



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jefferson National  
Expansion Memorial

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## Press Release

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# **GATEWAY ARCH TRAM TO UNDERGO REVIEW TO ENSURE CONTINUED SAFE OPERATION**

*St. Louis Attraction to Remain Open throughout Analysis by Maida Engineering, Inc.*

ST. LOUIS (August 10, 2007) – On July 21, 2007, one of nine cables that hoist the south tram of the Gateway Arch failed. This failure caused a power outage to both trams; however, all safety systems functioned as designed and visitors in the Arch were safe.

To review the incident and ensure the continued safety of the tram and cable operations, the National Park Service has tapped Fort Washington, Pennsylvania-based Maida Engineering, Inc., a multi-discipline engineering and architectural firm. Maida will determine the causes of the incident and make recommendations to ensure the continued safe operation of the tram system, which includes both north and south trams. The onsite review team from Maida will include experts in electrical and mechanical engineering, materials analysis and testing and elevator inspection.

In its review of the cable, Maida will:

- Investigate cable tension, alignment and other pertinent elements of the hoist system; and
- Conduct materials analysis of the cable.

In the analysis and recommendations of the power outage, Maida will:

- Provide recommendations, based upon review of the north and south trams' electrical diagrams, to prevent interrupted service of one tram from affecting the other;
- Determine whether service elevators and lighting in each leg of the Arch can be isolated from the trams' power feeders; and
- Issue a proposal, based upon review findings, to make modifications to the electrical distribution system.

The review is expected to be completed on August 16. National Park Service staff will continue to keep the public apprised of progress.

"With the help of Maida Engineering, Inc., we will develop a plan in hopes of resuming full operation as soon as possible," said Peggy O'Dell, Superintendent of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. "In the meantime, we at the Arch are eager to continue hosting visitors and we will remain operational throughout the entire review process. The north tram is fully operational and visitors are encouraged to take advantage of the spectacular views from the top."

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