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Press Release

March 31, 2015

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

Delays of 15-25 Minutes Expected on Ronkonkoma Branch Again Tonight as Efforts Continue to Repair Infrastructure Damaged by New York & Atlantic Freight Car Derailment

Customers Should Anticipate Delays through Wednesday Morning

The Long Island Rail Road's Ronkonkoma Branch customers should anticipate 15-25 minute delays east of Hicksville during Tuesday evening's rush hour due to extensive infrastructure damage caused by the derailment of a freight car west of Wyandanch Station. LIRR trains will continue operating at a reduced speed between Farmingdale and Wyandanch.

The damaged freight car, property of the New York and Atlantic Railway, was carrying a full load of lumber when it derailed at about midnight on Sunday on a freight track that runs parallel to the Ronkonkoma Branch. Though employees of both railroads have working around the clock since the incident, LIRR customers should anticipate that the delays through the work area will continue through the Wednesday morning commute.

The derailed car came to rest on its side and in a location which made it impossible to re-rail without first off-loading the lumber. To do so, LIRR workers had to undertake the laborious task of cutting away security fencing made of high-gauge steel, enabling NY&A to bring in the machinery needed to remove the lumber.

When that was finally accomplished Monday night, the LIRR assisted in the effort to remove the damaged freight car, cutting it into pieces rather than trying to rerail it, and discovered the full extent of the damage done to its communications infrastructure. The derailed car had knocked down a utility pole, sliced through wires and cables and crushed signal machinery.

New York and Atlantic Railway operates on the Long Island Rail Road under a long term leasing agreement that pays the LIRR revenue based on the carloads it moves. NY&A operates under the direction of the LIRR and only at times that does not interfere with commuter train schedules.

For More Information

Ronkonkoma Branch customers should monitor television, radio and internet news reports, LIRR Customer Service Alerts or go to the MTA LIRR website www.mta.info/lirr for the latest on repair efforts and service plans for the commute on Wednesday morning. Customers can also call 511, the New York State Travel Information line, and say: Long Island Rail Road. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, use your preferred relay service provider or the free 711 relay to reach LIRR