



**National Salvage- Party Submission**

**Reed, PA  
RRD22LR003**

(2 pages)



# NATIONAL

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August 1, 2022

Ms. Sheryl Harley  
Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)  
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW  
Washington, DC 20594

*Sent via email:* [REDACTED]

Re: National Salvage & Service Corporation (“National Salvage”) Submission in Response to NTSB Reports and Norfolk Southern Submission, dated July 29, 2022

Dear Ms. Harley:

This letter is in response to the various NTSB reports and the Norfolk Southern submission, dated July 29, 2022, regarding the death of Mr. Kolton Helbert on December 8, 2021 near Reed, Pennsylvania. National Salvage hereby submits the following:

Mr. Kolton Helbert, an employee of National Salvage & Service Corporation, was working with the Norfolk Southern R-12 gang on December 8, 2021. Mr. Helbert was marking rail for the purpose of cutting the rail at a later time. Mr. Helbert was part of the Norfolk Southern work group and authorized to be on the track (i.e., he had an active track authority) at the time of the accident. Thus, Mr. Helbert did not violate any safety rules when he placed himself within the gauge of the track. He did not cause the accident nor did he directly interfere with the ability of the operator of Spiker 2 to observe him.

National Salvage is dedicated to a culture of safety and regulatory compliance. Mr. Helbert’s tragic death is the first on-the-job fatality of an employee our company has experienced in our over forty (40) years of business. We stand ready and willing to work with the NTSB during this investigation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at

[REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Very Respectfully,

[REDACTED]  
Timothy J. Rushenberg  
General Counsel