



NTSB National Transportation Safety Board

**Testimony of Christopher Hart
Vice Chairman**

Hudson River

Mid Air Collision

August 8, 2009

Hoboken, New Jersey

Piper - History of Flight

- N71MC departed TEB, destined for Ocean City, NJ.
- Operated by private pilot
- Elected to use Hudson River Class B exclusion area



Helicopter - History of Flight

- N401LH departed West 30th St. Heliport for 12-minute sightseeing flight
- Operated by Liberty Helicopters under CFR Parts 135 & 136



Air Traffic Control Timeline

- Piper takeoff clearance at 11:48:30
- TEB Controller telephone call at 11:50:31
- Verbal handoff to EWR at 11:52:20
- EWR controller attempts to contact TEB to turn Piper at about same time

Radar Plot - Piper



Air Traffic Control Timeline

- Helicopter appears on ATC Radar at 11:52:27
- TEB controller attempts to contact Piper at 11:52:48
- Telephone call ends at 11:53:13
- Accident at 11:53:14
- TEB controller contacts EWR about Piper at 11:53:17

Radar Plot – Piper and Helicopter



Witness Photos



Witness Photos



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Witness Photos



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