



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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March 7, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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

RE: 3rd Rail Insulators As 597

Immediate Action Notice

Dear Mr. Ester,

On March 6, 2023 a Department of Public Utilities track engineer and I were present with an instructor and section repair person to conduct an independent review of track conditions and the MBTA's compliance with the agency safety plan. DPU walked the red line section of track between Ashmont and Savin Hills on the southbound track. As a result of this inspection, the current version of the MBTA rule book and MBTA Maintenance of Way standards the DPU identified a condition that requires an immediate corrective action.

Per MBTA Standards:

“Immediate corrective action must be initiated if 2 consecutive insulators are defective or any insulator supporting an end approach is defective”

Therefore, the DPU directs MBTA to create a corrective action plan in accordance with 220 CMR 151.07 resolving the following items:

1. MBTA will replace and repair 3rd rail insulators identified at this location within 24 hours.
2. MBTA will conduct a visual inspection of all 3rd rail insulators between Ashmont and Savin Hill within 48 hours and report any identified defects into Trapeze.
3. MBTA will ensure any red or priority 1 defects to 3rd rail insulators are repaired within 72 hours between Ashmont and Savin Hill.

Please contact me if you have any questions,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert N. Hanson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "H".

Robert N. Hanson
Director Rail Transit Safety

cc:

J. Gonneville, MBTA
E. Stoothoff, MBTA
R. Ester, MBTA
S. Culp, MBTA
P. Roman, DPU
D Carvalho, DPU