

APPENDIX: V

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DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT: Handwritten notes of NTSB
employee's calculations for Addendum II to the Main
Wreckage Flight Path Study for the TWA flight 800
investigation

This document consists of the preliminary handwritten notes of an NTSB staff member. The notes relate to the creation of "fast" and "slow" simulations of the main wreckage flight path for TWA flight 800. These simulations accounted for the range of the varying combinations of aerodynamic tolerances or configurations that could affect a 747 flying without its forward fuselage. The flight path studies that would ultimately be presented to the Members of the Safety Board were ultimately prepared based on work like that presented in these handwritten notes. The five-member Safety Board is the ultimate decision-maker as to the probable cause(s) of an accident, and the safety recommendations that are made by the Board in connection

with the determination of probable cause. Pursuant to exemption (b)(5) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), this document was withheld in its entirety.

The NTSB employee that made these notes was preparing preliminary calculation options for the "fast" and "slow" aircraft models that were to be used in the simulation of the accident aircraft in the accident investigation of TWA flight 800. The output from the simulations, when finally completed, would be used to prepare and, thereafter, update the NTSB reports on flight path studies. The calculations in these notes were prepared with preliminary figures and in advance of the completion of the flight path studies.

This document contains preliminary information that an NTSB employee gathered from a number of sources and employed thereafter in his or her preliminary calculations. The information is predecisional in that it was gathered well in advance of the completion of the NTSB flight path studies. The notes are also deliberative in nature in that they contain the unconfirmed calculations of the author, who is one of the NTSB investigative personnel involved in the investigation.

Disclosure of the initial unconfirmed calculations contained in these notes would expose the NTSB's decision-

making process in such a way as to discourage candid discussion and work within the agency and thereby undermine the agency's ability to perform its functions. Disclosure would also have a chilling effect on the author and those participating in the investigation by making them wary of engaging in frank and open discussion or work for fear of the preliminary and speculative information shared in these discussions being disclosed. Consequently, predecisional and deliberative information contained in this document was withheld pursuant to the (b)(5) exemption to the FOIA.