

Decision No. C23-0346

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 23I-0143R

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN REGARDING THE JEFFERSON COUNTY STATION DERAILMENT, RULE 4 CCR 732-7-7347.

**COMMISSION DECISION APPROVING
RTD CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

Mailed Date: May 24, 2023

Adopted Date: May 24, 2023

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. On March 11, 2023, a Regional Transportation District (RTD) light-rail vehicle derailed at the Jefferson County end of line station in the City of Golden resulting in one light rail vehicle derailing, breaking through the bumper block and into the hillside before coming to a stop.

2. On March 30, 2023, the Commission issued Decision No. C23-0217, requiring RTD to file a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) requiring RTD to file a CAP for this accident the same day that it filed the accident report with Staff of the Commission.

3. On April 25, 2023, RTD filed CAP01-03112023 proposing three interim measures and three final measures to mitigate RTD's findings from the accident investigation.

4. Now being advised in these matters, we approve CAP01-03112023.

B. Analysis

5. RTD performed an accident investigation for the Jefferson County Government Center station in Golden. The accident resulted in minor injuries to two customers who were onboard and sufficient damage to RTD infrastructure and rolling stock.

6. RTD's investigation determined that the train operator likely fell asleep before impact and that excessive speed and inattention of the train operator are the causal factors of the accident. The collision with the bump-post resulting in a derailment was a contributing cause to this accident.

7. RTD has identified actions to take to minimize, control, correct, or eliminate the risks identified by the CAP. These include fatigue awareness training in the biannual recertification training, implementing a comprehensive fatigue risk management program, and evaluating the starting times and duration of shift times for service.

8. RTD proposes three interim measures to implement to prevent recurrence before the final corrective actions are implemented.

9. The first interim measure involves updating the Fit for Duty checklist to include an attestation from the Supervisor that they performed the check and from the employee that they are fit for duty. RTD proposes a target of June 30, 2023, to implement this interim measure.

10. The second interim measure involves considering further enhancements to the Fit for Duty process. RTD proposes a target date of September 29, 2023, to implement this interim measure.

11. The third interim measure involves conducting a fatigue awareness campaign, which will include information regarding the hazards of operating a vehicle while taking certain medications. RTD proposes a target date of April 30, 2023, to implement this interim measure.

12. RTD also proposed three final measures as part of CAP01-03112023.

13. The first final measure is to include fatigue awareness as part of the recertification training that occurs for each operator biennially. RTD proposes to implement this final measure by September 30, 2023.

14. The second final measure proposed by RTD is to implement a comprehensive fatigue risk management program similar to the fatigue risk management program conducted by the Federal Railroad Administration. RTD proposes to implement this final measure by July 1, 2026.

15. Finally, the third final measure proposed by RTD is to evaluate the starting time and duration of shifts for service. RTD proposes to implement this final measure by September 30, 2023.

16. The Assistant General Manager, Rail Operations will be the individual responsible for implementing the above corrective actions. The Senior Leadership Safety Committee under the direction of the Accountable Executive and the Chief Safety Officer/Senior Manager, Safety and Environmental Compliance will monitor implementation of the CAP requirements.

C. Conclusion

17. We have reviewed CAP01-03112023 and see that there are mitigation measures to address the fatigue issue of this accident. Once the fatigue issue is addressed, it should lead to resolution of the excessive speed as operators should be alert while operating their vehicles.

18. Based on the Analysis, we find that good cause exists and that the requirements of public safety and necessity are met by approving CAP01-03112023.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The Corrective Action Plan (CAP) 01-03112023 filed by the Regional Transportation District (RTD) on April 25, 2023, to address the fatigue and excessive speed causal factors identified in the accident investigation of the Jefferson County end of line station on Marcy 11, 2023, is approved.

2. Staff will be required to monitor the CAP through verification of each measure and closure of the CAP.

3. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Rebecca E. White,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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Commissioners