

Board of Pilot Commissioners for Harris County Ports

To: Pilot Board Investigation Recommendation Committee (PBIRC)
From: Mike Usher
Date: August 7, 2013
Subject: Minutes of July 11, 2013 PBIRC Hearing regarding:
MV HARVEST SUN collision with MT CHARLESTON; and
MT MERCINI LADY collision with UTV BELLE

The hearing was held in the Port of Houston Authority Executive Office Building Boardroom on Thursday, July 11, 2013. Committee members in attendance were Chairman Marcus Woodring, Paul Caruselle, Captain Mike Curtiss, Richard Ford, Captain Dave Foret, Tim Leitzell, Tom Marian, Captain David Rodrigues, and Captain Robert Thompson. Staff members in attendance were Pilot Board General Counsel Erik Eriksson, Counsel David McNamara and Compliance Coordinator Mike Usher.

A. MV HARVEST SUN collided with MT CHARLESTON December 13, 2011, Houston Ship Channel

Proposed Findings: Following its deliberations, the PBIRC proposed the following findings:

No willful misconduct on the part of Captain King, but his actions support issuance of a Letter of Caution and the requirement to undertake additional training.

Proposed Recommendations: Following its deliberations, the PBIRC proposed the following recommendations to the Board of Pilot Commissioners for Harris County Ports:

1. That Captain King be issued a Letter of Caution.
2. That Captain King:
 - a. Attend a practical Raven unit training course at a simulation facility, which would incorporate low visibility scenarios if possible;
 - b. Work with the Houston Pilots Association to determine the best facility for such training;
 - c. Complete the training by November 30, 2013;
 - d. Notify the PBIRC upon your completion of the training; and
 - e. Share “lessons learned” with other members of the Houston Pilots Association.

B. MT MERCINI LADY collided with UTV BELLE January 2, 2013, Houston Ship Channel

Proposed Findings: Following its deliberations, the PBIRC proposed the following findings:

No willful misconduct on the part of Captain James J. Hensley.

Proposed Recommendations: Following its deliberations, the PBIRC proposed the following recommendation to the Board of Pilot Commissioners for Harris County Ports:

1. Take no action, and close matter to file.
2. Standardize communications as recommended by the National Transportation Safety Board following its investigation of the tank ship EAGLE OTOME matter.