Transcript of the Testimony of **Stipe Mrgudic**

Date taken: July 19, 2021

Crescent Towing & Salvage Co., Inc., et al v. M/V Jalma Topic, et al

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

CRESCENT TOWING & SALVAGE CO., INC. and COOPER/T.SMITH MOORING CO., INC.

CIVIL ACTION

NO. 2:21-cv-01331

VERSUS

JUDGE: MORGAN

M/V JALMA TOPIC, her engines, MAGISTRATE JUDGE tackle, equipment, furniture PHILLIPS CURRAULT appurtenances, etc., in rem

Deposition of Stipe Mrgudic,

taken in the offices of Buck Kreihs Marine Repair, Mississippi River facility, 3101 Patterson Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana 70114, on Monday, the 19th day of July, 2021.

APPEARANCES:

SALLEY, HITE MERCER & RESOR, LLC (By: David M. Flotte, Esq.) (Kevin Frey, Esq.) 365 Canal Street, Suite 1710 New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

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1	APPEARANCES (Continued):		
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7			
8			
9			
10	REPORTED BY:		
	BARBARA A. BURGER		
11	CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER		
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15	(Bates JALMA TOPIC000012-13)
16	Exhibit No. 6
17	(Document entitled For Possible Presentation to
18	the United States Coast Guard - Bates JALMA
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8	Exhibit No. 11	55		
9	(Rules and Regulations for the Classification	n of		
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14	(Photograph of solenoid valve)			
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16	(Diagram of ship - Bates JALMA TOPIC000032)			
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18	(U.S. Coast Guard Rules and Regulations date	ed		
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20	11-July-2021)			
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1	STIPULATION
2	
3	It is stipulated and agreed by and
4	between counsel for the parties hereto that the
5	deposition of the aforementioned witness is
6	hereby being taken for all purposes allowed
7	under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, in
8	accordance with law, pursuant to notice;
9	That the formalities of reading,
10	signing, sealing, certification and filing are
11	specifically waived;
12	That all objections, save those as to
13	the form of the question and the responsiveness
14	of the answer, are hereby reserved until such
15	time as this deposition, or any part thereof,
16	may be used or sought to be used in evidence.
17	* * * * *
18	BARBARA A. BURGER, Certified Court
19	Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana,
20	officiated in administering the oath to the
21	witness.
22	
23	
24	
25	

	Page 7
1	Stipe Mrgudic,
2	having been first duly sworn by the
3	above-mentioned court reporter, did testify as
4	follows:
5	- EXAMINATION -
6	BY MR. FLOTTE:
7	Q. For the record, I'll mark as Exhibit
8	1 a copy of the Notice. And let me mark as
9	Exhibit 2 the IMO crew list that's previously
10	been produced. Are you No. 11?
11	A. Yes, I am.
12	Q. Can you state your full name and
13	address for the record, please?
14	A. Stipe Mrgudic,
15	•
16	Q. And you've written that down for the
17	court reporter in case
18	A. Yes.
19	Q. Very good. Are you the chief
20	engineer aboard the JALMA TOPIC?
21	A. Yes, I am.
22	Q. How long have you been assigned to
23	the JALMA TOPIC?
24	A. Four months and ten days.
25	Q. Where was the ship when you came
1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

		Page 8
1	aboard, if y	ou remember?
2	А. Т	urkey dry dock. Tuzla, town of
3	Tuzla.	
4	Q. T	urkey dry dock in
5	А. Т	uzla.
6	Q. T	uzla?
7	А. У	es.
8	Q. C	an you spell that?
9	А. Т	-U-Z-A (sic).
10	Q. T	uza. Got it. Was that dry dock due
11	to an annual	inspection or was there some issue?
12	A. R	egular.
13	Q. R	egular?
14	А. У	eah, regular dry dock.
15	Q. A	nd "annual" is probably a bad word.
16	Do you know	how frequently the ship plans on
17	going to dry	dock?
18	Α. Ι	t's usually three to five years.
19	Q. T	hree to five years. And so about
20	four months	ago the ship was in dry dock?
21	А. У	es.
22	Q. V	ery good. Were you present in the
23	position as	chief engineer when you came aboard?
24	А. У	es.
25	Q. A	nd were you present when the work

	Page 9
1	that was done in the dry dock was undertaken?
2	A. I came on the half of dry dock.
3	Q. Half?
4	A. In the middle of it, yes.
5	Q. Before you joined the ship in dry
6	dock about four months ago, had you ever worked
7	aboard the ship before?
8	A. On JALMA TOPIC?
9	Q. The JALMA TOPIC.
10	A. No, I did not.
11	Q. Who did you sign on articles? How
12	does it work? Do you have an employer?
13	A. Yes, I do.
14	Q. Who is your employer?
15	A. Marfin Management.
16	Q. Can you spell let me see, it's on
17	the particulars?
18	A. It should be. I think it is.
19	Q. I'll show you a document I'll mark as
20	Exhibit 3. And Marfin Management is listed as
21	the operator near the bottom?
22	A. Yes, you can see "operators."
23	Q. Very good. And this ship sails under
24	Lloyd's Classification Society?
25	A. Yes, it does.

	Page 10
1	Q. Have you worked for other ships while
2	working for Marfin Management?
3	A. Yes, I do.
4	Q. How long have you worked for ships
5	under Marfin Management?
6	A. Two times actually I've been here.
7	So first from, I believe, 2006 to 2011. Then I
8	went to offshore and then I came back on Marfin,
9	that's 2016, until now.
10	Q. 2016 until now. Okay. When you said
11	you were here, where did you mean? You were
12	here
13	A. With the company.
14	Q. With the company, okay.
15	A. The first time. Then I went to
16	offshore to another company, then I come back
17	again.
18	Q. Okay. Where is Marfin Management
19	based?
20	A. In Monaco, Monte Carlo.
21	Q. Monaco?
22	A. Yes.
23	Q. Monte Carlo?
24	A. Yes.
25	Q. What certificates do you hold?

- 1 A. I'm holding chief engineer
- 2 certificate for the propulsion of three thousand
- 3 kilowatts and more.
- 4 Q. How long have you held that
- 5 certificate? Or what year did you get that
- 6 certificate?
- 7 A. Maybe four years ago.
- 8 Q. About four years ago?
- 9 A. About.
- 10 O. So insofar as when the JALMA TOPIC
- 11 was in dry dock four months ago, can you recall
- 12 what was done relative to the steering systems
- 13 and its component parts?
- 14 A. I cannot. I'm sorry.
- 15 O. And that's fine. You shouldn't
- 16 guess, and we didn't go over this completely --
- 17 A. No, it's okay.
- 18 Q. Yeah, and it's okay. There's other
- 19 ways for us to find out things and it's
- 20 important that you tell us any time you don't
- 21 know the answer to the question. Okay?
- 22 A. Okay.
- 23 Q. Yes. Very good. So has the steering
- 24 system arrangement been the same aboard the
- 25 JALMA TOPIC from the time you joined the ship

	Page 12
1	about four months ago until the present?
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. What are the component parts of the
4	steering system?
5	A. Component parts?
6	Q. Yeah. In other words, I understand
7	that there are there's a single rudder,
8	correct?
9	A. Yes. Single rudder.
10	Q. There's two steering pumps?
11	A. Two steering pumps with associated
12	hydraulic equipment
13	Q. There's hydraulic
14	A solenoid valves, tank, cylinders.
15	Q. Okay.
16	A. There is a tiller, rudder shaft,
17	linkages and that is this heavy parts. And then
18	there is electrical parts.
19	Q. Okay.
20	A. Electrical parts which consist of the
21	parts for control stand of the bridge.
22	(Whereupon, the court reporter asks
23	the witness to clarify).
24	BY MR. FLOTTE:
25	Q. Go real slowly. There are electrical

	Page 13
1 .	parts?
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. And can you clarify?
4	A. Yes, I can. So two electrical motors
5	of the pumps.
6	Q. Two electrical motors of the pumps.
7	A. Of course, coils on solenoid valves.
8	Q. There's coils on solenoid valves.
9	A. Yes. There is Servo print board.
10	Q. The Servo
11	A. It's part of the autopilot. It's
12	part of the autopilot.
13	Q. Servo is part of the autopilot?
14	A. Yes. Autopilot board, electrical
15	board.
16	MR. HAROWSKI:
17	Chief, we're repeating back some
18	of the things you said just to make
19	sure she understands it correctly.
20	THE WITNESS:
21	Okay. That is no problem.
22	BY MR. FLOTTE:
23	Q. And you're doing fine. Just go a
24	little slower so we can repeat it.
25	A. On the bridge it's called control

- 1 stand where the helm is.
- 2 Q. There's a control stand on the bridge
- 3 at the helm.
- 4 A. And that is most of it. And
- 5 transmitter on the steering gear. Transmitter.
- 6 Q. Transmitter on the steering gear?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Okay. Let's talk about the
- 9 transmitter on the steering gear first and we're
- 10 going to cover a few things. When you say
- 11 there's a transmitter on the steering gear, does
- 12 that allow someone to steer without touching the
- 13 wheel?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 O. There's a transmitter from the helm
- 16 from the wheel to --
- 17 A. Transmitter is used for like a
- 18 feedback.
- 19 O. Feedback.
- 20 A. It's a feedback.
- 21 Q. And what does it transmit? What type
- 22 of signal?
- 23 A. It's electrical signal.
- Q. So in other words, if you are going
- 25 to go from amidships to starboard 10, it would

	Page 15
1	send that signal when the wheels moved?
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. And that is what it transmits?
4	A. Yes.
5	Q. Does it transmit
6	A. It feeds back originally when you
7	put when you put the wheel, I don't know.
8	For example, 10 starboard, when it comes to 10
9	starboard, it will transmit and send back to the
10	control stand that the wheel is on 10 starboard.
11	Q. So it gives feedback as to when
12	A. Yes, rudder deflection feedback,
13	let's say.
14	Q. Rudder deflection feedback.
15	A. Yes.
16	Q. So we're going to take a few baby
17	steps to go through this to make sure it's all
18	clear.
19	A. Okay.
20	Q. So is the feedback function that you
21	used when let me back up. What is follow-up
22	steering?
23	A. What is follow-up steering?
24	Q. Uh-huh.
25	A. It's remote steering from the bridge.

- 1 Q. Okay. And so if you put -- if the
- 2 helmsman goes from rudder amidships to starboard
- 3 10, on follow-up steering does the transmitter
- 4 provide a signal to tell the rudder to stop
- 5 moving once it achieves the starboard 10?
- 6 A. Yes, it is.
- 7 Q. And that's the type of follow-up that
- 8 you're talking about?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And is the steering system equipped
- 11 also with non-follow-up steering?
- 12 A. Yes, it is.
- 13 Q. And in non-follow-up steering, is
- 14 there a joy stick or a toggle on the control?
- 15 A. It's a toggle.
- 16 Q. Toggle, okay. So when the toggle
- 17 goes to the right, is it true that the rudder
- 18 will start turning to starboard and it will keep
- 19 turning to starboard until --
- 20 A. Until you put it in "off" position,
- 21 that toggle.
- 22 Q. Until it goes back to the middle
- 23 position and turns off, right?
- A. Actually you are controlling the
- 25 non-follow-up. You are controlling -- you just

Page 17 1 turn it on non-follow-up mode and you've got 2 this toggle. When you put it on, let's say, 3 starboard side, it will go to the starboard 4 until you put that toggle back on zero. 5 Okay. Or until it hits whatever the Q. 6 stopping --7 Α. Hard over. 8 Stopping point --Ο. 9 Do hard over, yes. Α. Hard over. So am I correct in 10 Ο. 11 understanding that you have something on the 12 console that allows those on the bridge to select whether you want to operate under 13 follow-up or non-follow-up, correct? 14 15 Α. Yes. Exactly. It's on the bridge. Is there a similar arrangement in the 16 Ο. 17 engine room? 18 No. We cannot choose that from Α. engine room. 19 20 It wouldn't be very -- a good idea to 21 use non-follow-up --22 You cannot see where --Α. 23 Q. Okay. So there are two steering 24 pumps, correct?

Α.

Yes.

Two.

25

- 1 Q. And does each -- during the time
- 2 that -- let me back up a little bit. Does each
- 3 steering pump circulate hydraulic fluid through
- 4 the system so that when valves are open, the
- 5 rams can control the rudder?
- 6 A. No. This is independent system. One
- 7 pump by the time. Only one pump can running.
- 8 Q. You only use one pump at a time?
- 9 A. Yes. It's design of the system.
- 10 Q. The design of the system is to use
- 11 one pump at a time?
- 12 A. Yes. Exactly.
- 13 Q. And during the four months that
- 14 you've been aboard the ship, has the practice
- been to use one of the two pumps primarily or do
- 16 you alternate? How does it work?
- 17 A. During navigation, during navigation
- 18 we are changing pumps on weekly level. Let's
- 19 say Sunday in the morning most of the cases.
- 20 And during maneuvering times we transferring
- 21 controls to pump No. 1 because pump No. 1 is
- 22 connected to emergency source of power.
- 23 Q. Connected to? Can you repeat that?
- 24 A. Emergency source of power on
- 25 emergency switchboard.

Page 19 1 MR. HAROWSKI: 2 Emergency source of power. 3 BY MR. FLOTTE: 4 Emergency, okay. 0. 5 Because if you lose power, emergency Α. generator will supply the power for this, for 6 the pump No. 1. 7 8 So correct me if I'm wrong, 0. Okay. 9 but if you are running on pump No. 2, will there 10 be an emergency generator that automatically 11 switches to pump No. 1? 12 Α. No. 13 Ο. But if you're on pump No. 1 and you 14 lose power, there will be an emergency generator 15 that switches to pump No. 2? No, no, no. It will supply power to 16 Α. 17 pump No. 1. 18 Supply power to pump No. 1? Ο. 19 Α. Yes. 20 0. I see. So the emergency generator is 21 tied into pump No. 1 only? 22 Α. Yes. 23 So on those weeks in which you are Q. 24 running on pump No. 2, the emergency generator 25 won't provide automatic power in the event of a

	Page 20
1	failure?
2	A. No, it won't. Only No. 1.
3	Q. Understood. So what is the voltage
4	that goes to the pumps?
5	A. To the electric motors.
6	Q. To the electric motors
7	A. 440 volts A.C.
8	Q. 40 volts A.C.
9	A. 440.
10	Q. 400 volts A.C.
11	A. 440.
12	Q. Sorry.
13	A. 4-4-0.
14	Q. 4-4-0?
15	A. Yes. Volts A.C.
16	Q. Volts A.C. to the pumps. All right.
17	And when the ship is in normal
18	operation in navigation, is there anything that
19	records any of the data associated with the
20	steering system?
21	A. No. Only if no power fail alarm
22	appears
23	Q. Okay.
24	A it will be in alarm log.
25	Q. Alarm lock?

	Page 21
1	A. Yes.
2	MR. HAROWSKI:
3	Log.
4	BY MR. FLOTTE:
5	Q. Log lock. Is that preserved on is
6	that part of the vessel data recorder or is it
7	an engine
8	A. It is in engine room on monitoring
9	system.
10	Q. Engine room monitoring system. And
11	is there electronic download where if you go
12	back and look and see what happened?
13	A. It's printed. It is also printing.
14	Q. It's printing?
15	A. It's printing on a paper and it's on
16	computer.
17	Q. On computer. Okay. Do you know
18	whether or not that whatever from the
19	accident that happened a week ago to today, do
20	you know whether or not that either paper or
21	electronic computer information has been
22	preserved?
23	A. Yes, they are.
24	Q. Okay.
25	A. Yeah, they are.

- 1 O. It's okay. I'm just trying to find
- 2 out. I'm just trying to catch up. Okay. No
- 3 worries.
- 4 So that record, whether it's
- 5 electronic or paper, is separate from the vessel
- 6 data recorder?
- 7 A. Yes, it is.
- 8 Q. Do you know what information is
- 9 preserved on the vessel data recorder that
- 10 pertains to steering?
- 11 A. I don't know up on the bridge what
- 12 they record.
- 13 Q. Do you know whether or not there is a
- 14 rudder indicator log on the vessel data recorder
- or on the engine?
- 16 A. No. I don't believe. I don't know.
- 17 I don't know if there's any --
- 18 Q. Fair enough. No problem.
- 19 A. -- rudder indicator log.
- 20 Q. Okay. No worries.
- 21 So the engine -- the main engines
- 22 were -- I'm sorry, the main engine is a
- 23 M.A.N. -- Mitsui M.A.N. B&W? That's what it
- 24 says on the particulars; is that correct?
- 25 A. Yes. Yes, it is. Main engine Mitsui

- 1 M.A.N.-B&W 6S50MC.
- 2 Q. All right. In the events, just to
- 3 kind of knock this out of the way, in the events
- 4 of last week when there was an accident, was
- 5 there any main engine power failure?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. The main engine responded
- 8 continuously, correct?
- 9 A. Main engine responded as we ordered
- 10 to. No disturbances at all.
- 11 Q. I understand there was an issue with
- 12 the steering and I'm going to -- I'd first like
- 13 to go through a little bit of what you know
- 14 personally from your own observations. So the
- 15 accident happened in the early morning hours of
- 16 a Monday, correct?
- 17 A. 12.
- 18 Q. The 12th?
- 19 A. Yes. I don't know.
- 20 Q. You prepared a statement, I believe.
- 21 I'm going to show you it will give us a game
- 22 plan. I'll jump into it to see where we can go.
- 23 I've marked as Exhibit 4, is that a statement
- 24 that you prepared following the incident?
- 25 A. Yes.

Page 24 1 Q. So we're going to go through a little 2 bit before we even get to it, but is the 3 handwriting on Exhibit 4 all your handwriting? 4 Yes, it is. Α. 5 So let's just go through it. Ο. Ιt says: "I started my watch at 00-00?" 6 7 Α. Midnight, yeah. Midnight, okay. And: "Well rested. 8 Ο. Since beginning of my watch engine room check up 9 round were performed by me and two others." 10 11 Α. Engine room staff. 12 Q. "Engine room staff. Oiler and third 13 engineer?" 14 Α. Yes. Can you identify on Exhibit 2 the 15 Ο. numbers of the oiler and engineer that did the 16 watch at that time just by their number? 17 18 Α. 13, #13 is third engineer, Mr. 19 Lipanovic, and the oiler is #15. 20 All right. Thank you. It savs: 21 "Always one person was in ECR." That's the 22 engine room, correct? 23 Α. Yes. 24 Q. "There were no" -- "there was no 25 any" -- I guess "not any disturbances with" --

- 1 A. Equipment.
- 2 Q. "Equipment until time of accident.
- 3 More specifically," and can you read the next
- 4 part?
- 5 A. "More specifically until I haven't
- 6 received call by captain who ordered manual stop
- 7 of main engine."
- 8 Q. So am I correct in understanding that
- 9 the first notification that you had that there
- 10 was some issue was when the captain ordered
- 11 manual stop of the main engine?
- 12 A. Correct.
- 13 Q. Did he do that by intercom?
- 14 A. Yes. By a phone which directly
- 15 connected bridge and engine control room.
- 16 Q. Okay. During the period of time from
- 17 midnight until the time when you received that
- 18 order from the captain, which pump were you --
- 19 was the ship running on?
- 20 A. Steering --
- 21 Q. Steering --
- 22 A. Steering pump No. 1.
- 23 Q. All right. And so I think I
- 24 understood this before, but if steering pump No.
- 25 1 is running, it should -- if there was a loss

- of power, the generators would -- emergency
- 2 generators would come on to give you power but
- 3 there was no loss of power?
- 4 A. There was no loss of power. We
- 5 proceed normal way.
- 6 Q. Okay. So when you received the order
- 7 for emergency stop of the main engine, what did
- 8 you do?
- 9 A. I stopped it.
- 10 Q. Is it a single button on the engine
- 11 room console?
- 12 A. It's a single button, yes.
- 13 Q. Did you notice what the rudder
- 14 position was at that time?
- 15 A. No, I didn't.
- 16 Q. Fair enough. I'll show you a
- 17 document I've marked as Exhibit 5 which is JALMA
- 18 TOPIC 12 and 13. These are some -- why don't
- 19 you tell me what those are. Is that a Bell
- 20 logger?
- 21 A. This is Bell logger and it's saying
- 22 on which mode of speed was main engine during
- 23 each time.
- 24 Q. Can you identify what the time was
- 25 from these -- first of all, is the Bell logger

Page 27 1 kept in Greenwich Mean Time or local time or 2 what time, or do you know? 3 This is local time. Α. Local time? Ο. 5 Α. Yes. So can you identify the stop that --6 Ο. 7 when you were called to stop and administer the 8 stop, that's something that should be on here, 9 correct? It should be. 10 Α. Yes. 11 Take your time. We can go off the 12 record if you need to and look at it. I just want you to mark with a pen where the stop --13 which stop -- circle the stop order that was 14 15 when you stopped the ship at whatever time it is you stopped. 16

- I don't know what this means. 17 Α. I
- don't know this short term. 18
- 19 If you don't know it's okay. Ο.
- 20 couldn't figure it out but it might be somebody
- 21 else can.
- 22 Α. I'm thinking but I'm not sure what
- 23 this is.
- 24 Q. And so you made a mark but you --
- 25 Α. Yes. STOP.

Page 28 1 Q. Let me just take a peak. Okay. 2 And so the mark you made is around 3 3:22 local time? 4 I think, yeah. Α. 5 Yeah, which seems about right. Q. So let's go back to your statement. 6 says -- has some discussion of after the accident? 8 9 Α. Yes. 10 Ο. Now, before we leave -- before we get 11 to that part, let me just ask you, was the ship 12 coming from an anchorage or was it coming from -- where was the ship the day before this 13 accident? 14 Day before? 15 Α. Yeah. 16 Ο. 17 We were on the sea. Α. 18 On the sea? Ο. 19 Sailing towards Southwest Pass. Α. 20 Did you drop anchors at all from the 0. 21 time that you came into Southwest Pass until the 22 time of the accident? 23 Α. No. 24 Q. You were able to come straight on in? 25 Α. Yes.

Page 29 1 Q. Okay. Sometimes ships are held up 2 and have to go to anchorage. That's all I'm 3 asking. 4 This is our fourth Α. Yes, I know. voyage here. 5 Your fourth voyage here? 6 0. Α. Yes. On some of the other voyages did you 8 9 have to drop anchor? Yes. Of course. Several times. 10 Α. 11 Ο. Several times, yeah, okay. So the 12 IMO crew list lists the last port of call as 13 Veracruz? 14 Α. Yes. 15 Q. Did the ship JALMA TOPIC sail empty without any cargo from Veracruz to the 16 Mississippi River? 17 18 Yes. Ballast only. Α. 19 Ballast? Ο. 20 Α. Ballast voyage. 21 You were in ballast; in other words, 22 you took on some water to adjust the wake but 23 there was no cargo? 24 No cargo on board. Α. 25 What was the last cargo that the ship Q.

- 1 carried?
- 2 A. There was few kinds of cargo. Yellow
- 3 corn, soybean, and wheat, some kind of wheat.
- Q. Did you -- and so at the time of the
- 5 accident, do you know where you were going?
- 6 A. Where are we going? Yes.
- 7 Q. Your destination. Were you going to
- 8 go to an anchorage to clean holds or were you
- 9 going to ADM Ama?
- 10 A. As I remember, we should go directly
- 11 on the loading position, on the berth.
- 12 Q. And I don't want you to guess at this
- one, were you on charter or off charter or do
- 14 you know? It might be one for the captain.
- 15 A. I think it's better, but we were on,
- 16 but I think it's better --
- 17 O. Yeah. No problem. And we don't want
- 18 you to guess. So were there any -- this is kind
- 19 of a broad question and you can tell me, let's
- 20 just talk about from Veracruz to the time you
- 21 received the stop engine order, were there any
- 22 mechanical problems with the ship?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. Was there any steering problem with
- 25 the ship between Veracruz and the Mississippi

Page 31 1 River? 2 Α. No. 3 Were there any hydraulic leaks from Ο. any of the steering system components? 4 5 Α. No. If there were hydraulic leaks, is 6 Ο. 7 that something you as chief engineer would be made aware of? 8 9 Α. Of course. Were there any electrical problems 10 Ο. 11 with the ship between Veracruz and the 12 Mississippi River? 13 Α. No. How about coming up the river, no 14 Ο. electrical problems? 15 16 Α. No. During the four months that you've 17 Q. 18 been -- four months and ten days that you've 19 been aboard, was any work done to your 20 recollection on any of the steering system 21 components, whether electrical or hydraulic or 22 mechanical? 23 Α. There was no either electrical or 24 hydraulic. Only jobs like greasing, checking 25 the oil level, checking the linkage, that is

Page 32 1 routine jobs. 2 Correct. That's normal maintenance? 0. 3 Α. Yes. 4 Normal operation? Ο. 5 Normal operation. Everyday check. Α. That's it. 6 7 Q. Okay. When let's just say do you recall seeing any warnings from the steering 8 9 system between Veracruz and the time you received the stop order? 10 11 Α. No. 12 Q. If, for example, the hydraulic fluid in one of the reservoirs is low, will a warning 13 14 flash in the engine room? Yes, it will. Low oil level on the 15 Α. designated tank that we are using. 16 But during the period of time from 17 Q. 18 Veracruz to the time of the stop engine order on 19 July 12th I think it is --20 Α. Yes, it is. 21 Q. -- you received no such warnings, 22 correct? 23 No such warnings. Α. 24 Q. If oil is added to any of the 25 reservoirs, is there any record typically made

- of that if it's just a little bit? Or how does
- 2 that work?
- 3 A. No, we are not making any records if
- 4 we add because it's such small quantity. We are
- 5 not losing oil so we don't, you know.
- 6 Q. Okay. If you see oil on the deck,
- 7 it's an issue because you might have a seal or
- 8 you might have a cracked line or something, but
- 9 if you don't see any oil on the deck and you're
- 10 just adding a little bit to the reservoir, no
- 11 record would be made?
- 12 A. No. If we have a great amount of oil
- 13 to be added to the tanks, then we have also
- 14 major leakage.
- 15 Q. Right.
- 16 A. But we didn't have nothing of that.
- 17 Q. Okay. We'll go on to the part of the
- 18 statement about what you did to try to
- 19 investigate what happened.
- 20 A. Okay.
- 21 Q. Now, before we get to the
- 22 investigation, do you -- after you received the
- 23 stop engine order and you stopped the engine,
- 24 tell us what you felt, heard. What happened?
- 25 A. What I felt, okay, after the captain

- 1 hit -- after I hit on the captain's order manual
- 2 stop of main engine, I called the crew down
- 3 there to check the engine room like bilges and
- 4 everything else because I didn't know if we are
- 5 grounded or not, if we -- if there is a hole in
- 6 the hull or whatever and sounding of the fuel
- 7 was like most important.
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 A. When we check all of that, we know
- 10 that nothing is wrong with that part.
- 11 Q. All right.
- 12 A. With that part, and basically that
- 13 was it until guys like Coast Guard and other
- 14 people come onboard.
- 15 Q. Did you know there was a hole in the
- 16 bulbous bow from the accident?
- 17 A. Yes, I heard it but I didn't see it.
- 18 Q. It's kind of hard to see the bulbous
- 19 bow from the bridge at night, but you're in the
- 20 engine room, right?
- 21 A. Yes, I'm in engine room.
- 22 Q. So you're not going to have any
- visibility as to what's happening outside?
- A. I don't see nothing except engine
- 25 room.

Page 35 1 Q. You work from below the waterline 2 usually, but you're in ballast so you still 3 would be pretty low in the hull of the ship? 4 Actually control room even in ballast Α. is above the waterline. 5 Above the waterline? 6 Ο. 7 Α. Yes. So did you feel any collision? 8 Ο. Α. 9 Small bump. Small bump but nothing 10 hard. 11 Okav. So let's go back to your 12 statement and talk about what you did after the fact. It says: "My first suspicion was that the 13 solenoid valve coil was burnt. We tested both 14 15 pumps. Pump No. 1 was" -- and then can you read 16 that? 17 "When on remote." Α. 18 "When on remote?" Ο. 19 Α. Yes. 20 "Showing it can go only on port 0. 21 side." 22 Yes. Α. 23 Can you explain what you did to test Q. 24 pump No. 1? 25 Pump No. 1, yes, we just tested it Α.

- 1 from the bridge by helm and it was stuck at I
- 2 believe 10 port. The rudder was stuck.
- 3 Q. So after you felt the bump and you
- 4 were testing pump No. 1 using the -- when you
- 5 say "when on remote," does that mean the engine
- 6 room -- I'm sorry, excuse me, that means that
- 7 the bridge is --
- 8 A. In control of that pump.
- 9 Q. In control of the pump.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. But it would not respond to the
- orders from the bridge for starboard rudder?
- 13 A. Yes. Exactly.
- 14 Q. Okay. Did you send anyone to the
- 15 area of the -- can you visualize the rudder
- 16 stock from any of the stern compartments?
- 17 A. I have to open manhole to the rudder
- 18 trunk. I cannot see it without opening this
- 19 manhole.
- 20 Q. Open the manhole to see the rudder
- 21 stock.
- 22 A. It's called the rudder trunk.
- Q. Rudder trunk?
- 24 A. Yes. That is department where you
- 25 can see this cooling stuff of the rudder, the

- 1 rudder itself.
- 2 Q. But you confirm that it was not
- 3 responsive by looking at a rudder indicator in
- 4 the engine room?
- 5 A. Yes. In the steering gear room.
- 6 Q. In the steering gear room. The
- 7 steering gear room is a separate room from the
- 8 engine room?
- 9 A. It's based in the engine room but
- 10 it's separated by two fire doors, two sets of
- 11 fire doors.
- 12 Q. Understood. Your statement goes on
- 13 to say that it looks like the rudder can go only
- 14 to the port side. In other words, am I correct
- in understanding that -- let's talk about the
- 16 mechanics of this. Is this a rotary vane
- 17 system?
- 18 A. I don't know.
- 19 Q. Are there hydraulic rams in the
- 20 system?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And so the hydraulic rams would
- 23 successfully allow the rudder to go to port but
- 24 would not work going to starboard when operated
- 25 remotely from the bridge, right?

- 1 A. That time we didn't divide system
- 2 hydraulically or electrical. We just know that
- 3 the rudder is going to the port side and it's
- 4 not going to the starboard side.
- 5 Q. Understood. And so because it's
- 6 electronic over hydraulic, it could be hydraulic
- 7 or it could be electric and you were still in
- 8 the investigation stage?
- 9 A. That time, yes.
- 10 Q. Got it. Understood. Thank you.
- 11 And it says: "Pump No. 2 was working
- 12 properly on remote as well as on emergency
- 13 steering." Can you tell us how you tested pump
- 14 No. 2?
- 15 A. Pump No. 1 was not working on remote.
- 16 Q. Right. Let's go to pump No. 2. It
- 17 says: "Pump No. 2 was working properly on remote
- 18 as well as on emergency steering."
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 O. Correct?
- 21 A. Yes, sir.
- 22 Q. So was that also tested remotely from
- 23 the bridge?
- 24 A. Yes. If I mentioned that -- yes, it
- 25 was remotely. Remotely as well on emergency

1 from the local side	
I IIOM CHE ISOUI BIUC	
2 Q. Very good.	
3 A from the steering gear.	
4 Q. Okay. So you suspect that le	t's
5 back up. Pump No. 1 was the pump that was	in
6 use coming up the Mississippi River, correc	t?
7 A. Yes.	
8 Q. And I think we covered this, but	you
9 only use one pump at a time, correct?	
10 A. Yes.	
11 Q. And that is the way that the sys	tem
12 has been designed?	
13 A. Yes, it is.	
14 Q. And pump No. 2 was working prope	rly
15 when tested after the accident, correct?	
16 A. Correct.	
17 Q. Was pump No. 2 and let's talk	
18 about what it takes to run pump No. 2. Whe	n
19 you're going to steer using pump No. 2, do	you
20 have to turn the pump on?	
21 A. Yes. Of course.	
22 Q. And the pump can be turned on fr	om
23 the bridge or the engine room?	
24 A. Both.	
25 Q. And so was pump No. 2 on, even i	f not

Page 40 1 in use, when you were coming up the river before 2 the bump? 3 No. It was shut. Α. 4 Shut. Ο. 5 Like you said, it's independent Α. 6 system. Only one pump is working. 7 Q. And so it says: "After that we replaced solenoid valve" --8 9 Α. Coil. "Coil. On" --10 Q. 11 Α. "On No. 1 but without result. 12 Problem persist." 13 Q. So the solenoid was not the problem, 14 correct? Coil on solenoid --15 Α. 16 The coil on --Q. 17 -- was not the problem. Α. 18 The coil on the solenoid was not the Ο. 19 problem. "My opinion is as far as the pump not 20 working good on" --Α. 21 "My opinion is as far as pump working 22 good on emergency steering, that it is not hydraulic related problem. It's electrical." 23 24 0. Okay. And: "Electrical signals must 25 be checked?"

Page 41 1 Α. Yes. 2 And is that -- I think we've gotten 0. 3 to the bottom of your report. Was there --4 MR. HAROWSKI: 5 Can we go off the record one second? 6 7 MR. FLOTTE: 8 Yes. 9 (Off-the-record). BY MR. FLOTTE: 10 11 Let's go back on the record. 12 omitted -- I accidentally skipped and there's a sentence here that says: "Pump No. 1 on 13 emergency steering was working properly." 14 you explain what that means? 15 First I have to explain what is 16 Α. emergency steering. 17 18 Yes. Ο. 19 It means that we manually activated 20 the hydraulic plungers inside through the hole 21 in the coil and it's only from local side. Only 22 from steering gear it can be managed. 23 Only from the steering gear that's 0. 24 down next to or part of the engine room? 25 Immediately under pump, on the Α.

- 1 steering wheel pump.
- 2 Q. So how is it that the pump No. 1 on
- 3 emergency steering was working properly?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Explain --
- 6 A. Why.
- 7 Q. Does that -- you still have to have
- 8 electrical --
- 9 A. Yes. Electricity is on. Power is
- 10 on.
- 11 Q. But have you bypassed the remote?
- 12 A. It's just what I'm doing on
- 13 emergency. There is two coils. It went on
- 14 remote mode, on remote mode, on remote mode they
- are receiving signals from the bridge and they
- 16 are automatically running. On emergency mode I
- 17 am pushing those coils with my hand. There is
- 18 a, I don't know, like (indicating) this of steel
- 19 around it, like bar, small bar and I am pushing
- 20 the coils inside and manually I am pushing also
- 21 the piston, hydraulic pistons and let the oil
- 22 through in the direction where I want, or I'm
- 23 receiving order from the bridge to the
- 24 starboard. I push the starboard side in, I
- 25 receive the oil to the hydraulic cylinder and

- 1 the starboard goes -- and the rudder goes
- 2 starboard.
- 3 Q. So when you've explained -- when
- 4 you're doing what you explained, pump No. 1 on
- 5 emergency steering was working properly, you
- 6 can't -- I mean, I understand you're able to
- 7 move the rudder to starboard by you manually
- 8 pushing on the rod?
- 9 A. Yes. Exactly.
- 10 Q. But that's not something you could
- 11 navigate with, is it?
- 12 A. Actually you can, I mean, but not in
- 13 narrow spaces like this. Not in narrow. It's
- 14 designed like emergency steering. If something
- 15 happened on the sea, we are in direct contact
- 16 with the bridge and they are giving you orders,
- 17 15 starboard amidship, five port, whatever they
- 18 need, and you are just pushing the rudder in
- 19 that position by emergency steering.
- 20 Q. And if you're pushing the rudder that
- 21 way by emergency steering, once you get it to a
- 22 position, let's just say amidships, will it stay
- 23 amidships?
- 24 A. Yes. Of course.
- Q. We're going to come back to that.

Page 44 1 I'll show you a document I've marked 2 as Exhibit 6 and this is -- let me just ask you, 3 it's two pages that's been produced and ask if you can identify that. Is that something that 4 5 you've seen before today? My only question is 6 have you ever seen that? 7 Α. Not before today. 8 I'm going to show you a document 9 that's called a Work Order, Exhibit 7. 10 question, have you seen that before today? 11 Α. Yes. Let's look at 7 since you've seen it 12 Q. This is a work order, and I apologize 13 before. it for being small. Do you recall someone 14 15 from -- do you recall any outside contractors or somebody else coming to assist and trying to 16 figure out what happened? 17 18 Yes, I do. Α. 19 I'm just going to go over this and I Ο. 20 want you to try to walk me through this so I can 21 understand. 22 Α. Okay. It says: "Attendant note," and this 23 0. 24 looks like it's -- it says authorized by Crystal

Pileggi, and this is an invoice for Radio

25

Page 45 1 Holland out of Houston and there's also a 2 reference to Mackay in New Orleans and there's a 3 reference to a service engineer. Do you know 4 who came aboard? Is it this Darius --5 Yes, Darius. Α. 6 Ο. -- Ascani? And this says: "Found 7 when pump No. 1 was in operation rudder drives hard port with no wheel command." Is that how 8 9 it was behaving when you examined it? For after the accident? 10 Α. 11 0. Yeah, after the accident, correct. 12 No, it was not. Α. 13 It was not, okay. "Opened steering Q. amplifier 1 and tested feedback signal in NFU," 14 which I think is non-follow-up, "mode?" 15 16 Α. Yes. "Found feedback signal smooth from 17 Q. port to starboard. Check" -- and that was not 18 19 the situation when you -- that was different 20 from what you found initially, right? 21 Α. Well, I didn't test the NFU. 22 You didn't test the what? 0. 23 The NFU. I didn't test that signal Α. 24 at all. 25 The non-follow-up, you didn't test Q.

- 1 the non-follow-up. In other words, that's the
- 2 toggle?
- 3 A. Yes. That's the toggle but he was
- 4 testing the signals. I did not test the signals
- 5 at all.
- 6 O. Understood. "Check helm command in
- 7 follow -- in FU," or follow-up mode, "at manual
- 8 terminal board." Is the manual terminal board
- 9 on the bridge, correct?
- 10 A. I don't know what this mean about
- 11 manual terminal board.
- 12 Q. Okay. Is there any steering controls
- in the engine room?
- 14 A. Yes, there are.
- 15 Q. What steering controls are in the
- 16 engine room?
- 17 A. For example, this amplifiers in a
- 18 test down there, amplifier 1.
- 19 Q. Amplifier 1?
- 20 A. Yes. He is in steering gear room.
- Q. What does amplifier 1 do?
- 22 A. What is amplifier 1? It's a printed
- 23 board which receives and controls signals.
- Q. All right. He says: "Found no
- 25 command given to rudder." Let me go back. I

- 1 think I've jumped too far ahead. Let me read
- 2 this. It says: "Found feedback signal smooth
- 3 from port to starboard. Check helm command in
- 4 follow-up mode at manual terminal board. Found
- 5 no command given to rudder. Remove relays from
- 6 amplifier 1 and checked with multimeter. Found
- 7 port relay contact always closed."
- 8 So from what you have explained that
- 9 you've done, he's looking at relays that you
- 10 didn't pull or check or test, correct?
- 11 A. No, I did not check them before.
- 12 Q. Fair enough. "Replace both relays
- 13 from vessel spares." You had spare relays?
- 14 A. Yes, we do.
- 15 Q. "Tested operation of system 1." Is
- 16 that the system that corresponds with the No. 1
- 17 pump?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. "All functions of steering system 1
- 20 check normal at this time. Made complete
- 21 steering test in all modes and pumps. Found
- 22 steering operation now normal. All functions of
- 23 steering check good at this time. Had meeting
- 24 with U.S. Coast Guard and NTSB on details of
- 25 steering failure." And it looks like there's a

Page 48 1 date on that, it says at the top "EDA July 15." 2 Let's see if there's another date. Down at the 3 bottom it says: "July 15 for his traveling 4 expenses." 5 So since July 15 has the steering system aboard the ship worked fine? 6 7 Α. Yes, it's working fine but we are here on the berth so actually we don't need the 8 9 system. It looked like the rudder was -- had 10 Ο. 11 a little bit of --12 Α. We tested with Mr. Darius and --13 Q. Mr. who? 14 Darius, the service engineer. Darius Ascani? 15 Q. Later on with Lloyd's the day 16 Α. Yes. 17 after --18 MR. HAROWSKI: 19 He said later on with Lloyd's the 20 day after. 21 BY MR. FLOTTE: 22 All right. Understood. Q. 23 And when you say Lloyd's, it's 24 Lloyd's Class Surveyors? 25 Α. Yes.

Page 49 1 Q. Understood. How long does it take to 2 start the hydraulic pump for I'll just say pump 3 No. 2? 4 That depends where you are. Α. 5 Can you explain that. Q. 6 Α. Yes, I can explain. There is a start 7 button in engine control room and there is a 8 start button on the bridge. If you are over 9 there, it doesn't need so much time. 10 When you hit the start button on the 11 engine room or the bridge, regardless, and the 12 pump starts, is it necessary to circulate the hydraulic fluid for any period of time or is it 13 available for immediate use? 14 It's available. It's available. 15 Α. Do you have anything to do with -- I 16 Ο. think the answer is no, but do you have anything 17 18 to do with deploying anchors? 19 Α. No. 20 0. As engineer you wouldn't know if 21 anchors are deployed or not, would you? 22 Α. No. 23 Fair enough. I want to go over -- we Q. 24 mentioned briefly that you had periodic 25 inspection and tests. So I have assembled a

- 1 number of documents. I'm going to just hand
- 2 them to you and ignore the pink highlights that
- 3 I have put on here.
- 4 I'll mark as Exhibit 8 a group of
- 5 documents, and just in general my -- are these
- 6 records that are kept showing the periodic
- 7 testing, and I've highlighted parts that refer
- 8 to the steering system.
- 9 A. Every three months tests are related
- 10 to the steering gear.
- 11 Q. Right. And I think there's some
- 12 weekly and some daily?
- 13 A. Yes. There is daily checks.
- O. Okay. And I'll mark as Exhibit 9,
- 15 this is Inspecting and Testing and I've tried to
- 16 highlight in pink what I thought might have
- 17 something to do with the steering system.
- 18 A. Yes. Daily equipment test and
- 19 checks. By this it means that daily equipment
- 20 we are taking into consideration engine room as
- 21 a whole, and one part of this tests and checks
- 22 are the first to the steering gear.
- Q. Okay. And so insofar as the tests
- 24 and checks, is it fair to say that the component
- 25 that seems to have failed in the steering system

Page 51 1 that led to the bump that you felt in the hole 2 in the bulbous bow is something that you don't 3 regularly check for, is that true? 4 Α. Electrical components are Yes. 5 designed to work without any further maintenance. 6 7 Q. What you are saying is there's no maintenance involved on the electrical side from 8 9 your --From my side, no. 10 Α. 11 Ο. From your side, right. Okay. 12 you recall whether or not -- it seems like the failure was a relay, correct? 13 14 Α. Yes. And what is your understanding of 15 Ο. what that -- the relay that failed does? 16 17 What it does? Α. 18 Yeah. Ο. 19 It release electrical power to Α. solenoid valves. 20 21 Q. Does it open and close the valves 22 that allow hydraulic fluid to go to the pistons? 23 Indirectly. Α. 24 Q. Explain that. 25 Indirectly because relay when it's Α.

- 1 connected or disconnected, it gives an
- 2 electrical power or cuts the power on coil, and
- 3 the coil activated the hydraulic piston inside,
- 4 piston, the solenoid valve piston, and that
- 5 piston release oils, so it's indirectly.
- Q. It's indirectly but the system won't
- 7 work without it?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And would you classify it as an
- 10 electrical component?
- 11 A. Yes, it is electrical component.
- 12 Q. And it was detected by a multimeter
- 13 that looks like identified that --
- 14 A. Yes, by continuity test.
- 15 Q. Continuity test?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 O. So if we -- I believe that both of
- 18 the relays, number one and number two, were
- 19 taken off, so if we did a continuity test, the
- 20 one that was -- the one that was taken off that
- 21 wasn't bad would --
- 22 A. It will show that it shorted.
- 23 Q. Shorted, right. It will show
- 24 continuity where the normal position --
- 25 A. Yes.

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1	Q of the one that was bad; is that
2	right?
3	A. Yes. It was tested by Mr. Darius,
4	the service engineer.
5	Q. Understood. How often are the relays
6	tested?
7	A. Tested?
8	Q. Tested.
9	A. They are not tested.
10	Q. How often are they replaced?
11	A. To my knowledge they are replaced
12	when they are shorted or whatever, yeah, when
13	they broke.
14	Q. All right. Do you know whether or
15	not there's any periodic replacement if
16	there's any periodic replacement of relays, is
17	that something you have ever heard of?
18	A. No, I haven't heard.
19	Q. You've explained that when there is a
20	power loss, that the generator comes on and in
21	turn supplies auxiliary or emergency power to
22	but only if you're running on pump No. 1,
23	correct?
24	A. Correct.
25	Q. Would you consider does this ship

Page 54 1 have -- would you consider the system number two 2 auxiliary -- an auxiliary system, I don't know 3 exactly how to word it, but would you consider that to be an auxiliary steering system? 4 5 Only number one. Only number Α. No. 6 one. 7 Q. I'm going to show you a document I've 8 marked as Exhibit 10 and this is a two-page 9 document it was I think JAMAL [sic] TOPIC. 10 can't really read the first page of it but I 11 think they go together. This was some of the 12 documents that were produced by the ship. question to you is does that identify the width 13 of the rudder stock in the way of the tiller? 14 This is diameter. 15 Α. Diameter, okay. Sorry. 16 Ο. 17 diameter. And what is the diameter according to 18 the document? 19 Α. 364.6 millimeters. 20 364.6 millimeters. Ο. 21 Α. Yes. 22 MR. HAROWSKI: 23 Just for the record, that was 24 Bates No. JALMA TOPIC 38 and 39. 25 MR. FLOTTE:

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1	Great. Thank you. If you don't
2	mind I'm going to mark it on there
3	because it was kind of I couldn't
4	read it. So we have 38 and 39. I
5	thought it was a two-page document.
6	That might help.
7	BY MR. FLOTTE:
8	Q. I'm going to show you a document that
9	hasn't been produced by your counsel. I'm going
10	to show it to him first, and I've marked it as
11	Deposition Exhibit 11, and this is Rules and
12	Regulations of Classification Society of Ships
13	from Lloyd's Register, and I have a question
14	about Section 6, and we can take a minute to go
15	off the record if you want or look at it because
16	I'm we pulled this yesterday just to try to
17	figure it out. Let's go off the record.
18	(Off-the-record).
19	BY MR. FLOTTE:
20	Q. We can go back on the record. I'm
21	showing you a document we've marked as Exhibit
22	11, and particularly with respect to the section
23	on emergency power, can you tell us whether that
24	Section 6 applies to your ship? That's the
25	first question.

- 1 A. I don't think so.
- 2 Q. Can you tell us whether or not the
- 3 JALMA TOPIC is equipped with what is set forth
- 4 in that section? And if you don't know the
- 5 answer, just tell us.
- 6 A. Can you repeat, please.
- 7 Q. Yes. In other words, regardless of
- 8 whether it applies or not -- the rudder stock --
- 9 I'm sorry, the question is do you know whether
- 10 or not Section 6 applies to -- if the equipment
- 11 on your ship --
- 12 A. I don't know. I don't know.
- 13 Q. All right. So now I'm going to ask
- 14 you some shorter questions, so just -- all
- 15 right. From Exhibit 10 have we established that
- 16 the rudder stock is over 230 millimeters in
- 17 diameter in the way of the tiller?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Insofar as the propulsion, does the
- 20 propulsion for the JALMA TOPIC exceed 2500
- 21 kilowatts?
- 22 A. Yes. It's above.
- 23 Q. Above. When you have a loss of -- I
- 24 don't know if I can read it. The ship has
- 25 equipment that would allow the ship to sail --

Page 57 1 strike that. Was the JALMA TOPIC able to sail 2 normally using the No. 2 pump system? 3 Α. Yes, it is. Before being repaired? Ο. 5 Yes, it is. Α. 6 Ο. Okay. 7 Α. It's just not connected to emergency 8 source of power, so if you have power loss, we are without the rudder. 9 Okay. If I understand the way it's 10 Ο. 11 set up, if you have a main power loss, then 12 generator power will come on, but if you have a 13 loss of power as occurred with the relay failure --14 15 Α. It's not power loss. 16 It's not a power loss? Q. 17 Relay failure is not power loss. Α. 18 It's an electric failure but it's not Ο. 19 a power loss? 20 Α. Exactly. 21 So there's nothing that would -- the 22 system as it exists is not designed to 23 automatically switch from one steering pump to 24 another? 25 Α. No.

- 1 Q. Okay. I understand. How long does
- 2 it take to switch steering pumps to go from if
- 3 you're running on steering pump No. 1 and you
- 4 want to switch to steering pump No. 2, first
- 5 what do you have to do?
- 6 A. I have to push the button to start it
- 7 and that's it.
- 8 Q. Push the button to start it --
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. -- and then when you start steering
- 11 pump No. 2 --
- 12 A. The pump is started and it's ready
- 13 for immediate use.
- 14 Q. Okay. Well, do you have to turn off
- 15 pump No. 1 or can they both run at the same
- 16 time?
- 17 A. First I would start pump No. 2 and
- 18 then I will turn off the pump No. 1.
- 19 Q. Okay. About how long does that take?
- 20 A. A few seconds.
- 21 Q. Like two or three seconds?
- 22 A. Let's say five.
- 23 Q. Five seconds, okay. And that wasn't
- 24 done in this instance because nobody knew that
- 25 there was a bad relay; is that correct?

Page 59 1 Α. I can answer you from the engine room 2 state. 3 That's all I'm saying. Ο. I did not have any alarms whatsoever 4 Α. 5 until I received captain's call. To my knowledge that was my first impression that 6 7 something is going on. Okay. If there's a relay that goes 8 9 out, would you expect to receive an alarm? 10 Α. Sorry, can you --11 0. Yeah, when a relay like this goes 12 out, would you expect to receive an alarm other than from the bridge saying our rudder doesn't 13 14 work? Α. 15 No. The system is not designed that way. It's not -- like I said, I have no voltage 16 of power loss on the pump alarm. I don't have 17 18 relay fault or something. All right. On the day of the 19 Ο. 20 accident, and I think we covered this in an 21 indirect way from your statement, but were you 22 ever -- before you felt the bump, did you 23 receive a command to switch from steering pump 24 No. 1 to steering pump No. 2?

No, I did not receive that command.

Α.

25

Page 60 1 Q. And was anybody communicating with 2 the bridge on the engine room telephone other 3 than you? 4 Only me. Α. No. 5 So if a call was made from the bridge Ο. 6 to the engine room to switch from steering pump 7 No. 1 to steering pump No. 2 on the day of the accident, the morning of the accident, you would 8 9 know about it? Of course. 10 Α. Yes. 11 Ο. Okav. Did you receive any other 12 commands from the bridge other than what you 13 have covered in your statement and your testimony today? 14 15 Α. No. And now I'm talking about in the 16 Ο. moments leading up to the bump? 17 18 Α. Yeah. Only manual stop that was the 19 only command. 20 Manual stop? 0. 21 Α. Yes. 22 So you weren't given a command to 0. 23 utilize emergency steering before you felt the 24 bump? 25 Only manual stop that was the Α. No.

- 1 only order. I didn't have any other orders.
- 2 Q. What do you consider to be emergency
- 3 steering? Is the word "emergency" or "EMG"
- 4 shown on any of your control panels?
- 5 A. There is instruction how to perform
- 6 it down in the steering gear locally where the
- 7 emergency steering is performed.
- 8 Q. And does that entail using steering
- 9 pump No. 2?
- 10 A. You can use whatever pump you want on
- 11 emergency steering.
- 12 Q. So there's not one designated --
- 13 A. No. For emergency steering they are
- independent system, but however we can use
- 15 emergency steering on both pumps.
- 16 Q. You can use both pumps, either pump?
- 17 A. You can use emergency steering on
- 18 both pumps but we cannot use two pumps in the
- 19 same time.
- 20 Q. So if you happen to be running on
- 21 using the system that includes pump No. 1, then
- 22 the emergency steering would be pump No. 2, but
- 23 if you --
- A. No. Emergency steering -- pump have
- 25 to work if you want to perform emergency

Page 62 1 steering. The motor have to run the pump. 2 understand? 3 No, I don't. Ο. You have got the pump that gives us 4 Α. 5 hydraulic pressure. 6 Ο. Correct. 7 Α. That pump is powered by electrical 8 motor. 9 Correct. Ο. 10 Α. So electrical motors have to run, 11 have to push the pump to achieve hydraulic 12 pressure, and if that is not -- you know, if you 13 don't have that situation, you cannot perform 14 nothing. 15 Ο. Correct. 16 Α. Yes. So I think what you're saying is 17 Q. 18 there's no one pump that's designated as -- I 19 say "pump." Neither system is designated as 20 emergency steering, just simply --21 Α. No. 22 -- whatever is the system other than Ο. 23 the one you happen to be using, correct? 24 Α. Yes. So only difference between pump 25 No. 2 and No. 1 is that pump No. 1 is using a

- 1 maneuvering because he's connected to emergency
- 2 switchboard, so in the power loss we have got
- 3 power on the steering gear.
- 4 Q. So just to make sure that the court
- 5 reporter got that down, the emergency power will
- 6 come on if there's loss of main engine while
- 7 you're running on pump No. 1 and it will power,
- 8 but if you happen to be running on pump No. 2 on
- 9 that system, the emergency power will not come
- 10 on to service automatically?
- 11 A. No, but --
- 12 Q. Have I correctly stated it?
- 13 A. Yes. But power loss, it's not loss
- 14 of the main engine.
- 15 Q. Loss of the main engine?
- 16 A. Power loss it's a blackout, losing of
- 17 electrical power all over the vessel.
- 18 Q. So in other words, it's not simply a
- 19 relay that lacks continuity. In order for it to
- 20 be triggered, it would have to be a complete
- 21 loss of main engine power, correct?
- 22 A. Not main engine. Main engine you
- 23 are -- when you lose main engine you are losing
- 24 propulsion. You are losing propulsion power.
- 25 We are talking about electrical power.

- 1 Q. Okay.
- 2 A. When we lose generators, main
- 3 generators, auxiliary generator or emergency
- 4 generator starting and provides the power for
- 5 the steering gear pump No. 1. So that is clear.
- 6 Q. So auxiliary generators will come in
- 7 but only come into play automatically if you are
- 8 running off of the system that includes pump No.
- 9 1 rather than the system that includes pump No.
- 10 2, is that true? Or have I misstated it?
- 11 A. Now you are just confusing me a
- 12 little bit.
- 13 Q. I'm just trying to make sure that the
- 14 court reporter gets everything down, so I'm
- 15 trying to repeat it and I may not be using the
- 16 right words. So can you explain it -- pardon
- 17 me, but explain it one more time real slow.
- 18 A. Emergency power, what it means --
- 19 Q. Emergency power.
- 20 A. Emergency power, it comes from the
- 21 emergency generator in case of electrical power
- 22 loss on the vessel.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- A. And it supplies power for each and
- 25 every consumer which is on emergency

- 1 switchboard. Among other consumers steering
- 2 pump No. 1 it's there on emergency switchboard.
- 3 Q. So, for example, let's just say, you
- 4 know, somebody has an accident and cuts
- 5 something, an electrical line in the hold, the
- 6 electrical power shorts out but your main engine
- 7 is still running.
- 8 A. No, it's not running.
- 9 O. It's not?
- 10 A. It's not running because it cuts
- 11 devices that main engine needs which runs by
- 12 means of electricity, electrical.
- 13 Q. What would cause a loss of power
- 14 without a loss of propulsion?
- 15 A. You cannot -- you cannot divide that,
- 16 because if you lose electrical power, you will
- 17 lose propulsion.
- 18 Q. Correct.
- 19 A. If you lose main engine or propulsion
- 20 power --
- 21 Q. Right.
- 22 A. -- it doesn't -- you don't lose
- 23 electrical power, no.
- Q. So you have a main generator, an
- 25 auxiliary generator, are you saying it comes on

- 1 if you lose the main generator?
- 2 A. Yes. If you lose main generator,
- 3 emergency generator jumps in and provides power
- 4 for devices that we need to restart the system.
- 5 Q. I see.
- 6 MR. FLOTTE:
- 7 Let's go off the record.
- 8 (Off-the-record).
- 9 BY MR. FLOTTE:
- 10 Q. So -- and I apologize I don't have
- 11 multiple copies of this, but this is part of the
- 12 operations manual and this talks a little bit
- 13 about -- most of what I'm going to ask you has
- 14 to do with you pushing on the rod and to get a
- 15 little bit more of an explanation on that.
- 16 A. About emergency steering.
- 17 Q. The emergency steering, yeah. It
- 18 says: "The steering gear can be operated by the
- 19 following methods assuring correct and easy
- 20 handling," and it looks like "changing." I
- 21 think that's what they're saying. And it says:
- 22 "Automatic steering by remote control in the
- 23 wheelhouse" is number one.
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. We talked about that. "Hand steering

- 1 remotely in the wheelhouse."
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. We talked about that. And then the
- 4 part that I'm going to need a little bit of help
- 5 on and a little bit of confused on is 3, "local
- 6 steering in gear room by manual operation of
- 7 solenoid valve."
- 8 A. Yes. Exactly.
- 9 O. And --
- 10 A. I think that refers to emergency
- 11 steering.
- 12 Q. Emergency steering?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Right. And it goes on to say -- I'm
- 15 trying to get to make sure we're looking at the
- 16 same parts. "Local steering," I'm going to show
- 17 you this in a second, but it says: "Failure of
- 18 the control system in the wheelhouse or
- 19 bridge --
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. -- or during the adjustment operation
- 22 of the steering gear, the steering gear can be
- 23 operated by local steering in the steering gear
- 24 room," and I think that there's a little bit of
- 25 a procedure to do that. And it says: "Keep

- 1 steering in the steering gear" --
- 2 A. "Keep on running the hydraulic pump."
- 3 Q. "Keep on running the hydraulic pump."
- 4 A. "Disconnect the autopilot by
- 5 switching off the control source."
- 6 Q. Now, you weren't running autopilot,
- 7 correct?
- 8 A. No. Every time when you do emergency
- 9 steering, you have to disconnect autopilot.
- 10 Otherwise, you cannot do emergency steering.
- 11 Q. But the morning of the accident was
- 12 autopilot being used?
- 13 A. Yes. Everything was remotely from
- 14 the bridge.
- 15 Q. And that's what you're calling
- 16 autopilot?
- 17 A. Yes. It's one function of the system
- 18 that have to be on when you are using remote --
- 19 Q. Okay.
- 20 A. -- remote operation from the bridge.
- 21 Q. Okay. And we're going to get to our
- 22 show and tell in a minute. It says: "Move the
- 23 rudder by pushing either the push rod in the
- 24 solenoid of the solenoid valve -- I'm sorry, I'm
- 25 not good at reading upside down. "Move the

	Page 69
1	rudder by pushing either the push rod
2	MR. HAROWSKI:
3	"Either push rod."
4	BY MR. FLOTTE:
5	Q. "Either?"
6	MR. HAROWSKI:
7	"Either push rod."
8	BY MR. FLOTTE:
9	Q. "Either push rod"
10	A. I will show you here.
11	Q. "Either push rod in the solenoid
12	of the solenoid valve." Is this supposed to be
13	"or, "or the solenoid valve?"
14	A. Yes.
15	Q. That's supposed to be "or" or is that
16 supposed to be "off?"	
17	A. Off.
18	Q. So what do we have in front of us on
19	the table?
20	A. So this is hydraulic part here
21	(indicating).
22	Q. Okay.
23	A. This is hydraulic part.
24	Q. Hydraulic port?
25	A. "Part." This is part. This is the

Page 70 coils, coils for port side, coil for starboard side.

- 3 Q. All right.
- 4 A. When we do emergency steering or
- 5 local steering, so it's like stated here
- 6 autopilot off. It's just one breaker to push it
- 7 off one second and then what we are doing. This
- 8 is the coil. This is the push rod.
- 9 Q. The push rod is like three inches
- 10 long?

1

2

- 11 A. Not exactly but something like that.
- 12 So what we are doing, we are pushing it here
- 13 (indicating).
- Q. And when you push it, it acts kind of
- 15 like a joy stick or like the toggle?
- 16 A. You will feel the spring inside.
- 17 Q. You feel it when you compress the
- 18 spring?
- 19 A. Yes, when I do that. For example, on
- 20 starboard side when I do it like this and I push
- 21 it inside of this part, I move the disc
- 22 hydraulic piston and release the oil flow so
- 23 that rudder can go on starboard side.
- Q. Understood.
- 25 A. For example, I'm pushing it, I'm,

- 1 let's say, holding it for ten seconds, the
- 2 rudder is on 14 starboard. When he ordered
- 3 amidship, I'm transferring on starboard side and
- 4 watching rudder indication over there and I'm
- 5 holding it until rudder reach zero.
- 6 O. So there's a rudder indicated within
- 7 view so that --
- 8 A. Yes, yes. Everything is in place.
- 9 This headset for communication with bridge, this
- 10 solenoid valve and rudder indicator, everything
- 11 is in front of you.
- 12 Q. I'm going to just mark this Exhibit
- 13 12 which we've been reading from, and if you
- 14 don't mind, I'd like to take a snapshot of
- 15 that -- why don't you stick the thing in and I
- 16 just want to -- just so there is some reference
- 17 point. That way we'll understand. We're going
- 18 to call that a photo of the solenoid valve
- 19 Exhibit 13.
- I show you what I have marked as
- 21 Exhibit 14. Just so we have a reference point,
- 22 is the solenoid valve we just took a picture of,
- 23 is that right down here?
- A. Solenoid control valve, yes, this
- 25 is --

- 1 Q. Circle it.
- 2 A. This here is what you're talking
- 3 about and this here (indicating).
- 4 Q. And you've made two circles in ink on
- 5 Exhibit 14 to show what you've --
- 6 A. This is solenoid valve in combination
- 7 with two coils, but as a whole we are calling it
- 8 solenoid valve.
- 9 Q. And the force that you exerted with
- 10 the push rod depresses the spring which has the
- 11 effect of substituting for the --
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. -- electric power that would -- is
- 14 not available?
- 15 A. Imagine like this, here on this coil
- 16 it depends when on automatic, when on automatic
- 17 when water is from the bridge whatsoever, for
- 18 example, 10 starboard this coil gets energized,
- 19 gets energized and it's pushing this rod by
- 20 means of electrical power and that is automatic.
- 21 On emergency or local steering, I'm doing the
- 22 same thing basically but only with my hand.
- 23 Q. Right. And from the time you -- if
- 24 you received an order from the bridge to say go
- 25 hard starboard and you did what you just did,

- 1 pushed whatever buttons, how long would it take
- 2 you to, using the push rod, get a hard
- 3 starboard?
- A. It wouldn't be possible. My opinion
- 5 is it wouldn't be possible in that one minute
- 6 and a half to run over there to shut the
- 7 autopilot and to perform emergency steering.
- 8 Q. So what do you have to do in order to
- 9 shut off the autopilot?
- 10 A. I have to put the breaker down.
- 11 O. Put the breaker down?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And when you put a breaker down, what
- 14 are you shutting off?
- 15 A. I'm shutting autopilot off. Let's
- 16 say to be more exact, I'm shutting electricity
- 17 on these coils.
- 18 Q. And you have to do that before you
- 19 stick the push rod in the hole?
- 20 A. Yes. Then I have to, but, first,
- 21 firstly what I have to do, I have to put a
- 22 headset on, I have to call the bridge.
- Q. You said a headset?
- A. Headset, yes, because I cannot see.
- 25 I'm in steering, you know, I have to receive

- 1 orders. I have to receive orders. I have to
- 2 put headset, what they want, which position of
- 3 the rudder they want, and then I can proceed
- 4 with emergency steering.
- 5 Q. So if they -- how long do you think
- 6 if the -- let's just say that the master called
- 7 you and instead of saying stop, emergency stop,
- 8 they said go to emergency steering and give me
- 9 starboard 20 degrees, how long do you think that
- 10 would take you to achieve that doing everything
- 11 that you needed to do?
- 12 A. Let's say about two minutes.
- 13 Q. About two minutes?
- 14 A. Maybe 15 seconds less or something
- 15 because I have to run -- I'm in control room.
- 16 He's calling me in control room. I have to run
- 17 to the steering gear room. I have to stop with
- 18 the communication with the bridge. I have to
- 19 shut the autopilot off because otherwise it
- 20 won't work and then do as ordered, yes.
- 21 Q. Have you ever had to use emergency
- 22 steering in a real emergency rather than just
- 23 training?
- A. No. Only by means of testing it.
- 25 Q. Have you ever had any training or

- 1 practice, in other words, emergency response
- 2 practice to try to say look, this is what we
- 3 might do if we needed to do emergency steering?
- 4 A. Actually we are trained in emergency
- 5 steering, emergency steering how to perform it
- 6 and everything, but that's it, but in this case
- 7 we didn't have time. We didn't have time.
- 8 Q. And when you say you didn't have
- 9 time, you didn't time from the time that you
- 10 received the order for full stop until you felt
- 11 the bump?
- 12 A. Yes. Yes, that is the time.
- 13 Q. All right.
- 14 A. It's too short.
- 15 Q. Do you know what was going on in the
- 16 bridge before you received that call?
- 17 A. I didn't have any other whatsoever in
- 18 engine room.
- 19 O. Understood.
- 20 A. When I reached call for manual stop,
- 21 then, you know, then I'll know that something is
- 22 going on. That's it.
- Q. Understood.
- 24 MR. FLOTTE:
- Let's go off the record.

- 1 (Off-the-record)
- 2 BY MR. FLOTTE:
- 3 Q. Let's go back on. If there is a
- 4 switch from follow-up steering to non-follow-up
- 5 steering, is that something that is done by the
- 6 people on the bridge or do they have to involve
- 7 you for that?
- 8 A. No, they don't have to involve me
- 9 because it's only located on the control stand
- 10 on the bridge where the helm is located.
- 11 Q. If the master or the officer, the
- 12 officer on watch are switching from follow-up
- 13 steering to non-follow-up steering, does that in
- any way change which steering pump you're using?
- 15 A. In this case -- in this case what
- 16 happened to us it doesn't change nothing. We
- 17 still didn't have signal on our coils, and when
- 18 he put on non-follow-up, nothing is happening
- 19 also. There is no change because of that relay
- 20 loss.
- 21 Q. But I want to make sure that I
- 22 understand follow-up, non-follow-up compared to
- 23 steering -- the system involving steering pump
- No. 1 and the system involving steering pump No.
- 25 2. So correct me if I'm wrong, but you can have

Page 77 1 non-follow-up steering or follow-up steering on 2 pump No. 1, correct? 3 Α. Yes. And you can have follow-up or 4 Ο. 5 non-follow-up on pump No. 2, correct? 6 Α. Correct. 7 Q. And if you switch back and forth, it 8 doesn't change pumps, true? 9 No, it doesn't change pumps. 10 reacts only on pump which is still working. 11 In other words, it simply changes the 12 manner in which the signal is sent --13 Α. Exactly. -- that involves the same pump? 14 15 Α. Exactly. Insofar as the push rod is concerned, 16 Q. is that something that on the day of the 17 18 accident -- strike that. No push rod was done 19 on the day of the accident, right, in other 20 words, no emergency steering? 21 Α. No. 22 And there was no command given to you 0. 23 from the helm from the captain? 24 Α. The only command that I receive was 25 manual stop.

Page 78 1 Q. Right. But no command to --2 No any other. Α. 3 All right. After the accident when Ο. 4 you did use the push rod and were able to move 5 the rudder to starboard, is that something that you did personally or is that something someone 6 7 under your direction did? No, I did it personally. Because me 8 9 as chief engineer, I like to see what is going 10 on. 11 0. Correct. 12 Α. What is going on. 13 And you can feel the tension of the Q. 14 spring? 15 Α. Right. I'm strong. Let's just say the spring was broken, 16 Q. you would feel there was no tension? 17 18 Α. Yes. 19 You can feel it's working normally by Ο. 20 pushing on --21 Α. The only reason why I've done it. Ι 22 know that we had an issue. I want to do it 23 because when I do on emergency steering, I 24 exclude hydraulic part from electrical. 25 Q. Correct.

Page 79 1 Α. And the next time when I tried to do 2 this with this rod, that time I was sure that is 3 not hydraulically-related problem. It's 4 electrical. And then we go further and further 5 with service engineer until we found what we found. 6 7 Q. You narrowed it down from -- you excluded the hydraulic issue? 8 9 Α. Excluded it when I do the emergency 10 steering. 11 0. Emergency steering using the push 12 rod. 13 Α. Yes. 14 MR. FLOTTE: 15 Let's go off the record. (Off-the-record) . 16 17 BY MR. FLOTTE: 18 Let's go back on the record. Ο. 19 have any idea when the relay was put in, the one 20 that failed? 21 Α. No. 22 When was it installed? 0. 23 Α. When was it installed? 24 Q. Yeah. 25 No. I don't know that. Α.

- 1 O. And insofar as -- let's talk about
- 2 training on emergency steering. You received
- 3 training on how to do emergency steering or in
- 4 the way of drills, or not really?
- 5 A. Yes, we are training emergency on the
- 6 spot.
- 7 Q. On the spot?
- 8 A. On the spot, yes, during navigation.
- 9 Q. Have you had any training that
- 10 included bridge personnel with --
- 11 A. We are all together down in the
- 12 emergency steering when we are performing that.
- 13 Q. Okay. Have you had drills where
- 14 there's somebody using communications from the
- 15 bridge and you're in the engine room and
- 16 performing emergency steering using a push rod?
- 17 A. That is all the part of emergency
- 18 steering and it's always -- we are always
- 19 performing it, communication with the bridge,
- 20 crew are changing on the push rods and do as
- 21 ordered from the bridge. It's part -- it's as a
- 22 whole. We have to do it like that.
- 23 Q. During the last -- the four months
- 24 that you were on this ship, have you had any
- 25 training that dealt with emergency steering that

Page 81 1 included both engine room and bridge personnel? 2 Α. Yes. 3 And where would we find records that Ο. 4 show that? I think some of the deck officers. 5 Α. Deck officers? 6 Ο. 7 Α. When we check it, we are checking 8 this also. We are checking this also prior to 9 entering into U.S. waters each and every time. 10 So when you say "we're checking 11 this," you're checking what? 12 Α. I'm checking pump No. 1. checking pump No. 2. And we are checking 13 emergency steering and the movement of the 14 15 rudder from hard starboard to hard port by 10, 20, 30 degrees, 35 hard over on each side, on 16 17 both, on both ways, locally and remotely. 18 And the best of your recollection, is Ο. 19 there any documentation that would be prepared 20 to show when you're testing emergency steering? 21 In other words, we marked some pages there, but 22 I don't see anything specifically that talks 23 about emergency steering. 24 Α. We have this prior to entering into 25 U.S. waters when we are testing it. It's called

Page 82 1 primary and secondary steering gear tests. 2 Primary and secondary? Ο. 3 Α. Yes. Let's look and see. Is this on any 4 Ο. 5 of the things we marked? It's not here. 6 Α. 7 Q. So we should look for or ask for 8 primary and secondary steering gear tests? 9 It should be. If you give me a 10 minute I will bring it. I will bring it. 11 MR. FLOTTE: 12 Yeah. And let your counsel see it first. 13 (Off-the-record). 14 15 BY MR. FLOTTE: I'll mark this as Exhibit 15 it says 16 Ο. U.S. Coast Guard Rules and Regulations. 17 18 bears the stamp of the JALMA TOPIC and it looks 19 like it's within 12 hours. It says: "Within 12 20 hours prior to entering U.S. territorial waters, 21 the following tests must be carried out," and 22 then there's a list of five things, and these 23 are dated July 11, 2021 is the last one. 24 There's one 22-June-2021, 6-June-2021, and 25 12-May-2021. So I've marked those, sort of, in

- 1 globo as Exhibit 15.
- 2 Am I correct in understanding that
- 3 these are records that you have kept on the
- 4 testing, the emergency steering testing you've
- 5 talked about?
- 6 A. Yes. Primary, remotely and
- 7 emergency, so we test both modes.
- 8 Q. So it says: "Primary and secondary
- 9 steering gear." So tell me what you did on,
- 10 I'll just take the last one, this is July 11th,
- 11 2021, a couple of days before the accident?
- 12 A. This is the day before.
- 13 Q. The day before, excuse me. I stand
- 14 corrected.
- 15 A. This is the day before we checked
- 16 remotely steering system from the bridge.
- 17 Q. So what does that mean?
- 18 A. By the helm. It means on helm.
- 19 Q. So your part, do you stay in the
- 20 engine room when that happens?
- 21 A. My part, yes.
- 22 Q. So you are communicating with the
- 23 bridge and they are telling you we're testing
- 24 the system and you see the rudder indicator
- 25 move?

- 1 A. When remotely. I'm just in the -- I
- 2 have this headset and I'm communicating with
- 3 them and they are changing it remotely. I'm
- 4 just confirming rudder indicator and that there
- 5 is no noises or whatsoever problems down there
- 6 on machinery part.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. And then after we done it, then we
- 9 transfer it. I shut the autopilots down. I'm
- 10 still in connection with the bridge.
- 11 Q. In communication?
- 12 A. In communication, yes, and --
- Q. And what did you do next?
- 14 A. They are giving me orders. They are
- 15 always different, 10 port, 15 port, 20 starboard
- 16 hard over and then we perform emergency testing
- 17 on both units.
- 18 Q. When you did emergency testing on
- 19 both units, that means both the No. 1 --
- 20 A. Yes. I finish --
- 21 Q. -- and the No. 2?
- 22 A. I finish with No. 1, then I proceed
- 23 with No. 2.
- Q. And is that when you are doing the
- 25 emergency testing you've described the day

Page 85 1 before the accident, was that using a push rod 2 or is that --3 Α. Emergency is when you are using the push rods. 4 5 Yes? Q. 6 Α. Yes, it is. 7 Q. And it responded normally? 8 Yes. Α. 9 Correct? Q. 10 Α. Yes. 11 And it so states -- this is doing the 0. 12 test, but what you're saying is have you ever had a problem when doing the tests whether it 13 was some issue? 14 15 Α. No, we did not. If there was a problem, is there a 16 Ο. place where it would be recorded? 17 18 Probably not. Probably not. Α. There 19 is only "no power alarm" but it will be recorded 20 because we will report it to our company and 21 probably we will anchor on Southwest Pass and 22 wait to recover this because we will never go 23 upstream. 24 Q. Do you keep an engineer's log? 25 Α. Yes, I do.

- 1 Q. So if there was an issue with the
- 2 steering, let's just say there was, you know,
- 3 not really sure why but it turns out to be a
- 4 relay, what document would that problem be
- 5 recorded?
- 6 A. It will be visible from my
- 7 communication with the company by e-mails and I
- 8 will enter in my logbook that I have got that
- 9 time when I don't know what it is, what is
- 10 actual problem, I will just write it that I have
- 11 steering gear problem with unit, No. 1 in this
- 12 case, and after it's rectified, I will write it
- 13 what it is in short terms in logbook, but
- 14 however I will have communication with the
- 15 company and company's communication with service
- 16 engineers or the maker getting the advices of
- 17 whatsoever how to do it.
- 18 Q. So to summarize, during the four
- 19 months that you were on the ship, if you had,
- 20 leading up to this, if there was a mechanical
- 21 issue like happened here, it would be recorded
- 22 in that book and your recollection is there was
- 23 nothing?
- A. No. There was nothing.
- 25 MR. FLOTTE:

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1	We will go off the record.
2	(Off-the-record).
3	BY MR. FLOTTE:
4	Q. So let's go back on the record.
5	Insofar as prior drills and training or just
6	activities that you have had in the past leading
7	up to this, I think what you've said is you
8	don't believe that there was enough time for the
9	master to have given you instructions that would
10	allow you to turn off the autopilot to go do
11	what you needed to do in order to make sure you
12	have communications to get in position to use
13	the push rod and turn it. In any of the
14	training did you have you had any discussion
15	with the captain or any bridge personnel that
16	would teach the officer on watch how long it
17	might take engine room personnel to go to
18	emergency steering?
19	A. We did not have.
20	Q. You did not have that discussion?
21	A. No, we did not have that discussion.
22	MR. FLOTTE:
23	Okay. Thank you very much. I
24	appreciate it. I think we're done.
25	- EXAMINATION -

- 1 BY MR. HAROWSKI:
- 2 Q. Chief, the relay that was found to be
- 3 faulty, where is that physically located?
- 4 A. It's located in the server board.
- 5 Server board in the steering gear.
- 6 O. You said server board?
- 7 A. Yes, but it's like small drawer with
- 8 electrical parts, you know, where it's
- 9 installed.
- 10 O. Like a circuit board?
- 11 A. Yes. It's a part of the circuit
- 12 board.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. Because we order a new one, a new
- 15 circuit board and it comes with two relays
- 16 installed already on it.
- 17 Q. And to your understanding, is that a
- 18 piece that comes originally on the circuit board
- 19 when the circuit board is obtained?
- 20 A. Yes, it is. It's a part. Without
- 21 those relays you actually don't have nothing.
- 22 Q. And we talked a bit earlier in your
- 23 deposition about the emergency power, emergency
- 24 generator and how that relationship is. Just to
- 25 confirm, was there any loss of power here?

Page 89 1 Α. (Witness nods negatively). 2 0. So there was no -- was there any need 3 for the emergency generator to turn on? 4 We didn't lose main generators. Α. 5 did not lost the power. And the relay failure isn't a loss of 6 Ο. 7 power, it's just sending the wrong signal? No, it's not loss of power. You 8 9 cannot consider a relay breakdown as loss of 10 power because you did not loss power. 11 Consequences of a relay breakdown is that 12 steering gear it's not working, but you did not 13 have loss of power when that happened. Now, is there any maintenance done by 14 Ο. 15 the ship's crew to the relay? You cannot perform -- there is 16 Α. no maintenance for relays. I mean, it's solid 17 state relay, so the word it's saying that there 18 19 is no maintenance when it's broken or shorted, 20 whatever. When it's not working, you just 21 replace it, buy new one. 22 MR. HAROWSKI: 23 I don't have any more questions. 24 - EXAMINATION -25 BY MR. FLOTTE:

Page 90 1 Q. You can switch between pump -- can 2 the bridge switch from pump No. 1 to pump No. 2? 3 They got controls. Α. Yes. They just turn -- is it a --4 Ο. 5 They have to --Α. No. 6 Ο. -- toggle or something? 7 Α. It's not toggle. It's part of a push 8 button. 9 I think you said the relays come when Ο. you get a new circuit board. Is this the first 10 11 time you've had a new circuit board since you 12 have been on this vessel or has the circuit board been changed before? 13 14 Α. No. 15 Ο. I'm sorry, I asked too long a question. 16 17 Α. No, no, no. It's fine. This is the first time that we are receiving circuit board 18 19 which includes those two relays. 20 0. But you did have spares that were 21 available? 22 Because relays -- yes, I have two 23 relay spares. Not server board, but a relay you 24 can order as an optional one, optional part, but 25 when you are ordering new server board which

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1 .	controls everything, they are already installed
2	on position.
3	MR. FLOTTE:
4	I understand. That's it.
5	(Whereupon, the deposition was
6	concluded).
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1	REPORTER'S PAGE
2	
3	I, Barbara A. Burger, Certified Court
4	Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana, the
5	officer, as defined in Rule 28 of the Federal
6	Rules of Civil Procedure and/or Article 1434(B)
7	of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, before
8	whom this sworn testimony was taken, do hereby
9	state on the Record:
10	That due to the interaction in the
11	spontaneous discourse of this proceeding, where
12	necessary, dashes () have been used to
13	indicate pauses, changes in thought, and/or
14	talkovers; that same is the proper method for a
15	Court Reporter's transcription of proceeding,
16	and that dashes () do not indicate that words
17	or phrases have been left out of this
18	transcript;
19	That any words and/or names which
20	could not be verified through reference material
21	have been denoted with the phrase "spelled
22	phonetically."
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24	
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1	

		Page	93
1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE		
2 .			
3	This certification is valid only for a		
4	transcript accompanied by my original signature and original required seal on this page.		
5	and original required sear on ents page.		
6	I, BARBARA A. BURGER, Certified Court		
	Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this testimony was		
7	taken, do hereby certify that Stipe Mrgudic,		
8	after having been duly sworn by me upon authority of R.S. 37:2554, did testify as		
	hereinbefore set forth in the foregoing 93		
9	pages; that this testimony was reported by me is		
10	the stenotype reporting method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction		
	and supervision, and is a true and correct	. 1	
11	transcript to the best of my ability and		
1.0	understanding; that the transcript has been		
12	prepared in compliance with transcript format guidelines required by statute or by rules of		
13	the board, and that I am informed about the		
	complete arrangement, financial or otherwise,		
14	with the person or entity making arrangements for deposition services; that I have acted in		
15	compliance with the prohibition on contractual		
	relationships, as defined by the Louisiana Code		
16	of Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules and	d	
17	advisory opinions of the board; that I have no actual knowledge of any prohibited employment o	r	
' '	contractual relationship, direct or indirect,	L	
18	between a court reporting firm and any party		
1.0	litigant in this matter nor is there any such	L	
19	relationship between myself and a party litigan in this matter. I am not related to counsel or	L	
20	to the parties herein, nor am I otherwise		
	interested in the outcome of this matter.		
21			
22 23			
23	BARBARA A. BURGER		
24	Certified Court Reporter		
٥٢	License #86156		
25			

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