



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594
Office of Marine Safety

Interview Summary – DCA19FM032

Meeting with: CarlosMendoza, Union Pacific Bridge Manager; Brian Harris, Union Pacific
0700-1500 Bridge tender

Date/time: April 30, 2019 12:00 CDT

Location: Krotz Springs Railroad Bridge

Interviewed by: Marcel Muise, NTSB; LT [REDACTED]

In attendance: N/A

Case: Allision of the tow from TV *Edna T. Gattle* with the Krotz Springs Railroad Bridge

- The locking mechanism below the tracks on the west end of the turning span was damaged, preventing it from closing.
- The bridge is opened by an electric motor in the bridge tender's house, through reduction gears to a pinion in the pedestral below the track. Two smaller gears, east and west, turn the pedestal. Bolts holding the west of these two smaller gears were sheared off and the eastern one was displaced. The whole mechanism was displaced 3" each way.
- Temporary repairs were affected by Saturday, allowing train traffic to cross with a 10mph speed restriction.
- As of Tuesday, April 30, railroad personnel were waiting on parts for the locking mechanism.
- All lights and electro mechanical equipment were functioning before the accident.
- Bridge tenders do not check the air gap and are not allowed to tell approaching vessels what it may be.
- Bridge tenders monitor VHF Ch. 13 and carry a portable VHF when out of the house. Union Pacific's frequencies are recorded.
- Union Pacific was installing fendering on either side of the west opening. The west fender on the south side of the bridge was under construction before this season's high water forced a temporary suspension.
- Closing the bridge to rail traffic forced trains north, through Alexandria, where locomotives would have to swap ends of the train
- This is part of Union Pacific's DeQuincy Subdivision. The sub has PTC and the bridge tender can monitor it from the house.
- There are no cameras yet.
- Passenger trains do not use this line.
- Bridge openings are authorized by a dispatcher in Texas.