

COSCO BUSAN HEARING UPDATE 24 JULY 08 -

Captain Cota has submitted his notice of intent to retire as a pilot effective October 1, 2008 (the first day he could retire under state law.) As a result of that notice, the Incident Review Committee and Captain Cota entered into a stipulation (subject to the Board's and ALJ's approval) to conditionally dismiss the charges against his license.

At its July 24 Commission meeting, the Board accepted the terms of that stipulation. Pursuant to those terms, Captain Cota's state pilot license will remain suspended until the effective date of his retirement. Captain Cota agrees that he will not withdraw his notice of intent to retire or request reissuance of his license once he does retire. He acknowledged that he is not authorized to pilot under his state license during its suspension, and that the license expires by operation of law upon his retirement.

As the only action the Board could take if it found pilot misconduct following a hearing is to suspend or revoke his license, it would have been useless (and expensive) to proceed with the hearing. The hearing was scheduled to start in early September, absent a further request for a continuance to allow Captain Cota's criminal hearing to go first, and was expected to take the full month to complete.

The stipulation will now be submitted to the administrative law judge. The judge's ruling will be posted on this website.