



NTSB Investigation No. ERA 23LA337

Date of Accident: August 12, 2023

Accident Location: Haines City, FL

CERTIFICATION OF PARTY REPRESENTATIVE¹

I acknowledge that I am participating in the above-referenced accident or incident investigation, on behalf of my employer who has been named a party to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) safety investigation, for the purpose of providing technical assistance to the NTSB's evidence documentation and fact-finding activities. I understand that as a party participant, I and my organization shall be responsive to the direction of NTSB personnel and may lose party status for conduct that is prejudicial to the investigation or inconsistent with NTSB policies or instructions. No information pertaining to the accident, or in any manner relevant to the investigation, may be withheld from the NTSB by any party or party participant.

I further acknowledge that I have familiarized myself with the attached copies of the revised NTSB Accident/Incident Investigation Procedures (49 C.F.R. Part 831) and "Information and Guidance for Parties to NTSB Accident and Incident Investigations," and will comply, and, if the party coordinator for my party, take all reasonable steps to ensure that the employees and participants of my organization comply, with these requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, the provisions of 49 C.F.R. §§ 831.11 and 831.13, which, respectively, specify certain criteria for participation in NTSB investigations and limitations on the dissemination of investigation information.

No party coordinator or representative may occupy a legal position or be a person who also represents claimants or insurers. I certify that my participation is not on behalf of either claimants or insurers, and that, although factual information obtained as a result of participating in the NTSB investigation may ultimately be used in litigation (at the appropriate time, and in a manner that is not inconsistent with the provisions of 49 C.F.R. § 831.13 and 49 U.S.C. § 1154), my participation is to assist the NTSB safety investigation and not for the purposes of preparing for litigation. I also certify that, after the NTSB Investigator-in-Charge (IIC) releases the parties and party participants from the restrictions on dissemination of investigative information specified in 49 C.F.R. § 831.13, neither I nor my party's organization will in any way assert in civil litigation arising out of the accident any claim of privilege for information or records received as a result of my participation in the NTSB investigation.

[Redacted Signature]

8-12-23

Signature

Date

Ralph K. Wetherell – Air Safety

Name & Title

Piper Aircraft

Party Organization/Employer

¹ In aviation investigations this form may also be referred to as "Statement of Party Representatives to NTSB Investigation."

**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD (NTSB)
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOR PARTIES
TO NTSB ACCIDENT AND INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS**

I. Introduction

This guidance is intended to familiarize participants in NTSB accident and incident investigations with the NTSB investigative process, and the NTSB's expectations regarding the roles and responsibilities of organizations and individual employees of those organizations assigned to work in support of an NTSB investigation.

The Independent Safety Board Act of 1974, as amended, sets forth the powers and responsibilities of the NTSB, and all participants are encouraged to review its provisions. A recent compilation of these statutory provisions can be reviewed on the NTSB's website: http://www.nts.gov/alj/2003_Statute.PDF.

In addition, participants should be familiar with the NTSB's regulations governing accident and incident investigation procedures: 49 C.F.R. Part 831. These and other NTSB regulations can be viewed on the Government Printing Office's website: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2016-title49-vol7/pdf/CFR-2016-title49-vol7-subtitleB-chapVIII.pdf>.

II. The NTSB and the Investigative Process

The NTSB is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in the other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, pipeline and hazardous materials—and issuing an official determination regarding probable cause and, as appropriate, safety recommendations to prevent future accidents. The NTSB also investigates certain incidents that present significant safety issues. The NTSB strives to accurately identify and report all relevant facts, conditions, and circumstances relating to each accident or incident it investigates.

Safety recommendations are the most important product of an NTSB investigation. NTSB safety recommendations are based on findings of the investigation and may address deficiencies that do not pertain directly to what is ultimately determined to be the probable cause of the accident. The NTSB may issue safety recommendations before the completion of a specific investigation and may designate some recommendations as "urgent."

For major accidents, the NTSB dispatches a "Go Team." The purpose of the NTSB Go Team is to deploy NTSB investigators to the accident scene as quickly as possible and assemble the broad spectrum of technical expertise that is needed to investigate complex transportation accidents.