

Railway accident investigation report

Railway operator : West Japan Railway Company

Accident type : Train derailment

Date and time : About 05:38, July 14, 2016

Location : At around 95,854 m from the origin at Bitchu-Kojiro station, between Nishi-Miyoshi station and Shiwachi station, single track, Geibi Line, Miyoshi City, Hiroshima Prefecture

SUMMARY

On July 14, 2016, the outbound 1851D composed of four railway vehicles, started from Miyoshi station bound for Hiroshima station, Geibi Line of West Japan Railway Company, departed from Nishi-Miyoshi station on schedule at 05:34.

The driver of the train, while driving the train in powering operation at about 70 km/h, noticed the earth and sand disturbing the front track near the exit of Aoga tunnel, and applied an emergency brake, but the train ran onto the earth and sand containing cluster of rocks, and stopped the train.

It was found that the second axle in the front bogie and the second axle in the rear bogie of the first vehicle were derailed to right, by the check implemented after the train had stopped.

There were 24 passengers, 2 train crews, i.e., the driver and the conductor, and a facility maintenance staff onboard the train, but there was no casualty.

PROBABLE CAUSES

It is highly probable that the train was derailed because the train hit and ran onto earth and sand containing cluster of rocks flowed into the track, which were transported by the water flowed from swamp in the slope above the longitudinal drain in left side of the track, and overflowed the longitudinal drain, in the accident.

It is probable that earth and sand overflowed the longitudinal drain because the inlet of the longitudinal drain was filled up by the earth and sand, that were transformed from the eroded sediments in the riverbed of downstream of the swamp and transported to upper part of the longitudinal drain, when the rain water by the local heavy rain around the accident site flowed downward along the swamp.