



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

**Investigator: Brian C. Rayner
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region**

**Date: April 25, 2016
Reference: Interview Summary
Pilot: Owen Garnett
NTSB Accident Number: ERA16CA160 Baltimore, MD**

Narrative:

Mr. Garnett was the pilot of the accident helicopter. He was interviewed by telephone, and the following is a summary of the interview.

Mr. Garnett was very direct and forthright during the conversation. He explained that the helicopter was performing as designed on the day of the accident, and that there were no mechanical deficiencies which would have prevented normal operation. He said, "It was an aerodynamic issue, not a mechanical issue."

Mr. Garnett stated that he understood the elements of Loss of Tail Rotor Effectiveness (LTE) and said that he believes the surrounding terrain and obstacles may have created mechanical turbulence which exacerbated the situation.

The high gross weight of the helicopter, how it affects the power required for out-of-ground-effect hover work, and power management were also discussed.