

ENBRIDGE PIPELINES INC.

INTERVIEW
OF
TED FARQUHAR

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Transportation Pipeline and
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1 INTERVIEW OF TED FARQUHAR, TAKEN AT 2:02 P.M.:

2 MR. JENNER: Good afternoon. Today is

3 Friday, July 30th, 2010. My name is Stephen

4 Jenner, and I'm an investigator with the National

5 Transportation Safety Board in Washington, D.C. We

6 are currently in Edmonton, Canada at the Crowne

7 Plaza Hotel, and we're here in regards to a

8 pipeline rupture, a pipeline spill in Marshall,

9 Michigan that occurred on July 26th, 2010.

10 And right now we'll go around the room and

11 have everyone in this room and everyone who's

12 calling in introduce themselves and please state

13 who you're with and your job title.

14 MR. GULSTAD: I'm Rick Gulstad, and I'm an

15 engineer for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials

16 Safety Administration, abbreviated PHMSA, and I

17 

18 Missouri.

19 MR. TOLLEFSON: Tyler Tollefson, senior legal

20 counsel, Enbridge Pipelines.

21 MR. GOESON: Curt Goeson, control centre

22 supervisor, Enbridge Pipelines.

23 MR. JENNER: Karen?

24 MS. BUTLER: Karen Butler, PHMSA, and I'm

25 [REDACTED] and I'm a regional

26 project manager.

27 MR. JENNER: Ted, are you still with us?

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1 A Yeah. That wasn't me.

2 MR. TOLLEFSON: It was around that time
3 yesterday when we had that guy dial in to see if
4 the call was still going, so I wonder -- that was
5 in and out, so I think we can probably assume
6 that's what that was.

7 MR. JENNER: Very good.

8 QUESTIONS BY MR. JENNER:

9 Q MR. JENNER: Okay, Ted, if you just
10 introduce yourself.

11 A Okay. My name is Ted Farquhar. I'm an engineer
12 with the pipeline modelling group with Enbridge
13 Pipelines. My office is based out of Edmonton, but
14 typically I work remote from [REDACTED].

15 Q And where are you calling in from right now?

16 A I'm calling in from [REDACTED]

17 Q And you're employed by Enbridge?

18 A That is correct.

19 Q Great. Well, thank you.

20 Ted, I'd like to get a little bit about your
21 background. When you first started at Enbridge,
22 when was that and what was your position?

23 A I started with Enbridge in March of 2002. I joined
24 what was then called SCADA, and I worked with
25 pipeline modelling people on the leak detection
26 systems. I worked on that for three years. And in
27 March of 2005, I moved to the Core Capital Group

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1 also with Enbridge Pipelines, and I worked as
2 project manager.

3 In June of 2009 -- or, sorry, 2008, I resigned
4 from the company to move to Halifax. Six months or
5 four months later, I was offered a temporary
6 position back in the pipeline modelling group, and
7 in November, I accepted that, and we tried working
8 remote from Halifax for six months. And ever since
9 then, I've been a permanent employee of Enbridge
10 working from Halifax.

11 Q Okay. In your current position, can you just give
12 a summary of your duties and responsibilities?

13 A Well, I'm an engineer, a senior engineer with the
14 pipeline modelling group. My responsibilities
15 focus primarily on the building and maintaining of
16 the material balance system, which is the leak
17 detection system that we use.

18 I build and maintain several pipelines,
19 several MBSs, and I also do on-call support 24/7
20 where I analyze leak alarms that come in. And I
21 also work on our design standard and on reviewing
22 design documents to make sure that they meet our
23 standards for leak detection purposes.

24 Q Great. Thank you for that background.

25 Where were you on July 26 and July 27th of
26 this year?

27 A Monday and Tuesday of this week, I was in [REDACTED]

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1 Q And is that the same for the 25th as well?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q Okay.

4 MR. GOESON: So that was a Sunday and

5 Monday; right? Is that what you're shooting for?

6 Q MR. JENNER: I may have given the wrong

7 days. So we've covered Sunday, Monday, Tuesday,

8 you were in [REDACTED]

9 A Correct.

10 Q Great. Ted, what I'm going to do is pass the

11 initial questions on to Karen, and when she's done,

12 we'll probably -- we'll go around the room, and I

13 imagine we'll have some follow-up questions for

14 you.

15 A Okay.

16 MR. JENNER: Okay, Karen.

17 QUESTIONS BY MS. BUTLER:

18 Q MS. BUTLER: Okay, Ted, thank you for being
19 willing to talk to us, and really, I just need some
20 information and some understanding as to how some
21 things work and some information on what they may
22 have asked you to do to help analyze in regards to
23 some specific alarms concerns they had.

24 So with that, in the pipeline modelling group,
25 what model are you working with hydraulically? Is
26 it a specific software?

27 A Oh, okay, we use a realtime transient model as our

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- 1 CPM or computational pipeline model. Stoner
2 software is the modelling software that we use;
3 it's also known as GL or GL Noble Denton or
4 Advantica. They've had a number of name changes.
- 5 Q Okay. And have you guys done anything above that,
6 like, written your own transient application or
7 your own interface to read in existing values from
8 SCADA, or have you made any modifications to what
9 Stoner would sell off the valve?
- 10 A Stoner comes with -- it's called Leak Finder is the
11 name of their software, and we basically use the
12 exact same software. We build it the exact same
13 way, but we build in our own alarming function with
14 our own set of thresholds and our own calculations
15 for imbalances on the line. That's the extent of
16 it. We haven't done anything else.
- 17 Q Okay. So that's just a mechanism for getting

18 alarms from this leak detection software into the
19 SCADA system, is that a fair analysis, and to set
20 the threshold based on that SCADA data?

21 A Yes, it is.

22 Q Okay. And so when changes happen on the pipeline
23 for whatever reason, instrumentations moved, you've
24 got some pipeline replacement projects going on,
25 they add a check valve, they add a back pressure
26 control valve, they add a tank, when those types of
27 changes are going on, how do you get notified?

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1 A There's different methods. We usually would rely
2 on being included on the project team and seeing
3 drawings that come in and then working off of that
4 to adjust the MBS.

5 Q Okay. So, for example, when -- it's not unusual in
6 field operations to occasionally replace
7 transmitters or move them around even. So if it's
8 routine maintenance work as opposed to, say, a
9 major project but it involves some change, how is
10 that communicated? In a similar way or something
11 different?

12 A Yeah, the best efforts would be to have -- like,
13 with Enbridge, we usually use changes in PNIDs
14 before we even knew, like, the location of a
15 pressure transmitter, and we would rely on that.

16 Now, if we're not included in the project
17 team, then we would rely on the SCADA services

18 department to inform us of these changes shortly
19 before they're happening, and that happens on
20 occasion.

21 Q So talk to me a little bit about the leak detection
22 system. I take it that it's using the same
23 hydraulic model, is that correct, or are they
24 different models?

25 A I'm sorry. Can you tell me, different model than
26 what?

27 Q Okay. Is the leak detection system that we have in

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1 place actually using the same hydraulic model that
2 you would for calculating imbalances or for playing
3 with -- trying to determine whether this pump being
4 out a service here has this particular pressure
5 profile intact?

6 A Let's just -- I'll focus on the first one.

7 Q Okay.

8 A It is the exact same model. We use -- it's a
9 single model, and we call it the material balance
10 system where I'll say MBS. So that is our realtime
11 transient model, and that's what we use to
12 calculate the imbalances.

13 Q Okay.

14 A Now, you asked about how a -- say a pump, how that
15 would impact pressures?

16 Q Right. Right.

17 A Do you mean, like, on a design perspective if

18 you're trying to size a pump?

19 Q Or if, for example, they're trying to figure out --

20 they're in a strange configuration, and they're

21 bypassed a couple stations, and they traditionally

22 don't do that, and they're trained to determine how

23 they can get enough horsepower with the certain

24 combination or certain few elements that are out of

25 service or to move a certain volume, would they use

26 this same type of model for that?

27 A I would call that a simulation what you're

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1 referring to, and we don't need a model. That
2 would be something different.

3 Q Okay. On the simulation that they would use, how
4 are the hydraulics built for that; do you know?

5 A I know that there's a couple of different methods
6 within Enbridge. I don't personally work with the
7 simulators. I can't answer that.

8 Q Okay. Okay, so let's switch gears a little bit.
9 Since you don't really work with the simulators,
10 then I would take it that your output screens or
11 formatting, there's no need for it to be provided
12 in a mechanism that operators can read it; is that
13 fair?

14 A (INDISCERNIBLE).

15 Q What I mean by that is -- go ahead, I'm sorry.

16 A Actually we provide a hydraulic head display.
17 That's one of the features of the MBS and Stoner

18 software. That's the visual interpretation of
19 elevation, your hydraulic head, pressure, low
20 density, viscosity, temperature, pretty much any
21 variable that you can think of.

22 Q All right. And so you mentioned that you
23 previously were in the leak detection group, right,
24 I think is how you said it?

25 A Yeah, pipeline modelling.

26 Q Right, but on the leak section system; correct?

27 A Correct. At Enbridge, we would refer to pipeline

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1 modelling as probably 90 percent -- sorry, the
2 pipeline modelling group is about 90 percent leak
3 detection.

4 Q Okay. And when we say "90 percent leak detection,"
5 is that also the same thing as saying that they're
6 working on the MBS system?

7 A Correct. And I just want to clarify that the 90
8 percent is a very rough estimate.

9 Q Yeah, I know. Thank you. I didn't take it that
10 you meant that to be exact, that you're just trying
11 to explain to me what you did. So thank you very
12 much for that clarification.

13 So as they go through and they have this --
14 when you work in the pipeline leak detection
15 system, was it common for the models to produce
16 column separation alarms?

17 A Yes. Can I -- before we go on, can I just clarify

18 one thing? I'm getting the impression that --

19 Q Absolutely.

20 A Okay, that you asked about how I used to be in the

21 leak detection group?

22 Q Correct.

23 A Typically, it's the same group, and this is my

24 second stint in it.

25 Q Okay.

26 A It's largely the same. I want to make that clear

27 in that I spent three years in project management

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1 between my two stints. And in between the two

2 stints, the name of the group changed a little bit.

3 It was part of SCADA before, and now the group is

4 formally called pipeline modelling.

5 Q Okay. So when you build models from scratch, what

6 do you usually use to put those together?

7 A Basically we use a lot -- a lot of data to do this.

8 I'll start out with the physical design of the

9 pipeline. We would require a detailed elevation

10 profile. We need to know the outside diameter and

11 the wall thickness of the entire length of pipe as

12 it changes. We need to know the milepost of the

13 valves and their pump stations, the locations of

14 any temperature transmitters or pressure

15 transmitters on the line.

16 At each of the pump stations, we'd have to

17 know what the configuration is, for instance,

18 whether or not there are traps there. How many
19 valves do you have, the pump statuses, all the
20 pressure -- all the process instrumentation like
21 pressure and temperature in flow and density. That
22 would all be brought back into the model, and we
23 would basically design a virtual pipeline that
24 should be a replica of what's in the field.

25 Q Okay. So would it be common for you to put in
26 valving arrangements such that a station would be
27 able to be bypassed or not?

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1 A Yes. We'd -- the most likely way of designing that
2 would be through logic where we would tell the
3 model logic to look at valve faces and then modify
4 how you use your pressure transmitters in the case
5 of a bypass.

6 Q Okay. And so for the model that Enbridge has for
7 the leak detection systems -- and obviously they
8 have a variety of pipelines -- were all of those
9 built by Enbridge, do you know, personnel? Or were
10 some of them built outside, or when they bought an
11 asset, they brought the model in?

12 A So you're saying were all of our MBSs built by
13 Enbridge personnel?

14 Q Yes.

15 A I would say to the large extent, yes. In a few
16 situations, the MBS would have been built by
17 consultants, local consultants who work with our --

18 with the pipeline modelling group.

19 Q Okay. To your knowledge, have you ever purchased a

20 pipeline asset and just used an existing model from

21 someone else?

22 A No, we haven't.

23 Q And so I would take it that the pipeline model that

24 would have been available for the particular

25 pipeline in question, 6B, has probably been around

26 for a while; does that -- in other words, it's not

27 new?

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1 A The pipeline model, I believe that was built in
2 2002, maybe 2003.

3 Q Do you periodically just make a point to go through
4 the models and double-check data such as
5 maintenance logs or things that have happened just
6 to make sure that you've got what you need in
7 there, or do you just continue to fine-tune
8 pressures to match closer and closer to what's
9 there, and that's how you believe you've adjusted?

10 A No, we would do some proactive checks.

11 Q And explain that if you don't mind.

12 A Review of PNIDs or view of our SCADA displays to
13 compare against what we have would be the primary
14 one, or flow diagrams and review of the response of
15 the MBS over time. If you're noticing common false
16 alarms -- sorry, common non-leak alarms or some
17 certain troublesome behaviours, then you would do

18 an investigation into what it is and then try to

19 repair it.

20 Q Okay. It's our understanding that you were called

21 by one of the analysts that was on shift in an

22 effort to get your technical opinion or expertise

23 of some column separation condition. Is that an

24 accurate statement?

25 A I think I was called to investigate the -- what was

26 happening on the line. I was told that there was a

27 column separation, and that at that point, they

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1 were wondering -- they said there was, I guess, an
2 imbalance in the -- there wasn't as much coming out
3 of the pipeline at the delivery location as they
4 thought there should be and that we needed to do a
5 more detailed investigation.

6 Q Okay. So do you remember when you got that call?

7 A The time?

8 Q Yes, and what day, sorry.

9 A Oh, I was called on Monday morning, so that would
10 be July 26. I don't recall the exact time, but I
11 would put it between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. Edmonton
12 mountain daylight time.

13 Q Okay. When you took that call, did they -- explain
14 to me in your own words what they specifically
15 asked you to do.

16 A Okay. I'm having trouble remembering the exact
17 words.

18 Q That's okay. In general.

19 A So I was called by the backup -- I was not on
20 backup support on Monday morning, but I was called
21 by the backup support, one of our younger engineers
22 named Brendan Burg, and he said that Shane had
23 called him to do investigation on line 6B, and he
24 wanted to forward that on to me. And I said okay.

25 He said that there wasn't -- I guess there was
26 not as much oil coming out as they thought there
27 should be and that there was column separations and

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1 that there was concern that they needed to take a
2 closer look.

3 Q Okay. So what did you start to do?

4 A The first thing I did is that I pulled up the line
5 6 MBS display, and then I investigated. I look at
6 the pressure plot and the hydraulic head, and I saw
7 there was a column separation. And then I started
8 looking back at our alarm history, or I call it the
9 diagnostic flow display, and I could see the
10 pattern of diagnostic flows and alarms in that
11 section of pipe going back to the following day.

12 Because I noticed that the line hadn't been
13 running. It was shut down, and there was a column
14 separation and had been that way ever since.

15 Q Okay.

16 A I followed that up by doing a more detailed look at
17 the pressures and flows. I looked closely at the

18 times and what time the flows started dropping and

19 when the pressures dropped.

20 Q Okay.

21 A And then I noticed that in the alarm from the

22 previous night before, that there had been a large

23 pressure drop. It happened rapidly.

24 Q Okay.

25 A And then at that point, I called -- again, I'm

26 trying to remember the exact sequence. I believe I

27 spoke on a conference call with Brendan and with

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1 Shane, and we talked a little bit about what
2 happened about the pressures at Marshall and column
3 sep. and so on. At this point, we didn't know what
4 was occurring. And then I told them that I was
5 going to talk to the CCOC, myself. And so I got
6 off the phone, and I called the CCOC, and we
7 discussed --

8 Q Who's the CCOC?

9 A I believe that was Blaine I was speaking to. Oh,
10 no, wait. There was two CCOCs. Blaine was one,
11 and I can't remember the name of the other one.

12 MR. GOESON: Just to clarify, I think --
13 are you referring to the shift leads on the -- in
14 the control centre?

15 A That's correct, Curt.

16 MR. GOESON: Okay, so shift leads.

17 A Shift lead would be the correct term.

18 Q MS. BUTLER: Okay. And keep going.

19 A I spoke with -- I spoke with the shift lead, and I
20 said -- I mentioned the pressures at Marshall and
21 that that was suspicious from the night before.

22 Q Okay.

23 A And then I asked them if there's anything else I
24 can do, and he told me just to keep investigating.
25 I asked him what was going on. And, again, there's
26 a couple conversations that took place in this
27 hour, but I think he said at that point that there

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1 was -- may have been a report of oil and that they
2 were sending their people out to Marshall area to
3 investigate. And at that point, it hadn't been
4 proven if there was oil on the ground.

5 Q Okay. Did you look any further back prior to that
6 peek -- or drop, I should say, because it was drop
7 in pressure --

8 A (INDISCERNIBLE).

9 Q Yeah.

10 A Not immediately. I did -- did more investigation
11 on the pressures, and I looked at the alarms that
12 came in early on Sunday morning at 1 o'clock and 4
13 o'clock during the startups. Spent more time
14 looking at that.

15 After several hours over the next couple days,
16 I did spend time looking at the data prior to the
17 25th, and I've been unable to find anything that

18 was particularly notable.

19 Actually, well, I should say one thing.

20 During my first analysis, I did look -- like, on

21 Monday morning, I did look at the trend of our

22 diagnostic flows which, to be clear, that is the

23 measure of imbalance. I did look back to, like,

24 the 24th and 23rd, and what I saw was that there

25 was no indication, there is no alarms or no

26 imbalances that were remarkable. And so that's

27 when I just focused on when I -- when we started

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1 seeing noticeable imbalances.

2 Q Okay. And so the first time -- or the first

3 general time frame around noticeable imbalances on

4 your review was Sunday; is that --

5 A That's correct.

6 Q Okay, and --

7 A Sorry, I might have got my time frames mixed up

8 there.

9 Q Okay.

10 A When I said startups on Sunday, I meant Monday at

11 1 o'clock and 4 o'clock.

12 Q Okay.

13 A So and then you are correct. There was the

14 imbalance starting on Sunday. That's the -- that's

15 the first one that I noticed that was remarkable.

16 Q Okay. And so I'm curious about the time frame just

17 before that on Sunday but carrying over into

18 Saturday. So it would be, like, the evening hours
19 of Saturday. Did you see anything in the evening
20 hours of Saturday moving into Sunday?

21 A No, I haven't seen anything.

22 Q Okay. Now I'm going to chop this up a bit. I
23 should probably let us finish that sequence, so
24 forgive me for wanting to chop. So we'll go back
25 into (INDISCERNIBLE) sequence.

26 So we reassessed, and we explained what we
27 saw. They hadn't had confirmed a leak. You went

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1 back and started looking at other data. You only
2 found this event as noticeable. Is there anything
3 else that was significant that, say, occurred on
4 Monday regarding the services that you provided or
5 things you may have communicated to the control
6 room or they communicated to you?

7 A I don't think there's really anything that was
8 remarkable. After that, we talked a few times and
9 rehashed the same thing until a point that they
10 confirmed that there was oil just downstream of
11 Marshall.

12 Q Okay. All right, so backing up a bit, the first
13 column separation alarm occurred, at least from
14 what we understand -- it really wasn't a column
15 separation alarm. Let me clarify that.

16 The first imbalance alarm that was, I believe,
17 a five-minute came in on Sunday, and they reviewed

18 it, and they thought it was due to column
19 separation. And I believe this is pretty near the
20 time that you would have noticed the significant
21 pressure drop. Is that what your assessment shows,
22 that that alarm and this pressure drop were very
23 close in proximity for timing, or is it something
24 different than that?

25 A I would say they're very close.

26 Q Okay. Do you know if the -- from the information
27 that you reviewed, had the shutdown activities

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1 already started and were in progress when that
2 first alarm occurred and then the pressure dropped,
3 or could you tell what led the other?

4 A I think I can tell what led the other.

5 Q Okay.

6 A I believe that the line started shutdown at about
7 1456 and that the pressure drop at Marshall
8 occurred at 1458, and the first column separation
9 occurred at 1500.

10 Q And from that information, what was the next event
11 that you saw after that 1500 first call and the
12 separation alarm?

13 A We would have had a second column separation.

14 Q Okay. And when did that second column separation
15 come in?

16 A I don't have the exact time. It was within five
17 minutes of 1500.

18 Q Okay. And did any -- did the first column

19 separation alarm clear and then another one come

20 in, or were they just staying?

21 A I'm sorry. Can you repeat that?

22 Q Well, did -- the first column separation was a

23 five-minute from what I understand, and I'm doing

24 this from memory, and so I may be stating it

25 incorrectly. But from what we've been told, there

26 was a five-minute imbalance alarm, and so that came

27 in, and then it cleared. But did it clear first

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1 and then a second alarm came in, or did that alarm

2 just stay and then another one came in?

3 A No, there was only one alarm that occurred.

4 Q Okay.

5 A One five-minute alarm, and then it cleared.

6 Q Okay. And then when we talked about the second

7 column separation alarm within five minutes, is

8 that the clearing activity, or is that a second

9 column separation starting?

10 A No, I'd say it's a -- it would be a separate column

11 separation on a different piece of pipe. One was

12 upstream; one was downstream.

13 Q Okay. So on the first one that came in at 1500, do

14 we know which section of pipe that was on from

15 where to where?

16 A I can't recall right now what -- which side it was.

17 Q Okay. Were they both on -- like, was one on the

18 upstream side of Marshall and the other on the

19 downstream side of Marshall?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q Okay. In your history, because, you know, you're

22 obviously somewhat of -- a person that's very

23 familiar with modelling, do you typically see

24 column separations on one side and then another in

25 combination like that?

26 A I don't know the answer. I've never looked at it

27 like that before.

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1 Q Okay. When you -- having done a little bit of leak
2 detection in your life obviously, is there a
3 signature that you look for for a leak, and does
4 this fit it?

5 A Is there a signature for a leak? I'd really be
6 offering my opinion.

7 Q That's fine. I'm interested in your opinion
8 because you've modelled quite a bit.

9 A Okay. What I would say is -- let me break this up
10 again. You say is there a signature for a leak?
11 There are probably several different signatures for
12 a leak for what you -- sorry, I'm having a little
13 bit of trouble wording this. Yes, there is a
14 signature for a leak, and in this case, I would
15 think that the drop in pressure does show a
16 signature of a leak.

17 Q Okay. Would you expect the model to show

18 separation or column separation if that occurs?

19 A Would I expect the model to show a column

20 separation --

21 Q If you had a leak --

22 A -- if a leak occurred?

23 Q Occurred with a pressure drop that's significant.

24 A Yeah, I would say in certain cases, in many cases,

25 yes. I would think that eventually that would lead

26 off the pressure to cause a column separation.

27 Q Okay. We had previously received information that

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1 the bypass for Niles, because of a pigging
2 operation, wasn't really put in the model. Is that
3 typical or unusual?

4 A No, that's not typical.

5 Q Okay.

6 A That is not typical.

7 Q And can that confuse the alarming element?

8 A If it created a net negative imbalance, it could.

9 Normally this would cause what we call a

10 (INDISCERNIBLE) where there's a net zero, and they

11 got positive diagnostic flows on one side and

12 negative on the other side.

13 Q Okay. Is that -- did the fact that the bypass

14 wasn't in there potentially going to generate more

15 imbalance alarms?

16 A Can you repeat that?

17 Q Okay. If -- because the bypass wasn't in the

18 model, is it possible that there were more
19 imbalance alarms caused that could have been
20 confusing for an operator to look at and
21 understand?
22 A You're asking that -- first of all, I'm not sure
23 that the bypass wasn't there. I'd like to verify
24 that myself --
25 Q Okay.
26 A -- But I can't right now. Secondly, generally
27 speaking, you're saying is if the model wasn't set

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1 up to handle a bypass --

2 Q Right.

3 A -- could that generate false alarms?

4 Q Right.

5 A Is that what you're saying?

6 Q Yes.

7 A It could. Yes, you could.

8 Q Okay, so now more to some pointed specifics. It's

9 our understanding that, you know, we went on for a

10 period of time trying to understand what was going

11 on, and we did a startup, and we exceeded a

12 ten-minute interval, and we ran a little bit

13 longer, and then we shut down.

14 And then we did a second startup, but before

15 we did that second startup, we had a communication

16 with the supervisor and explained that we had

17 exceeded the ten-minute alarm -- or threshold where

18 they couldn't get their pressures that they wanted
19 within that ten minutes, and that there had been
20 some leak imbalance alarms come in.

21 And when they got people on the phone, one
22 person's version indicates that they thought that
23 these leak alarms were false alarms. So can you
24 explain to me a little bit why they might say they
25 were false alarms?

26 A I think I'd really be speculating.

27 Q Okay.

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1 A And that -- yeah, I don't think it would be fair.

2 Q Okay. All right. So let me ask a different

3 question then. As you were doing your review and

4 you found the significant pressure drop, then the

5 alarms that came after that, did you review any of

6 those that came after the significant pressure

7 drop?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. And when you reviewed those, did they seem

10 like they were telling a good story, or was the

11 system just in so much flux because there was a

12 leak that the story would have been hard to

13 interpret correctly?

14 A I don't think there was any flux. The reason why

15 is because on the second startup, the model was

16 configured to handle the bypass, and it

17 demonstrated nearly an identical alarm response.

18 Q Okay. All right. In your review of the alarms,
19 did you find anything else to be significant after
20 the pressure drop?

21 A So between the pressure drop and the startup at
22 1 o'clock?

23 Q Yeah.

24 A No, the line was -- was static. There was no
25 changes.

26 Q Okay. So when they started up at 1 o'clock, did
27 the alarms that started to come in then make sense?

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1 A I think so, yes.

2 Q All right. Then when they -- I think they
3 continued to come in a bit, and then when they shut

4 down, I believe there were some alarms as well.

5 Did those make sense?

6 A My recollection is that we had a number of alarms,

7 I think about six alarms that came in while the

8 line was trying to be brought up, that they

9 remained active for a while after the line was

10 brought down. It wasn't as if there was a new

11 batch of alarms that came in after they shut down.

12 It was more the --

13 Q Oh, okay.

14 A -- (INDISCERNIBLE).

15 Q All right, thank you for that.

16 So also with our second startup, did we see

17 similar alarms on the second startup?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. And when they shut down that second time,
20 were we still getting alarms because of the same
21 previous example where things were coming in, but
22 it was really because of the startup and not so
23 much the shutdown?

24 A I don't usually think of it that way that -- I look
25 at it as a single event. And while you're starting
26 up and the oil is getting pushed into the line and
27 it's not coming out, that's what's causing the

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1 diagnostic flows. And then once you stop and the
2 oil slowly goes to zero, then eventually the
3 imbalance will also go to zero.

4 Q Okay. All right. So shifting gears for a bit off
5 of that, how did this communicate to, like, the
6 batch tracking software? Are you familiar with
7 that particular system where they're tracking,
8 what's going on with a batch movement?

9 A Referring to CMT?

10 Q Sorry?

11 A Are you referring to CMT?

12 Q I am.

13 A The MBS has its own batch tracking which is
14 separate from CMT, and it isn't used for batch
15 tracking for commercial purposes.

16 Q Okay.

17 A It uses the data from CMT to populate a line fill

18 whenever you need to restart an MBS --

19 Q Okay.

20 A -- like, when you're starting from scratch.

21 Q All right. Okay. If you were to improve how

22 people understand the leak detection system and

23 what certain things might mean or could lead to,

24 how would you do that?

25 A Depends who my audience is.

26 Q You'd what, I'm sorry?

27 A I'm sorry. It depends who my audience is and what

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1 they already know about the MBS.

2 Q Okay.

3 A I could do a very in-depth answer to somebody who

4 knows a fair bit, or I wouldn't go into much detail

5 if somebody didn't know anything about what an MBS

6 is.

7 Q Okay. For some reason, we've had multiple people

8 look at this initially then and not see the

9 pressure drop. So because you're modelling --

10 you've done modelling a lot of times obviously. Is

11 there any particular element of training you would

12 recommend to enhance that ability?

13 A To enhance the ability to what? Understand?

14 Q Yes, understand or look for sharp pressure drop or

15 be aware that column separations can conceivably

16 hide other elements or --

17 A Yes, well, I'd say that when you have a column

18 separation, like, there's -- you have -- whoever is
19 looking has to know what caused the column
20 separation before a decision is made on what to do.

21 Q Okay.

22 A There's lots of things that can cause column
23 separation including a leak, and if an alarm is
24 called -- if the cause of an alarm is a column
25 separation, that doesn't say it's not a leak.

26 Q Okay. Good point. Is there anything that you saw
27 in your review that indicated we had a high

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1 pressure or an unusually high pressure at any point
2 on the pipeline?

3 A No, there isn't.

4 Q Okay. I think you've answered most of my
5 questions. I thank you for that, and I'm sure
6 we'll go around.

7 MS. BUTLER: So, Steve, are you next?

8 MR. JENNER: Yes.

9 QUESTIONS BY MR. JENNER:

10 Q MR. JENNER: Just to clarify one point,
11 going back to Sunday around the time of 1500, there
12 are two alarms within five minutes of each other,
13 and I think they were both determined to be related
14 to column separation; is that correct?

15 A I only saw one alarm.

16 Q Okay, I'm misunderstanding something. I thought I
17 heard there was a first column separation alarm,

18 and then I -- was there discussion of a second

19 column separation within five minutes of 1500?

20 A No. Well, let me -- I'll try to clarify.

21 Q Okay, thank you.

22 A There was a single alarm that occurred around 1500.

23 That was caused by column separations, and the

24 column separations were on either end of Marshall.

25 Just because you have -- if you have five column

26 separations, it doesn't mean you're going to have

27 five different alarms coming in.

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1 An alarm means that there's a hydraulic event
2 occurring, in this case a column separation.
3 The -- and -- sorry, my house is a little bit dry.
4 What I'm trying to say is that the number of column
5 separations is not equivalent to the number of
6 alarms. You could have more column separations
7 than there are alarms, or a single column
8 separation could generate multiple alarms. There's
9 no continuity of this thing.

10 Q I see. So thank you for that. In this case, one
11 alarm is indicative -- well, one alarm -- when you
12 investigated the alarm, you were able to detect two
13 column separations --

14 A Yes.

15 Q -- based on exploring one alarm?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay, thank you for that clarification.

18 The drop in pressure, which I think you may
19 have said is significant drop in pressure around
20 the 1500 time frame on Sunday, can you recall any
21 values attributed to that drop in pressure?

22 A What do you mean by "values"?

23 Q Well, when you -- when you express it as a
24 significant drop in pressure, is that a fair way of
25 conceptualizing it?

26 A Yes, definitely.

27 Q Why would you call it a significant drop in

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1 pressure? What are you looking at? Are you
2 looking at graphical representations?

3 A Yeah, I looked at the graphical representation, and
4 I looked at the raw data file, and I found that it
5 dropped. Like, the pressures at Marshall dropped a
6 couple hundred PSI in about five seconds.

7 Q That's what I was asking about, the PSIs.

8 A Okay. Yeah, and I'd say to me -- I mean, it's,
9 like, I don't have a measure that says what's
10 significant enough. I just know it when I see it,
11 and I say that's a lot.

12 Q When you say "a couple hundred," are we talking 200
13 PSI? Do you have a figure in mind that you can
14 recall?

15 A Yeah, well, you see there's a suction pressure
16 dropped about somewhere around 250 and a discharge
17 pressure dropped about 450. They're at different

18 pressures to start with, and they both went close
19 to zero. That's sort of the magnitude that we're
20 talking about.

21 Q Great. That's what I was looking for. Thank you.

22 When you see those type of drops in pressure,
23 are there other -- one interpretation that it's due
24 to a leak. Are there other reasonable
25 interpretations that can be made given just looking
26 at those values?

27 A I would rely on assistance from an operator in that

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1 case. I'd say, like, there -- reasonable things

2 could be a pressure transmitter is being calibrated

3 or a rapid shutdown of a pipeline.

4 Q But nothing within the normal range of operations?

5 A No, not that I can think of, no.

6 Q Okay.

7 A I wouldn't expect to see this.

8 Q Okay. So, again, it's -- what drew your attention

9 was a reduction in suction pressure and discharge

10 pressure --

11 A That's right.

12 Q -- relatively at the same time?

13 A Correct.

14 Q And to a value close to zero?

15 A Correct.

16 Q Okay, great. Thank you for elaborating.

17 MR. JENNER: I'm done with my questions.

18 I'll just pass it on to Rick here.

19 QUESTIONS BY MR. GULSTAD:

20 Q MR. GULSTAD: Yeah, I've got a couple of
21 questions. Over the course of doing these
22 interviews, we've had different responses from
23 different controllers and shift leads as to how
24 accurately you can pinpoint the location of a
25 column separation. I know you just mentioned, you
26 know, you've got a pressure transmitter on the
27 suction and discharge side of Marshall, but when

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1 you see a column separation, how accurate can you
2 get in identifying the location along the pipeline
3 of a column separation typically?

4 A Oh, I'd have a lot of trouble answering that. If
5 you wanted to give me -- if you wanted me to give
6 you an answer, like, within a couple miles or
7 something like that -- I mean, I would just start
8 off by saying that you wouldn't -- you would know
9 that it would be in between two pump stations
10 because that's where your pressure transmitters
11 are.

12 Q Okay.

13 A And then that's to start out with. So you wouldn't
14 be confused about which chunk of pipe is having a
15 column separation. And then within that section of
16 pipe, I would guess that it's -- again, I'm having
17 trouble. I wouldn't rely on it being fairly

18 accurate. It's based on your elevations. Your
19 elevation of a pipe will determine where the column
20 separation is, that along with pressure, and we
21 model that in the MBS. So I think it would tell us
22 fairly accurately where it's going to be.

23 Q Okay. So you start between pump stations where
24 you've got transmitters, but then how do you break
25 it down further than that? Do you get a graphic
26 display between pump stations that kind of shows
27 you where -- based on calculations where it could

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1 be or --

2 A Yes, yes, yes. Okay, I'm sorry, Rick. I keep
3 forgetting that you're not familiar with what our
4 MBSs look like.

5 Q You're right. Yeah, I haven't seen a visual
6 screen, so I don't know anything about it.

7 A Okay, we have -- it's a display. It's -- it would
8 be like an elevation profile of the pipeline, and
9 it's got nomenclature to show you where all the
10 pump stations are, and it's got hydraulic head
11 above the elevation profile.

12 Q Okay.

13 A So when your head crosses your elevation, you've
14 got column separation. And that would be -- you
15 could zoom in extremely close with the MBS to see,
16 like, exactly what milepost it is. And you said
17 how accurate is the MBS at detecting the actual

18 milepost, and I'd say I'm not quite sure. I think

19 it's pretty close. I would trust it, but I can't

20 give you, like, a plus or minus number on it.

21 Q Okay, well, that helps a lot, so --

22 A Yeah.

23 Q -- when you had a column sep. upstream of Marshall

24 and one downstream of Marshall, on your display,

25 did it show that it was -- that you had one

26 upstream and one downstream?

27 A Yeah, it did.

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1 Q Okay. And in the control room, do the operators --
2 can they go up to a terminal and pull up the same
3 display that you would see from Nova Scotia?

4 A Yes. Yes, it can.

5 Q So they should be able to -- if they wanted to,
6 they could zoom in and get pretty close to what
7 you're looking at then?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. And then I guess my other question, just a
10 different train of thought, do you train, like, Jim
11 and Shane, or do you work with them on this MBS
12 system, or how do they get trained? Do they work
13 with you on training, or do you train them, or how
14 does that work?

15 A I'm not involved in the formal training of the
16 analysts. What I do is I review alarm reports as
17 they come in, and if I -- I review them, and if I

18 see that there's something that's missing or if I
19 want clarification because I don't understand what
20 they wrote or if I think of something else, then I
21 will review the alarm. I would modify the alarm
22 report, and I would e-mail or call the analyst and
23 discuss it with them.

24 Q Okay. So, I mean, they're looking at the same
25 thing you are, but you've never really had any
26 formal training with either Jim or Shane?

27 A No formal, but I'll admit I've done informal

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1 training. I've done analysis of alarms in the
2 past, like, with our -- as a group, we would sit
3 around with people, and we would look at alarms.
4 And I've organized that and done a cause analysis
5 of those.

6 Q Now, would that include shift leads or controllers
7 or both as well?

8 A No, that would only include the pipeline modelling
9 staff and then the analysts.

10 Q Okay. That's all I've got. Thank you.

11 MR. JENNER: Okay, Curt?

12 MS. BUTLER: I think we -- we normally go
13 through just a brief second round of questions.

14 And, Curt, did you have any point of
15 clarifications?

16 MR. GOESON: No, I didn't, Karen.

17 MS. BUTLER: Okay. With that, just a

18 couple brief more, and then we'll see if Steve

19 does.

20 FURTHER QUESTIONS BY MS. BUTLER:

21 Q MS. BUTLER: On this 6B column separations

22 for this particular line, would you say column

23 separations are common on 6B or not, in your

24 opinion, based on other models you see?

25 A I'd rather -- I'd like to look at the figures. We

26 keep statistics on this type of thing, and I can't

27 just shoot off the top of my head.

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1 Q Okay. But have you seen them before on 6B?

2 A I don't recall, but that doesn't mean I haven't.

3 Q Okay.

4 A I don't know the answer.

5 Q Okay. Do you recall other pipelines in the control

6 room you've seen them on?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. And then the last element is I think that

9 maybe you sent an e-mail to the control room

10 regarding some of your analysis or what you found.

11 Was it you that sent the e-mail?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Can you give me what the content of that e-mail

14 was, just verbally explain it to me?

15 A Okay. I sent an e-mail on Monday. I gave a

16 preliminary analysis of the incident, and I stated

17 that I thought that the most likely time for the

18 leak start period was Sunday at 1500 during the
19 shutdown. And then I stated what I knew about the
20 alarms that came in, in which case I listened to
21 how many alarms came in during the shutdown and
22 then during the startup and then what the analyst
23 on site had said.

24 Q Okay. When you said "what the analyst on site had
25 said," what did that entail?

26 A I said that the analyst diagnosed the cause of the
27 alarm as a column separation near Marshall.

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1 Q Okay. Did you indicate that you thought it was a
2 leak?

3 A No, I didn't say that.

4 Q Okay.

5 A Actually, let me just think about that one.

6 Q Yes.

7 A Did I say that I thought it was a leak?

8 Q Yeah.

9 A Yeah, well, I guess that's what I'm saying is --

10 sorry, I think that the leak started at 1500 during
11 the shutdown and that the leak caused the column
12 separation.

13 Q Okay.

14 MS. BUTLER: All right, that's all that I
15 had. Do you have anything, Steve?

16 MR. JENNER: I do not have any follow-up
17 questions. Thank you.

- 18 MS. BUTLER: Rick?
- 19 MR. GULSTAD: Nothing else.
- 20 MS. BUTLER: Well, with that, Steve, then
- 21 I'll let you do your normal -- this is the close
- 22 and thank him. And we do thank you very much.
- 23 MR. JENNER: Curt, did you have any
- 24 follow-up questions or clarifications?
- 25 MR. GOESON: No, I do not.
- 26 CLOSING BY MR. JENNER:
- 27 MR. JENNER: Great. Okay, Ted, let me

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1 thank you for calling in and helping us out, and
2 you really were a very big help. We appreciate
3 your time.

4 What I like to end things with is just the
5 opportunity that if you have any thoughts at this
6 time about changes that can be made to this system
7 in terms of procedures or software or hardware or
8 anything that may make it a little safer, we'd love
9 to hear from you if you have anything in mind.

10 A At this point, no, not yet. I might, and I'd have
11 to think about that and formulate something
12 specific.

13 MR. JENNER: That's fine. We would -- you
14 know, our agency and your company would both be
15 very interested in your input, so let me encourage
16 you to communicate your thoughts along those lines.

17 But, again, I want to thank you for all your

18 assistance, and if you don't have any questions --

19 do you have any questions for us?

20 A I guess I'll say, what happens next?

21 MR. JENNER: Well, I'll answer it from my

22 agency, the NTSB. We have -- we're conducting

23 interviews, and we're requesting a number of

24 documentations that we'll take back, and we also

25 have people on scene in Michigan, and they're

26 looking into matters there.

27 Eventually we pull all our reports together

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1 and form a bigger report that -- from the factual
2 information, we come up with our own analysis of
3 what we think happened. Based on that, the most
4 valuable part of our reports are safety
5 recommendations, and those are -- can be made to a
6 company. It can be made to other federal agencies,
7 local agencies and where we think there may be some
8 areas that we think can be improved.

9 This takes -- this takes us quite a few months
10 to put together a report, and -- but that's our
11 final product.

12 Do you want to answer what -- you can talk to
13 Curt now or later about what happens from
14 internally.

15 MR. GOESON: Yeah, Ted, I guess you'll
16 probably be involved in our internal investigation
17 which is really just getting underway other than

18 having pulled the initial documentation. So you
19 can probably just expect to hear from either myself
20 or Blaine probably in the next day or two here,
21 okay?

22 A Okay.

23 MR. GOESON: And that's strictly from some
24 input into the events, so... Okay?

25 A Yeah, okay. Well, I'm here to help out in any way
26 I can.

27 MR. GOESON: Thank you. Appreciate it,

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1 Ted.

2 MS. BUTLER: Thank you so very much for

3 your time and your gracious explanations and

4 catching us up to speed.

5 A Okay, thanks, guys.

6 MR. JENNER: Thank you. We'll conclude the

7 interview.

8 -----

9 PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 3:10 P.M.

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1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT

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4

5 I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the
6 foregoing pages are a true and faithful transcript
7 of the proceedings taken down by me in shorthand and
8 transcribed from my shorthand notes to the best of my
9 skill and ability.

10 Dated at the City of Edmonton, Province of
11 Alberta, this 12th day of August, 2010.

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18 C. L. Stabbler, CSR(A)

19 Court Reporter

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ENBRIDGE PIPELINES INC.

INTERVIEW

OF

TED FARQUHAR

Tyler W. Tollefson, Esq. Senior Legal Counsel for
Enbridge Pipelines Inc.

1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT

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4

5 I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the
6 foregoing pages are a true and faithful transcript
7 of the proceedings ~~taken down by me in shorthand and~~
8 ~~transcribed from my shorthand notes to the best of my~~
9 ~~skill and ability.~~

10 Dated at the City of Edmonton, Province of
11 Alberta, this 12th day of August, 2010.

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2-Sept-2010

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