

APPENDIX: V

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DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT: Study Report: National  
Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Main Wreckage Flight  
Path Study

This record consists of three pages of draft text,  
handwritten notes and an outline of certain sections of the  
proposed report for the NTSB Main Wreckage Flight Plan  
Study, all of which were withheld pursuant to exemption  
(b) (5).

This document is an incomplete draft of certain portions  
of the Main Wreckage Flight Path Study. It contains  
preliminary data and information, which is being used to  
fill in certain sections of the report. Handwritten notes  
by NTSB staff indicate questions that must be answered in  
the report, identify matters that should be expanded or  
limited in the discussion, and identify matters that  
rightfully belong in other parts of the report. The

handwritten notes, as well, provide notations for the body of sections of the report as yet unwritten. Preliminary in nature, the draft report contains the speculations of the author and deliberations of the group that is working on the study.

The draft is predecisional and deliberative in nature, containing preliminary information that NTSB employees gathered from a number of sources and employed thereafter in the development of preliminary calculations. The information is predecisional in that it was gathered well in advance of the completion of the NTSB flight path studies, which was also well before the action taken on this case by the Board of the NTSB. The notes are also deliberative in nature, as discussed above, in that they contain the unconfirmed calculations of the author, who was one of the NTSB investigative personnel involved in the investigation.

Disclosure of the initial, incomplete and unconfirmed calculations contained in these notes and the draft comments in the report would expose the NTSB's decisionmaking 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 investigative functions. Disclosure would also have a chilling effect on

the author and all of 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 and work, as represented by the chart, being disclosed prematurely. Consequently, the predecisional and deliberative information contained in this document, including the handwritten comments and notations of the investigator, was withheld pursuant to the (b)(5) exemption to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This resulted in this document being withheld in its entirety.