



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Investigator name: Shaun Williams
Mode: Air Safety Investigator
Region: Alaska

Date: 17 October 2017
Person Contacted: Jonathan Penz
NTSB Accident Number: ANC18FA003

Narrative:

On October 16, 2017, about 1430 Alaska daylight time, a Cessna 210-5 airplane, N8347Z, impacted the waters of the Yukon River, about 10 miles southwest of Russian Mission, Alaska. Mr. Penz was flying along the same route about 10 minutes ahead of the accident aircraft.

Mr. Penz and the accident pilot were separate airplanes along the same route of flight between a private airport (Kako) and Bethel, Alaska. The purpose of the flight was to pick up passengers in Bethel and return to Kako. After delaying the departure during the morning due to fog in the area, both airplanes departed around 1400. Mr. Penz was in the lead airplane and climbed to about 1,500 ft. He stated that along the route of flight, there were variable layers of clouds, but about 20 miles visibility. He could see fog laying on the ground and there was lifted fog on the hills and over the Yukon River. He recalled that in the area of the accident, the fog was thick with no holes visible.

He stated that the accident pilot was about 10 minutes behind him and they last spoke when the accident pilot was adjacent to Russian Mission and on the east side of the Yukon River. About 15 minutes later, he again tried to contact the accident pilot, but no response was received. He remained at 1,500 ft until he was about 20 miles from Bethel and he was able to descend through holes in the clouds to about 600 ft. He continued onto Bethel, where he picked up the passengers and returned to Kako.

During the return flight, Mr. Penz searched for the accident airplane, but was unable to locate the wreckage. Upon arrival back into Kako, he notified the FAA Flight Service Station of the overdue airplane.