

On 19 JUL 2022 Helicopter N203PA was transitioning from point of departure, KFKL, enroute to the Keystone Power Station, WNW of KIDI. The transition flight was being done in order to continue our day's mission of capturing photo and laser data of power transmission corridors. The TOP at the incident was approximately 12:30 PM EST in the vicinity of Lawrenceburg, PA. The flight path in the area followed roughly with the Allegheny River. Indiana-Simmy Stewart airport (KIDI) was in the direction of travel, following the incident and was chosen as a safe landing alternative.

I, Christopher Kiel, was PIC of the aircraft. Enroute from Franklin County Airport (KFKL) to our intended destination for our corridor patrol, I was loosely following the western shore of the Allegheny River at approximately 400ft AGL, inside and above the western ridge line of the river valley. Prior to the point of impact I saw no indication for signs of activity or obstructions in the area. At the point of impact, while scanning the upcoming horizon I saw a quick flash of something either white or reflective and pushed the aircraft into a descent. Immediately following the maneuver, a slight shudder was felt in the airframe. Once the aircraft was back in level profile, I began scanning my warning and instrument panel and doing control checks. After a short period, I decided to search for an airport instead of an off-airport landing, due to there being no signs of control degradation or continued airframe vibrations. KIDI was in my general direction of travel and would require minimum maneuvering to set course. The airport and area were also familiar, with good facilities and more forgiving terrain. The aircraft was flown to an open



taxiway and hover taxied to the ramp with no indication of control degradation. Upon shut down for ground inspection, damage to the vertical stabilizer was found and the notification process was initiated.

Aircraft is operated by North American Helicopter.

Chris Kiel

21 JUL 2022

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