19 Q. Okay. But as far as you know, you didn't get a ticket
- 20 number or you weren't told --
- 21 A. I did not write down a ticket number.
- 22 Q. Okay. When there is a ticket number issued, say you do
- 23 call it in and -- you say you're given a ticket number?
- 24 A. Yeah. There should be a work order opened.
- Q. Okay. And then how does it get closed out?

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- 1 A. Through the process of -- okay, usually when I -- when
- 2 you -- if you get called for a problem, MOC has opened up a work
- 3 order for it. They have the number. It's up to the technician
- 4 most of the time to get it from them, or sometimes they will
- 5 volunteer the ticket number. But it's there. You go, you work on
- 6 it. You update the Maximo about whatever you've done on that
- 7 ticket. As you -- if you finish work on it, you finish -- you
- 8 mark it finished; if not, you mark it in progress. And if it's --
- 9 and if you finish work on it, the supervisors -- or the supervisor
- 10 supposed to be following up with the work order. They're supposed
- 11 to be checking and seeing if they're done, if they're still
- 12 working on it, what's going on with it, are materials needed. And
- 13 they close them out once you mark them finished or however, you
- 14 know, as they see fit, they close them out. And then I think the
- 15 regional manager comes behind them and -- well, they can -- the
- 16 supervisor completes them, marks them complete, and the regional
- 17 manager comes behind and closes them. So I guess they're supposed
- 18 to be looking at each one as they get closed and closing them
- 19 and -- I don't know, if the regional managers -- well, you know --
- 20 Q. Sure.
- 21 A. -- that's what I think goes on.
- 22 Q. Okay.
- A. And closes it completely.
- Q. Okay. So but the person working on them gets to
- 25 indicate that it's closed or in progress?

- 1 A. Yeah, indicates that they finished work or not.
- 2 Q. Okay.
- 3 A. Not that it's closed.
- Q. Okay. But you weren't given a ticket number on this,
- 5 so --
- 6 A. No, I wasn't.
- 7 O. Okay.
- 8 A. No.
- 9 MR. PAYAN: I think that's all I have. I'll go around
- 10 one more time.
- 11 MR. HEILMANN: I have one --
- MR. PAYAN: Harry?
- 13 MR. HEILMANN: -- follow-up question listening to the
- 14 all the discussion and the follow-up questions that I heard.
- 15 BY MR. HEILMANN:
- 16 O. You mentioned datasheets and you mentioned that you do
- 17 three verifications. Is there a way that you document that you do
- 18 three verification shunts?
- 19 A. Yeah. I know you probably know on a regular GRS PMI
- 20 sheets there are two places to check whether you did shunts, and
- 21 it's a transmit and receive. I check both boxes on that sheet
- 22 that stays in the room. You know that. And there's another sheet
- 23 that we take with us to give to Lucas. There's a spot that has
- 24 three check -- I think, three checkmarks on that sheet. I think
- 25 there are three checkmarks on that sheet. I might be getting it

- 1 confused with the US&S adjustment sheet where there is -- there
- 2 are three checkmarks. But I think it's on there. I can't -- I'm
- 3 kind of messed up, because I do loops and bonds and sometimes I
- 4 get the -- but right now coming off the top of my head, I'm trying
- 5 to remember if there's a checkmark on that. I think there may be
- 6 at least two -- I know there are at least two on that sheet. I'm
- 7 getting kind of confused right now if there's three on that actual
- 8 sheet that I gave Lucas that night.
- 9 Q. All right.
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 MR. GARLAND: I have one follow-up on reporting -- your
- 12 job description -- I mean, sorry, your job --
- MS. DOWLING: There's two --
- MR. GARLAND: Oh, I'm sorry.
- MS. DOWLING: I'm sorry.
- MR. GARLAND: Go ahead.
- 17 MS. DOWLING: There are two. There's two on that sheet
- 18 I gave Lucas.
- MR. HEILMANN: Oh, okay.
- 20 MS. DOWLING: There's three on that US&S adjustment
- 21 sheet.
- MR. HEILMANN: Okay. So --
- MS. DOWLING: Okay. Go ahead.
- 24 BY MR. HEILMANN:
- 25 Q. So then --

- 1 A. Oh, go ahead.
- Q. -- a follow up for that. Then you're saying you do
- 3 three shunts but you check two places for that?
- 4 A. Um-hum.
- Q. Okay.
- 6 A. I do. I don't know about anybody else.
- 7 BY MR. GARLAND:
- 8 Q. One on finishing your job detail. Let's say you're
- 9 ending your shift and, let's say, if the job assignment that
- 10 you're doing, it's -- there are some failures on the circuits or
- 11 whatever and that's a continuation for the next shift, do you go
- 12 back and put in information to Maximo or does MOC do that or do
- 13 you report to the supervisor? How does it work if you're getting
- 14 off of your shift, you go back to your location and adjust
- 15 whatever information in Maximo?
- 16 A. Well, if a ticket was open -- okay, my normal behavior
- 17 would be if I got a ticket number for it and I started work on it,
- 18 that I would put information into Maximo.
- 19 O. You would put the information in?
- 20 A. Uh-huh.
- 21 Q. But you would report -- would you also report to the
- 22 supervisor and -- you would do the process of supervisor, MOC and
- 23 the Maximo, all three of them, or would you leave out one of
- 24 those?
- 25 A. I'm confused.

- Q. When you report it, you still report before you leave
- 2 the assignment to MOC, am I correct?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Okay. And then after that, do you report to a
- 5 supervisor?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Okay. And then after that --
- 8 A. I mean, if I had a problem.
- 9 Q. Right.
- 10 A. If I had -- I let MOC know that I had a problem.
- 11 Q. And then you would go to Maximo and put whatever
- 12 notations and whatever in the Maximo system?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you give advice as to what to be done for the next
- 15 shift that goes out or anything? Do you give any notes or --
- 16 A. You can. You can do that in Maximo. Most of the time,
- 17 though, most people just -- they pass it down through the logbook
- 18 or through the supervisor what needs to be done next or maybe some
- 19 troubleshooting hints. Most of the time, Maximo is generally used
- 20 to notate a failure, what was done to correct it, you know,
- 21 specific --
- Q. Right. But if you had a failure that evening, it would
- 23 note that there was a failure before you left that job site?
- 24 A. When MOC opens a ticket for that failure -- because,
- 25 see, that failure -- when that failure happen, you know, I'm

- 1 getting off shift. I'm recommending that somebody come and work
- 2 on it.
- 3 Q. Right.
- 4 A. At that point a ticket probably should have been opened
- 5 for this bobbing track circuit for the next shift. And they
- 6 should have started out with, okay, we're coming in and we're
- 7 troubleshooting the bobbing track circuit that's a problem. If
- 8 they found the cause, note the cause and note what they did to
- 9 correct it in the Maximo.
- 10 Q. Is there an approved procedure policy from engineering
- 11 on how to install the bonds, the new bonds with the module -- with
- 12 the old modules or do they explain to you what adjustments would
- 13 have to be done if you're making those bond changes with the old
- 14 modules?
- 15 A. If there is one, I have never seen it.
- 16 Q. Thanks.
- 17 MR. PAYAN: Is that it?
- 18 MR. GARLAND: That's it.
- 19 MR. PAYAN: Dan?
- 20 MR. HAUBER: I don't think we have anything else at the
- 21 time. Thank you.
- MR. PAYAN: Mr. Nabb?
- BY MR. NABB:
- Q. Just one follow-up question. You mentioned the logbook.
- 25 A. Okay.

- Q. When you left that morning after installing that bond,
- 2 did you leave an annotation in the logbook to the conditions it
- 3 was in, the bobbing you referred to here?
- 4 A. Yes, sir, I did.
- 5 O. Okay. That's the only question I had.
- 6 MR. PAYAN: Okay. Thank you.
- 7 MR. McELVEEN: None from FTA.
- 8 MR. PAYAN: None? Mark? None? All right.
- 9 BY MR. PAYAN:
- 10 Q. Well, thank you for your patience here. I got some just
- 11 boilerplate questions to kind of wrap it up. How long have you
- 12 been employed with WMATA?
- 13 A. I've been an employee for -- what is it, June? So about
- 14 nine years, eight months.
- 15 Q. Nine years. Okay. And just briefly can you kind of
- 16 give us the progression? When you got hired, what did you get
- 17 hired as, and the different positions you've held and
- 18 approximately what years you were in the position?
- 19 A. Okay. I was hired as a helper mechanic about -- I want
- 20 to say I spent about three years as a helper working various
- 21 shifts, and I moved up to C. Stayed a C a couple more years.
- 22 Maybe I stayed a C for about four years. I moved up to B and I --
- 23 after I moved up to B, about six months later I took the test to
- 24 be an A. And six months after that, I took the test to be a AA.
- 25 I think, I want to say, I've been a AA for about three years.

- 1 Does that add up? I think it does add up, doesn't it to --
- 2 O. Yes.
- 3 A. Yeah, um-hum.
- Q. Do you work on one particular territory or is the whole
- 5 WMATA system?
- 6 A. The whole system.
- 7 Q. The whole system?
- 8 A. I generally though like to -- I generally stay around
- 9 the Maryland side.
- 10 Q. Okay. And what are your hours of duty?
- 11 A. It could be -- well, you mean the normal hours of duty?
- 12 Q. Normal hours of duty.
- 13 A. Right now, my shift?
- 14 Q. Yes.
- 15 A. It's from 2230 to 0630.
- 16 Q. Okay. Do they change?
- 17 A. If I have overtime, it changes. If I change shifts?
- 18 O. Um-hum.
- 19 A. They have a 630 to 1430 shift, and a 1430 to 1030 shift.
- 20 Right now, like I said, I'm working the 2230 to 0630 shift.
- Q. How long have you been on that shift?
- 22 A. Since last December, I've been working 2230 to 0630.
- Q. Okay. I think that's all I have. You kind of heard
- 24 what we were asking and everything. Is there anything that you
- 25 want to add or that you think might help us in our investigation?

- 1 A. I can't think of anything right now.
- Q. I don't have any more questions.
- 3 MR. PAYAN: Does anybody have any?
- 4 BY MR. PAYAN:
- 5 Q. All right. Well, on behalf of NTSB, I'd like to thank
- 6 you. I know you're on midnight shift, so --
- 7 A. Yeah.
- 8 Q. -- so I double thank you for coming in. And I'll give
- 9 you my card.
- 10 A. Okay.
- 11 Q. And when you think of anything else that you might want
- 12 to pass on, give me a call anytime. And I appreciate you coming
- 13 in.
- 14 A. Thank you.
- 15 Q. Thank you.
- 16 MR. PAYAN: It is 11:11. We're finished.
- 17 COURT REPORTER: Off the record.
- 18 MR. PAYAN: Off the record.
- 19 (Whereupon, at 11:11 a.m., the interview in the above-
- 20 entitled matter was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: Collision of Two Washington

Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Trains on the Red Line Near Takoma Park, Maryland

June 22, 2009

Interview of Jonita Dowling

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA-09-MR-007

PLACE: Washington, D.C.

DATE: June 27, 2009

was held according to the record, and that this is the original, complete, true and accurate transcript which has been compared to the recording accomplished at the hearing.

Kay Maurer Transcriber