



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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August 3, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Ronald Ester
Chief Safety Officer
MBTA Safety Department
185 Kneeland Street
Boston, MA 02111

RE: August 2, 2023 - MBTA Employee Injuries, Corrective Action Plan

Dear Mr. Ester:

On August 2, 2023 at approximately 5:10 pm, the Department of Public Utilities ("DPU") received notification from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's ("MBTA") Operations Control Center ("OCC") that two Signal Maintainers were injured while splicing wire at Quincy Center station's cross over when, the wire touched the third rail. One employee was transported to Mass General Hospital with a hand injury. The other employee was treated on scene by Emergency Medical Services and released. DPU responded by sending staff to the scene at Quincy Center Station. The hazards identified by this event are similar to the hazards that took place on March 28, 2022 where a Maintenance of Way employee was shocked while working in close relation to the third rail. As a result of that incident, MBTA's Corrective Action Plan ("CAP") number 8401 is open with the DPU to address worker protection and electrical hazards associated with work on or near electrical conductors (i.e third rail).

Within CAP 8401, MBTA's action items only address Maintenance of Way employees and does not address the hazards associated with other MBTA departments that conduct work along the right of way. The DPU requires the MBTA to provide the following information within 24 hours of your receipt of this letter:

- 1) All immediate corrective actions that the MBTA has taken to ensure the safety of MBTA employees while working in third rail territory; and
- 2) A corrective action plan that identifies the hazard associated with the August 2, 2023 incident and provides corrective actions to ensure the safety of MBTA employees in all departments that conduct work along the right of way.

Please contact me if you have any questions,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert N. Hanson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Robert N. Hanson
Director Rail Transit Safety

cc:

D. Lytton, MBTA Assistant CSO
I. Limlengco, DPU Assistant Director
D. Carvalho, DPU Assistant Director
S. Rubin, DPU Commissioner
J. Goldberg, DPU General Counsel
P. Mulcahy, EOEEA General Counsel
E. Powell, FTA