

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2010

Crack identified in a Main Gearbox Mounting Foot of a Cougar Helicopter

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador – During a scheduled inspection of the main gearbox mounting feet of a Sikorsky S-92 based in St. John's, Canada, Cougar engineers identified a single hairline crack in the right hand mounting foot of the main gearbox. This inspection took place on the morning of May 3rd. The inspection is mandated by the helicopter manufacturer Sikorsky and the FAA through an airworthiness directive outlining visual inspections of the mounting feet every 10 flight hours. Since being notified by Sikorsky of this issue, Cougar has been in full compliance of the directive and has been conducting inspections following every flight of its S-92 aircraft. As is the standard procedure, the gearbox will be replaced immediately and the aircraft will be placed into serviceable status following the completion of that maintenance action.

This matter is classified by the helicopter manufacturer as a “benign” safety issue that has occurred to the global fleet of S92A aircraft on occasion. Cougar Helicopters has had two previous identical experiences in 2009. As this does not impact the safe operation of the aircraft, this is considered a standard maintenance action and completed as prescribed by the manufacturer (Sikorsky).

Cougar's first commitment is to the safety of its passengers and crew.

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