

ENBRIDGE PIPELINES INC.

INTERVIEW

OF

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Transportation Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration

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1 INTERVIEW OF JIM KNUDSON, TAKEN AT 3:22 P.M.:

2 MR. JENNER: Good afternoon. Today is

3 Thursday, July 29, 2010. My name is Stephen

4 Jenner. 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 in regards to a pipeline spill in

8 Marshall, Michigan that occurred on July 26, 2010.

9 We'll go around the room and have everyone

10 introduce themselves.

11 MR. GULSTAD: I'm Rick Gulstad. I'm an

12 engineer with PHMSA. [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]

14 MR. TOLLEFSON: Tyler Tollefson, senior legal

15 counsel, Enbridge Pipelines.

16 MR. GOESON: I'm Curt Goeson, control

17 centre supervisor, Enbridge Pipelines.

18 MR. KNUDSON: Jim Knudson, MBS analyst 3

19 with Enbridge Pipelines.

20 MR. JENNER: Karen?

21 MS. BUTLER: Karen Butler. I'm with PHMSA,

22 [REDACTED] regional

23 project manager.

24 MR. JENNER: Great, thank you.

25 QUESTIONS BY MR. JENNER:

26 Q MR. JENNER: As I mentioned earlier, we're

27 interested in talking to you and just finding out

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1 some of the events that occurred related to this
2 incident.

3 So, Jim, if you would just state your name and
4 spelling for the record, please.

5 A Okay, Jim Knudson, J-I-M, K-N-U-D-S-O-N.

6 Q And you -- what is your title?

7 A MBS analyst 3.

8 Q And who are you employed by?

9 A I'm employed by Enbridge in a pipeline modelling
10 department.

11 Q Can you just explain analyst 3 versus 2 and 1?

12 A When -- when a new analyst starts, he starts in the
13 position of analyst 1. As he progresses, he
14 progresses through to a 2 and then to a 3. Three
15 being currently the highest level an analyst can
16 achieve.

17 Q Okay. In regards to that, if you can walk us

18 through your employment, your tenure at Enbridge.

19 When did you get started?

20 A I started just about 23 years ago in Norman Wells,

21 and I spent 5 years in Norman Wells as a pipeline

22 operator. I spent 15 years in the Edmonton control

23 centre as a pipeline operator, and then I moved

24 into the current position of pipeline modelling for

25 the -- since 2008.

26 Q So about two years in your current position?

27 A Yeah, it would have been two years in February.

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1 Q Okay. Why did you decide to make the move to your
2 current position?

3 A There was an opening that became available for 24/7
4 analysts for a new position to be created in a
5 control centre that would use material balance
6 system, and they solicited the operators for anyone
7 that had any interest in it. And this has always
8 been an area of interest for me, so I chose to go
9 into this position.

10 Q Just out of curiosity, for anyone who's an analyst,
11 is pipeline operator a prerequisite?

12 A It's not a prerequisite. We do have two of our
13 analysts that -- who were non-pipeline operators.
14 It's preferable due to the knowledge of the system.

15 Q Do you find that that background does help you out?

16 A Yes. It's essential in understanding the Enbridge
17 system.

18 Q Great. Thank you for that.

19 A Yeah.

20 Q What I'd like to do is just have you walk me

21 through your shift on -- that I think began Sunday

22 evening.

23 A Right. My shift began at 1800.

24 Q Okay. If you could just -- I'll throw it in your

25 direction. Typically there's a shift changeover.

26 If you can start there and walk us through it.

27 A Well, similar to as you've heard with pipeline

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1 operators, we actually do perform a shift change
2 where information from the previous shift is passed
3 on to the new -- kind of the on-shift analyst
4 that's coming on.

5 The information that was relayed to me was the
6 number of -- was the MBS calls that had been
7 received for that day. And anything that would --
8 would be of interest to an MBS analyst, that would
9 probably occur over my shift.

10 The next thing that I did is I usually look
11 through the events that occurred over the last 12
12 hours and look at those and make sure that they
13 have a closing date put on them and that the
14 information is -- has been entered for them.

15 So in this case, I looked, and there had only
16 been two alarms for that day. The last one being
17 line -- for line 6 at 1500 to 1505. And the alarm

18 was recorded as a column separation on line

19 shutdown.

20 Q Did the alarm -- what's called the column

21 separation is --

22 A The alarm was called a five-minute volume balance

23 alarm. And it was in the section between Griffith

24 and Marshall.

25 Q Just a moment ago, you called it a column

26 separation, but more specifically, a five-minute

27 volume balance alarm?

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1 A Right. The alarm classification is by whether it's
2 5 minutes, 20 minutes or a 2-hour alarm. So we've
3 heard them as BB 1, 2, or 3. So when we receive an
4 alarm, it's because an operator has received it on
5 his console, and he has gone through his procedure
6 to -- on how he's supposed to handle an MBS alarm.

7 So we receive that, and then from that, we
8 do -- we go in, and we look at the actual model,
9 and we determine what the cause is of the alarm.

10 Q And you're -- a moment ago, you called it column
11 separation because that's what you determined it to
12 be?

13 A Well, it's not what I determined to be. It was
14 what the on-shift analyst had determined it to be.

15 Q So someone gave it that name so to speak? Someone
16 else said this -- oh, this five-minute balance
17 alarm is related to column separation?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. And then who -- who was that that gave it

20 that --

21 A Shane Lynch.

22 Q Okay. So the previous analyst?

23 A The previous analyst.

24 Q I'm sorry to interrupt.

25 A That's okay. Oh, okay, so from that point, I

26 usually look at them, and if the time hasn't been

27 closed off on it, I will -- I'll close it off,

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1 check and see when the alarm actually cleared, and
2 I'll enter that. If the -- if the information
3 isn't as detailed as it should be, then I may fill
4 it in. I might review it. Then we have
5 capabilities of replaying particular periods of
6 time and being able to review them. But normally
7 if -- if the write-up is indicated and the write-up
8 is factual, then I usually do not bother to review
9 it.

10 Q Okay.

11 A And that's kind of part and parcel of -- like, I
12 was the person that trained our other analysts, so
13 because of that, I have a vested interest in their
14 development. So that's not normally something that
15 most analysts might not do. They might review --
16 they might look and see the number of alarms that
17 have occurred, but they normally don't review them.

18 Q Okay. So you have your chance to review previous

19 alarms and --

20 A But in this case, this one was not -- this one was

21 reviewed for the event but was not reviewed for any

22 of the details that were -- that entailed the

23 alarm.

24 Q Okay. So how does that affect you?

25 A How does it affect me as in?

26 Q What else do you need to do with reviewing details?

27 A Okay, like, well, what I said was, like, I have a

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1 vested interest in the development of our -- of our
2 analysts, so that's my reason for actually looking
3 at this alarm --

4 Q I see.

5 A -- and making sure that it was -- it was closed out
6 correctly, and there was enough details sufficient
7 for how you normally handle this type of alarm.

8 So and like I said, like, this isn't something
9 another analyst might -- might do. It's simply
10 because, like I said, I have a vested interest in
11 their development, and that's part and parcel is
12 being able to write -- write up MBS events
13 correctly is part of their development.

14 Q From what you had an opportunity to review, did it
15 look --

16 A Yes, his write-up was -- was consistent with past
17 volume balance alarms that are associated with the

18 column separation.

19 Q So you took no issue to the write-up or the

20 conclusions that Shane had come up with?

21 A No. I felt his -- I felt that the detail he had in

22 it was -- was more than sufficient to explain why

23 the alarm had occurred.

24 Q Okay. Okay, thank you. Okay, what else is

25 happening on your shift?

26 A Well, the rest -- well, and the rest of my shift

27 was involved with being available to handle further

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1 alarms that would have -- would have come in
2 from -- from the operators and working on project
3 work as dictated by my supervisor.

4 Q How would you regard your shift in terms of overall
5 workload? Was it a busy shift or slow shift, a
6 normal?

7 A It was a moderate shift. There was a particular
8 project that I was working on that occupied quite a
9 bit of my time. But the way we work on projects is
10 that receiving alarms is first and foremost our
11 priority, and projects are put aside during periods
12 when we do handle alarms.

13 Q Do you recall the number of alarms you had to deal
14 with that shift?

15 A There might have been a couple of alarms or -- in
16 addition to handling alarms, usually we'll handle
17 any type -- like, an anomaly that an operator might

18 notice that maybe the model isn't working quite as
19 accurately as it could.

20 If -- there might be something, maybe a
21 flow -- a flow profile isn't exactly as they think
22 it should be, and they might call us and comment
23 about that. And we'll review the model and do
24 something to see if we can do something to increase
25 its performance.

26 So I think I received a couple calls like
27 that, and I think it was from line 5. And the rest

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1 of it was fairly bread-and-butter shift.

2 Q Okay.

3 A So before the startup on line 6B -- it was probably

4 somewhere around 2300 or so -- the Sarnia console,

5 which is the receiving end of line 6 -- we're about

6 10 feet away from where that console is, where we

7 sit. And I overheard a conversation from the

8 operator of line 6 who passed on to the terminal

9 operator that he would be starting up at

10 approximately 1 o'clock. He expected that

11 he was -- probably would not -- it would be a

12 difficult startup because of the number of column

13 separations that were on the line.

14 Q He thought it would be a difficult --

15 A Yes.

16 Q Because of the number of column separations?

17 A Because of the number of column separations.

18 So at that time, I quickly looked at the line
19 6 model and looked at what's called a distance blot
20 to see the number of liquid fractions that were in
21 the section of line 6B. And at the time, it looked
22 like there were probably four or five evidence of
23 liquid fraction.

24 So from -- after seeing that, I decided that
25 what I would do is probably monitor the startup on
26 line 6B as they started, which is something that a
27 lot of the times the shift leads will ask that as

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1 well, that they'll ask us to actively be realtime
2 monitoring. So in this case, this is what I was
3 doing.

4 So when -- when the time came, they started it
5 up. I was actively monitoring it. The first
6 anomaly that I saw that -- that I felt there was
7 something that wasn't quite right with the model
8 was -- involved the Niles station. So I walked
9 down and talked to the line 6 operator and asked
10 him if he had a communication problem at Niles, or
11 was there any reason why we weren't receiving the
12 correct pressures. And he informed me at the time
13 that they were bypassing the station on startup.

14 So I went back to my desk. And what's
15 customary is when we're bypassing a station is to
16 check the suction and discharge pressures to make
17 sure that the model is accurately giving the

18 pressures because sometimes, depending on where the
19 transmitter is located, it could be inside of the
20 station, which would be isolated away from the main
21 line. And in a case -- in those cases, we'd have
22 to turn off the actual -- the actual suction
23 transmitter in the model so that it doesn't use the
24 SCADA value.

25 So in this case, I tried doing that, but it
26 created what's called a negative differential. The
27 discharge was actually -- it was higher than the

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1 suction. So I reviewed the model file and
2 discovered that our model did not have a bypass
3 valve that was modelled in it, so the flow through
4 the station couldn't be accurately modelled.

5 So in order to handle that type of a problem,
6 what we do is we influence what's called a header
7 force device, which is a -- it's a macro within the
8 model itself which calculates what the pressures
9 should be across the station. In other words, it's
10 what produces the lift at a station in a model to
11 show that the pressure is increasing in order for
12 the flow to transfer further downstream.

13 So in this case, I went through, and I changed
14 the header force device so that the pressures would
15 be equal across the station using the pressure from
16 the suction side which would have been from the
17 gradient between La Porte and Niles to be the

18 accurate value and penalize the discharge pressure
19 to be the same. So we have capability of doing
20 that within the model.

21 So by the time I finished doing this, they had
22 already shut down line 6. They had reached a point
23 where the estimated volume to restore the column
24 had been passed. So I could go no further than
25 that point. I was asked by the shift lead quickly
26 afterwards if I could look at the pressures and
27 could I look at what was happening on the startup.

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1 So when I reviewed the pressures, what I found
2 was that we still had an existing column separation
3 involved at Marshall. I did a hand calculation to
4 see how much frictional and elevation losses would
5 have been required to arrive at a pressure above
6 zero at Marshall. So I determined that we needed
7 approximately 310 pounds of pressure at Minden in
8 order to be able to increase the pressure above
9 zero at Marshall.

10 I reviewed the model pressures and the SCADA
11 values and found that we'd only achieved 280 pounds
12 of pressure at Minden which was not sufficient to
13 restore the column at Marshall.

14 So the alarms on startup at that point were
15 5-minute alarms and 20-minute alarms which migrated
16 to 2-hour alarms because of the extent that we pump
17 from Griffith to restore the column at Marshall.

18 So once the alarm was shut down, I believe we
19 waited probably till about somewhere around 3, 3:30
20 before it was decided that we would try to start it
21 up again.

22 At that time, the -- all of the alarms had
23 cleared. There were no active alarms. The static
24 profile that the model was showing for line 6B
25 indicated five sections where column separation
26 existed and the summary alarms or the summary
27 volumes were at zero.

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1 Q Let me interrupt for a second. Your -- in our
2 previous discussions with other people, the focus
3 has been on one primary column separation around
4 Marshall --

5 A Right.

6 Q -- and this is the first we're discussing others in
7 the line. Would there be alarms associated with
8 the other separations?

9 A These alarms would have been associated on the line
10 shutdown that would have occurred earlier, the
11 section from Stockbridge to -- to Sarnia.

12 MR. GOESON: Downstream.

13 A Downstream section.

14 Q MR. JENNER: Oh, the ones you're talking
15 about are downstream?

16 A The ones I'm talking about are the column
17 separation that existed at Marshall. There would

18 have been a further column separation just
19 downstream of Stockbridge. There would have been a
20 further one that would have been at Leonard
21 station. There would have been another one that
22 would have been at Fowler, and then another one
23 just between Fowler station and Sarnia.

24 Q Everything farther downstream?

25 A Right.

26 Q Okay, thank you.

27 A So if you were looking at the actual depiction of

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1 what the line is, what you would see is you would
2 see head pressure above elevation at points where
3 there was sufficient pressure to be above vapour
4 pressure. At other points where there wasn't
5 sufficient enough head above elevation, then these
6 would indicate column separation.

7 In addition to the display that we look at is
8 liquid fraction in order to measure the amount of
9 gas and liquid in that section of the line. So
10 we're able to kind of determine how much of a
11 vapour bubble is actually in that for that section.

12 Q Okay, thank you. Okay, I'm sorry. You can
13 continue.

14 A So looking at the static profile after the
15 shutdown, reviewing that the alarms had cleared and
16 seeing that there were no summary volume balance --
17 like, they were all at zero, the summaries -- I was

18 asked if I would sit in with the conversation that
19 was discussed with Blaine Reinbolt. Darin Parsons
20 had ask me if I would just sit in while he was
21 talking to Blaine.

22 Q Okay.

23 A So I listened to the conversation between them.

24 They discussed how they had tried to start up and
25 really hadn't been able to restore the Marshall
26 column.

27 So Blaine asked me what I thought, and I said

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1 it's a column separation, and you did not have
2 enough energy from Minden station to restore the
3 column. I said I'm not sure if it's because you're
4 bypassing Niles that you're not able to put this
5 column back together. I said I'm not sure because
6 I don't operate the pipeline. But I said I can
7 tell you that you've reached 280 pounds, and you
8 still need an additional 40 pounds to get oil to
9 Marshall, and you're going to need an additional
10 (INDISCERNIBLE) to fill a column.

11 So at that time, it was up to Blaine to make
12 the decision on what he wanted -- what he would
13 like to do. And my input into this was simply as
14 an information. I hadn't been asked to do any
15 analysis or anything. I was just asked for
16 information in regard to what I knew about the
17 material balance system.

18 Q Right. So you provided Blaine with that

19 information and a decision was made?

20 A And he asked me -- I believe he asked me the state

21 of the model, and I told him that the model was as

22 is usually is in column separation. It's not

23 reliable. And the reason it's not reliable is

24 because we need a full liquid medium in order

25 for -- optimize the model. It's a liquid -- it's a

26 liquid model, so with column separation, we have a

27 mixture of gas and oil, and it's not able to

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1 correctly model sections where column -- column
2 separation exists.

3 Q Okay. So a decision was made to give another
4 attempt to restart the line, and that was Blaine's
5 decision?

6 A Yes, I believe it was.

7 Q Okay. And were you on board with that? Did you
8 take any exception to that decision?

9 A No, because really, the only thing I knew for a
10 fact was that it was a column separation at
11 Marshall, and that's what my software was telling
12 me is that there was a column separation at
13 Marshall and that the model was unreliable at that
14 point.

15 Q And, again, the unreliability is because of the
16 mixture of gas and oil?

17 A Right. At points upstream where we are above

18 vapour pressure -- all points upstream of where
19 we're above vapour pressure are correctly modelled.
20 It's only the portion from where we drop below
21 vapour pressure until we restore above vapour
22 pressure again it becomes unreliable.
23 Q I see.
24 A So the sections between Griffith and whoever the
25 head of the column would have been would have
26 been -- would have been able to accurately use --
27 use the material balance system.

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1 Q Okay. All right. So, again, the decision was made
2 to restart?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And are you part of the second attempt?

5 A I'm only part of it in that I was requested to
6 monitor it again on startup.

7 Q And by monitoring, how -- what is that process for
8 you?

9 A I generally watch the flow as it's generated out of
10 the injection location, and I look for development
11 of -- of pressure in a line. And I monitor the
12 stations to assure that the model and the SCADA
13 data are consistent. I look for what's called
14 diagnostic flows which are generated when the SCADA
15 value is not the same as what the model calculated
16 value is.

17 Our system functions off of -- diagnostic

18 flows are created when there's a difference between
19 the SCADA and the actual model value, and the
20 diagnostic flows are then used to calculate out the
21 volume-in balance.

22 So I'm looking for this, a creation of
23 diagnostic flows and following to see whether the
24 column will be integrated as well. And I can do
25 this by looking at the liquid fraction and watch it
26 as it -- as it goes back to a liquid state.

27 So there's two different displays that I can

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1 look, and there's actually multiple displays that I
2 can look at. My focus was on seeing the extent of
3 the diagnostic flows and whether there was any
4 volume balance that was being created from it, and
5 also watching closely to see if the column at
6 Marshall was being reintegrated.

7 Q So you have -- so the decision was we'll give it
8 ten minutes for all this to play itself out?

9 A I'm not sure if what -- what the time was because
10 I'm not really involved with -- with any
11 calculation on how much is needed to restore. I
12 don't give any input into that. That's not
13 something a shift lead would ask me.

14 Q Okay.

15 A So this is something that the control centre would
16 do on their own. So I simply -- I monitor until
17 such time as they tell me or I become aware that

18 they're shutting it down.

19 Q Okay. So you're monitoring this, and then what
20 happens?

21 A I monitored it until the point when they -- they
22 shut down, and at the time they shut down, I
23 informed the shift leads that they still had an
24 existing column separation. And here again, we
25 generated both 5, 20-minute, and 2-hour alarms on
26 the startup.

27 Now, all of these alarms -- both times when it

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1 started up at 1 o'clock and when they started up
2 here after 3 o'clock, all of the alarms were
3 associated with column separations. There were no
4 anomalies outside of the column separation that
5 existed that we could attribute any of the alarms
6 to.

7 Q Based on your current position and experience and
8 based on your experience as an operator, did you
9 have any other ideas about what's happening? You
10 guys have tried twice to start up the line, and it
11 failed. So what are you thinking?

12 A Well, first and foremost, my job as an analyst --
13 and it's my job to analyze the material balance
14 system. It's not my job to analyze pressures or
15 flows. I do that in the context of I examine them
16 for how well the model is actually working and
17 analyzing the software. I do not -- I do not

18 analyze pressures or flow for the purpose of the
19 control centre for leak detection. Leak detection
20 that's provided is provided by our software and not
21 by the MBS analyst.

22 Q Okay. Okay, thanks for that clarification.

23 A Okay.

24 Q So is anything else asked of you after the
25 shutdown?

26 A No, there was nothing asked of me, just it's --
27 once it shut down and I think -- I think Aaron

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1 asked me if we still had -- if we still had alarms,
2 and I told him that we still did.

3 Q And those alarms are consistent with the column
4 separation and consistent with the information that
5 you have in front of you?

6 A They're consistent with attempts to start up when
7 we have a column separation because at the point
8 where the column separation exists, there can be no
9 flow go past. So when we're measuring volume
10 imbalance, you're measuring the amount of oil
11 that's going into the system and the amount of oil
12 that's coming out of the system.

13 In the case where you have column separation,
14 the only drive that you have for the flow at the
15 delivery point is whatever elevation change there
16 is because there is no flow that's generated
17 from -- from pumps.

18 So when the delivery end is open, it will
19 produce a flow. I think in this case, it was,
20 like, about 600 cubic metres an hour. At the
21 Griffith start, at the injection point, the flow
22 was at 1,900 cubic metres per hour.

23 So as it generates that flow, obviously
24 there's an imbalance of 1,300 cubic metres. So if
25 they run for ten minutes, you can estimate how much
26 of an imbalance there will be. Now, that imbalance
27 is what will trigger the MBS alarms.

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1 Now, when a column is fully intact, the flow
2 is -- is measured off of the pressure. As pressure
3 goes up, the flow will go down in a pipeline, and
4 it can -- it can calculate the volume by the change
5 in pressure. It uses the flow, and it uses the
6 pressure in order to figure out how much balance or
7 how much volume is moved from point "A" to point
8 "B." And that's the essence of the way the volume
9 balance system works.

10 So in this case, if we're putting 1,900 cubic
11 metres an hour into it, and we're only receiving
12 600, the model can do nothing but alarm because
13 there is an imbalance.

14 Now, that -- that volume balance will exist
15 until such time as all columns are fully
16 integrated, and a model is able to use the
17 pressures to -- as to what the volume will be in

18 the line.

19 So usually column separations, they are
20 lengthy in order for them to clear. Lots of times
21 this will be two hours before it finally recovers
22 the amount. But all columns are required to be
23 fully integrated before the model will start moving
24 towards clearing those alarms.

25 In a case -- in the first case where we had
26 shut down, there was a sufficient amount of time
27 that the column separation was able to absorb the

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1 losses, and that's how the model compensates and
2 clears alarms is because it makes that
3 determination that this is where the flow went.

4 So it doesn't show, indicate that we put 1,900
5 cubic metres into Marshall, and we didn't take
6 anything out. So it does a calculation, and then
7 over a period of time, it -- it can rationalize
8 exactly where it thinks that oil went.

9 And that's why it's -- that's why it's deemed
10 as being unreliable at that point because for the
11 flow to be absorbed into a column separation is
12 basically fiction. So the model is deemed as being
13 unreliable and not -- and alternatively, methods
14 will need to be used until such time as the columns
15 are integrated.

16 Q I see. Very good. Now, after all this, you're
17 coming up toward the end of your shift?

18 A Well, at the end of my shift, like I said, we still
19 had an active two-hour alarm. I passed this on to
20 my relief and told them about the problems they
21 were having on line 6 and told them what he could
22 expect for the rest of the day.

23 Q And what was -- what sort of information did you
24 share about the problems?

25 A Generally I'll -- if -- if I'm aware that there --
26 maybe line 5 will be starting up or line 5 will be
27 starting into the (INDISCERNIBLE), things like

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1 that, like, if it's been passed on to me by the
2 operators, and I'll pass it on to whoever is
3 relieving me just so they have an idea of the
4 operational things that are going on in the room.

5 Because sometimes we do monitor things. We
6 monitor for the purpose of looking at the quality
7 of the model during transitional times because if
8 we're able to look at things and we see there is a
9 problem, we can pass that on to our support staff
10 who work at tailoring the models to work optimum
11 efficiency.

12 So we have a vested interest as analysts in
13 order to be able to pass this information on to our
14 support people.

15 Q Well, thank you for a very thorough description.

16 What I'm going to do is pass it on right now, and
17 we have other people who probably want to ask you

18 some questions.

19 MR. JENNER: Karen, do you have any

20 questions?

21 MS. BUTLER: Yeah.

22 QUESTIONS BY MS. BUTLER:

23 MS. BUTLER: Jim, we're just going to --

24 it's going to take me a bit to ask and get your

25 answers typed in because I'm trying to catch up as

26 I type, so forgive me for the pauses between the

27 questions. Don't think that that's anymore than

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1 I'm just trying to document what I ask you.

2 A I don't type very fast either, so...

3 Q Well, thank goodness.

4 You started out stating that you had
5 experience in the control room. And forgive me if
6 you've stated this already and I missed it. But
7 did you have experience specifically on line 6?

8 A I probably operated line 6 for, I would say,
9 probably maybe seven years, but that would have
10 been before -- about two years before I started
11 with material balance or with pipeline modelling.

12 Q Okay. And have there been any significant changes
13 hydraulically on that pipeline since you would have
14 operated that you're aware of?

15 A The only hydraulic changes that I would be aware of
16 would have been passed on through our modelling
17 group. And at this time, I'm not aware of any

18 changes that were made.

19 Q Okay. Okay, and because I'm not really sure how

20 the model versus leak protection works --

21 A Well, leak detection -- leak detection within --

22 within Enbridge is many different things. The

23 portion that I assist with is called the CPM or

24 computerized pipeline modelling, which is just one

25 of the components of leak detection within

26 Enbridge.

27 Q Okay. So talk to me about what the other leak

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1 detection sections or systems are.

2 A Operators operating the pipeline are a form of leak
3 detection. Shift leads who monitor pipelines at
4 times are part of it. Pipeline patrols that fly
5 over the right-of-way. Our field staff or
6 electricians and mechanics out in the field are
7 another form of leak detection. The public
8 themselves calling in through 911 calls or the
9 police calling in through 911 or public calling in
10 through our emergency line are another form of leak
11 detection.

12 Q Okay. So before I get off on another topic, is
13 there any other software system internally or any
14 other calculations that are being done internally
15 that you would consider a form of leak detection
16 besides this model and its outcome?

17 A Not in realtime.

18 Q Okay. All right. So when you say that, I assume

19 that means, like, there's tools that they can use

20 to calculate things that are then after the fact

21 that might be able to assist, but this would be the

22 only thing that's going on simultaneously?

23 A Well, like Curt mentioned was CMT, but CMT is just

24 another tool that an operator would use, and it's

25 not a tool that we would use in pipeline modelling.

26 Q Okay. But is it true that the pipeline model that

27 you're working with passes information to CMT?

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1 A No. We receive the information from CMT. We do
2 not pass it to them.

3 Q Okay. Okay. So what do you receive from CMT?

4 A From CMT, we receive the batch ID at the injection
5 point, and we receive a line fill every two hours.

6 And the purpose of that is in case we need to
7 restart a line because the line fill is incorrect.

8 Q Okay. Anything else?

9 A No.

10 Q Okay. So one of the things that confuses me a bit
11 is obviously for CMT to be calculating a line fill,
12 it's got to have some basic pipe information that
13 would also apply to hydraulic; correct?

14 A No.

15 Q Okay. So explain to me why not.

16 A CMT is basically an accounting system that relies
17 on operators to input the batch sizes. In some

18 cases, some of the information that it receives is
19 automated. Now, I don't work with CMT, and I
20 haven't since I was a pipeline operator, so exactly
21 how that all takes place I'm not really familiar.
22 I know how -- I know how CMT is used by our group
23 but not how it's -- not how the automated portion
24 and that is derived.

25 Q Okay. All right. So with that, we'll move off of
26 that topic and on to the leak -- the model -- the
27 pipeline model itself.

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1 A Okay.

2 Q Okay. You know, I did some hydraulic modelling and

3 built models that it would have been on SCADA

4 system, okay? So one of the first things we did in

5 building our models is we would go through and make

6 sure that the element that we had in our model

7 matched the pipeline and the associated facility,

8 and then we would run some steady state analyses to

9 determine that that would be reasonable and

10 (INDISCERNIBLE) things were left out, and then we'd

11 run transient and determine if they were tracking

12 sufficiently and then make adjustments to that

13 model in order to make them track better. So

14 since -- you've been involved with this since the

15 inception of the department, is that true, or did I

16 misunderstand that?

17 A No -- yeah, slightly. I've been involved with it

18 since the inception of a 24-hour analyst being in a
19 room.

20 Q Okay. All right. So were the models built prior
21 to you then?

22 A Yes. We build models as we develop pipelines. And
23 as you're aware, there's been a couple of pipelines
24 that have come on stream. So we've been -- I've
25 been minorly involved in assisting with the
26 creation of displays and some of the newer ones,
27 but most of the models that I use now were created

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1 over the last probably 10 to 12 years, and they
2 are -- they're generally developed by our
3 engineering staff within pipeline modelling. I'm
4 not an engineer. I'm -- my position as an MBS
5 analyst is as a user of the software.

6 Q Okay. So jumping down to what I thought you said,
7 but once again, I may have misunderstood. We were
8 talking about the fact that Niles station was
9 bypassed and the fact that it wasn't showing
10 correct pressures, and you were looking at that,
11 that the section I think you were talking about
12 that it wasn't quite modelled sufficiently?

13 A Right.

14 Q And there was -- did I misunderstand that there was
15 a bypass valve that was not modelled, or did I
16 catch that correctly?

17 A Yes. A lot of the older stations -- and Niles

18 being one of the older lines on line 6 -- the
19 stations were constructed so that the flow would
20 always be through the station. And on a lot of
21 these stations, bypass valves were added later on
22 when the -- you know, the practice of running pigs
23 and such became -- you know, became part of
24 normal -- normal pipeline operations.

25 So in this particular case, because we have an
26 ongoing development into our models and increasing
27 their efficiency in adding things, Niles is one of

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1 those stations where we modelled the actual input
2 into the station and output out of the station, and
3 modelling flow past the station when it's
4 bypassing, we did -- there's no valve that was
5 modelled -- that's in the model.

6 So because of this when they close the station
7 inlet and station outlet, we use the transmitters
8 that they're either on the main line or inside of
9 the station. In the case of Niles, we were using
10 the -- we were using the pressures that were inside
11 the station rather than outside.

12 So the SCADA value that we were getting a read
13 back on was from the pressure that was inside the
14 station. So this was making the model erroneous
15 because it was reading the wrong transmitter.

16 Q Okay. So based on that, I want to talk to that
17 just a little bit so that I understand.

18 All right, so the first thing is that this was
19 a circumstance that developed because we didn't
20 have a bypass valve shown in the model.
21 Hydraulically we've compensated for that in other
22 ways, but clearly, we needed to have that
23 capability because of pig runs and things that were
24 going to be going on if we wanted the model to same
25 accurate a greater percent of the time; is that a
26 good way to put it?
27 A Yes. I'd like to clarify that, though. If -- if

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1 we're reading correct transmitters that are out on
2 the main line, there isn't a requirement, and it
3 wouldn't have been a problem for -- for the -- for
4 the model to handle it because it would have been
5 receiving accurate suction and discharge pressures
6 and wouldn't need the -- the HF device to be
7 modified.

8 Q Gotcha. So -- but basically what we are saying
9 here is for all intents and purposes, the
10 transmitters were reading a stagnant value and not
11 reading the value on the pipeline?

12 A Correct.

13 Q Okay. So since the transmitters are reading a
14 stagnant value, then the leak detection system
15 since Niles has been bypassed wasn't effective from
16 where to where in your opinion?

17 A I wouldn't say it wasn't -- that it wasn't

18 effective. It was effective in the point that it
19 was creating diagnostic flows because of the
20 problem at Niles. So it was indicating -- the
21 model was indicating that there may have possibly
22 been a problem at Niles.

23 Now, reviewing it, like I said, reviewing the
24 model files, I was able to determine that there
25 wasn't a model bypass valve, and I knew how to, in
26 realtime, make repairs to the model so that the
27 diagnostic flows would not be created.

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1 Q Okay. So back up in history with me a little bit
2 then. Okay, so the bypass valve isn't there, and
3 our transmitters are reading a little different.
4 Then on the original shutdown where we had a column
5 separation, there is some confusion in our notes
6 about when Niles was actually bypassed.

7 So bearing that in mind, if Niles had been
8 bypassed prior to the end of the shift where we had
9 the first column separation, which I believe Shane
10 was on before, then there would have been a profile
11 that was not quite right during that time frame; is
12 that correct?

13 A I can't answer that because I didn't look at that.
14 I never reviewed the model through that period in
15 time, so I really can't make a statement on
16 something that I didn't see.

17 Q Okay. All right. So but in theory, theoretically

18 because the bypass valve wasn't in there, from the
19 time that the model -- from the time that Niles was
20 bypassed to the time that you picked up on that,
21 the model for certain areas would not have been
22 accurate; is that fair?

23 A Not quite. The column separation was probably the
24 largest contributing factor to why the model was
25 unreliable. The problem at Niles was able to be
26 repaired to the point that with the pressures from
27 La Porte and the pressures from Minden, the actual

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1 model pressures would be very similar to what the
2 SCADA values were.

3 Now, when I was on shift, this was the case.

4 I don't know what happened in the case -- I'm not
5 even sure if Niles is even bypassed or at what
6 time, whether it was bypassed simply on startup. I
7 don't have that information.

8 Q Okay. But you were capable of making a decision
9 that helped the pressures become line significant,
10 but you clearly had to recognize a problem was
11 there to make that decision.

12 So my issue is there's nothing that would
13 automatically cause the model to trigger into some
14 other mode when this didn't match. Is there -- or
15 is there some type of automatic trigger that I'm
16 unaware of?

17 A I'm not quite sure what you mean by "mode."

18 Q Okay. You had indicated -- and I'm calling it a
19 mode probably inappropriately. But I think
20 hydraulically -- let me back up here so I use how I
21 think you could better describe it.

22 I believe you forced -- you used the
23 header-force device?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And that would allow you, I think, to create
26 pressures that were more equivalent to what was
27 actually going on to the line; is that correct?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. So that header-force device, is that a
3 manual action only, or can that automatically be
4 triggered by something?

5 A The header-force device is designed to indicate the
6 lift at a station such as adding pumps. We do not
7 read -- we read pump status, but we do not read
8 differential from the pump. What we do is we use a
9 header-force device that creates the lift at a
10 station so that we can properly show what the flow
11 is across the station by utilizing that lift.

12 The function of the header-force device uses
13 suction transmitter and a discharge transmitter in
14 the model, and from those two values, it's able to
15 compute how much pressure increase there is at the
16 station and how much actual flow is being generated
17 past the station. Does that clarify it a little

18 bit better?

19 Q I think so. I think what you're telling me,
20 though, is there's nothing that would automatically
21 do that. That's something that you make a
22 conscious decision based on the differences in data
23 that you're seeing in order to do that?

24 A Right. This is -- this is no different than if we
25 were mapped to both the suction and the discharge
26 transmitters that were behind the sectionalizing
27 valves and not on a main line. We would probably

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1 just be required to turn those off.

2 Now, in -- if there was a proper bypass valve,

3 then it's able to know that the flow is past the

4 station, and it'll put the correct pressures in.

5 But in this case because the bypass valve isn't

6 there and because of the increase in pressure from

7 upstream and downstream that it's now trying to

8 use, it tries -- it tries to compensate for that,

9 and it produces a differential between a suction

10 and discharge which is a false flow into the system

11 which has the capabilities of making the model even

12 more unreliable.

13 Our intention -- our intention by doing this

14 is to remove the diagnostic flows from a known

15 problem so that diagnostic flows would be triggered

16 from where a possible problem could exist.

17 Q Okay. So we've got this model, and it triggers

18 some alarms that are tied into the SCADA system.

19 Is there -- when a controller acknowledges an

20 alarm, is there anything that redoes a threshold or

21 moves anything within the model or the output of

22 that model?

23 A No. Thresholds are a static value that are set at

24 the model when it -- at the first time that it's

25 run. Those are changed based on engineering

26 studies that our pipeline modelling engineers do.

27 But for all essential purposes, those are static --

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1 static values that are set.

2 Q Okay. Is there -- are there any others changes to
3 the model that you're aware of that have recently
4 been done?

5 A On -- for the line 6 model, no. There hasn't been
6 anything done on this model. Like I said, like,
7 you know, probably somewhere in the near future, we
8 probably will be going through it and modelling the
9 actual bypass valve or the check valve or whatever
10 exists at the station. At this time, I'm not even
11 sure if it's a check valve or if it's an actual
12 bypass valve.

13 Now, we contacted our SCADA people who would
14 tell us what that is, and then we will add that to
15 the model.

16 Q Okay. So then moving on just a bit, when there's a
17 hydraulic change actually made in the field,

18 whether that be piping is changed or another
19 valving arrangement is made, what in the process
20 keeps the model in sync with the field changes?
21 A The process we use is -- we are part of what's
22 called IT SCADA operations, so they're involved
23 with any new installations and creating the
24 displays and creating, like, the station displays
25 and any things that are added in the field. We are
26 part of that, and we receive that information when
27 we receive the information on any of the components

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1 that are either added or removed.

2 Those are passed on to us through our --

3 through our modelling engineers, and they add

4 anything as quickly as possible to any new models,

5 that it doesn't have any inaccuracies. So we're

6 part of the -- we're part of that process.

7 Q Okay, great. Is there documentation that kind of

8 shows the flow of changes?

9 A Yes, there is within -- the in-prep file, we keep a

10 record of anything that's been added or taken out.

11 And also within a -- we have what's called a jura

12 (ph) issue tracking, and anything that's been added

13 or anything that's been required to be added to a

14 model is also listed in there as well.

15 Q Okay, thank you.

16 All right, so then back to a little shift

17 here. We have a normal shutdown or what we think

18 is a scheduled shutdown, and we had a column
19 separation, and then when we go back and we're
20 getting ready to start back up, we've got a --
21 we've got several column separations if I
22 understood this correctly?

23 A Well, partially. The column separations that would
24 have been downstream of Marshall, like, looking
25 downstream from Stockbridge where -- I believe at 5
26 o'clock in the morning they started a Stockbridge
27 delivery. Those column separations that were

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1 downstream of Stockbridge existed from the 5
2 o'clock shutdown of the section between Stockbridge
3 and Sarnia.

4 Q Okay. And that was 5 o'clock --

5 A Would have been 5 o'clock on the 25th or 24th
6 maybe. It would have been previous -- it would
7 have been previous to when they shut down into
8 Stockbridge when the total line shut down.

9 Q Pipeline time 5 o'clock or --

10 A Well, I'm just giving you a rough time. Like --

11 Q Yeah, I know. I just want to make sure that -- I'm
12 looking for that as approximately.

13 A It would have been whenever they started their
14 Stockbridge delivery. The section between
15 Stockbridge and Sarnia would have been shut down.
16 At the time of the shutdown, the column separations
17 would have occurred.

18 Q Okay.

19 MR. GOESON: Are we talking about the
20 shutdown on Sunday?

21 A The shutdown at 5 o'clock on Saturday, the
22 previous -- it would have been previous to 1500.

23 Q MS. BUTLER: Yeah, okay.

24 MR. GOESON: That's just the first we heard
25 of this shutdown.

26 Q MS. BUTLER: Yeah, because I want to make
27 sure that, you know --

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1 MR. GOESON: So it sounds like it was a --
2 sorry, Karen -- scheduled delivery into Stockbridge
3 the previous day.

4 A Right.

5 Q MS. BUTLER: Right. I thought that it was
6 a scheduled delivery into Stockbridge, but it's
7 occurring before on Saturday, but there would have
8 been column separations generated as a result of
9 that, and so it would have been -- we would have
10 had multiple column separations at that time if I
11 understood correctly but only on a portion of time
12 downstream of Marshall?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay. All right. So now that we know that we've
15 got multiple column separations then and then we've
16 shut the line down later if I understand right,
17 later in the day on a scheduled basis, and we had a

18 column separation right before that, but that would

19 have been conceivably at a different location, or

20 was that at Marshall?

21 A That would have been in a section between

22 Stockbridge and Griffith.

23 Q Okay.

24 A Now, the block valve would have been closed at

25 Stockbridge which would have isolated the section

26 from Stockbridge to Sarnia during the delivery into

27 Stockbridge. So the subsequent column separations

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1 that occurred on the shutdown between Griffith and
2 Stockbridge occurred on that shutdown. And those
3 previous column separations had occurred on the
4 shutdown between Stockbridge and Sarnia. So they
5 didn't -- those -- the column separations that were
6 downstream of Stockbridge did not reoccur on the
7 shutdown at 1500.

8 Q Okay. So we've got a scheduled shutdown that's
9 occurred. We had that one column separation alarm
10 or the five-minute, and I think it only was a
11 five-minute one?

12 A Right, 1500 to 1505.

13 Q Right. Okay, so we've got that going on, and then
14 the pipeline shuts down, and it stabilizes or maybe
15 not because of the leak, but nonetheless, and that
16 alarm clears. Now, that alarm clears because of
17 what?

18 A The alarm cleared because of the column separation.

19 It was caused by the column separation, but when

20 the flow into the line went to zero when Griffith

21 was shut -- was shut down, the model used a column

22 separation in order to put the flow that it -- or

23 the volume that it thought was lost into the column

24 separation.

25 Q Okay, so in your particular model, there's nothing

26 that is resetting things automatically when you

27 have a shutdown or a --

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1 A No. Alarms are allowed to clear themselves
2 naturally. We do not restart models. We let
3 models run until alarms are cleared. If there are
4 any restarts on models that are required, they're
5 only restarted when a model has -- does not have
6 any alarms.

7 Q Oh, okay. So there's nothing that prevents alarms
8 from going to an operator that are just the result
9 of a shutdown of a pipeline; is that correct?

10 A Any alarms that go to the operator are triggered
11 when a volume balance alarm occurs, and it will be
12 5-minute or 20-minute or a 2-hour alarm. Those are
13 the only alarms that are issued from the -- from
14 the MBS system.

15 So they'll receive the -- they'll receive that
16 the alarm occurred, and they'll also receive that
17 the alarm cleared. So in this case, they would

18 have received an alarm probably at 1500 when it
19 occurred telling them that they had a five-minute
20 alarm in the section between Griffith and Marshall,
21 and then they also would have had a clearing alarm
22 at 1505 for the section between Griffith and
23 Marshall.

24 Q So based on what you know now, not what you knew at
25 the time of your shift, when do you think the leak
26 occurred?

27 A I don't know.

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1 Q Okay.

2 A The only thing that I know is that there was a
3 column separation on the line shutdown. And from
4 material balance system, the model became
5 unreliable at that point and would not regain its
6 reliability until such time as the pressures at
7 Marshall were above vapour pressure.

8 Q Okay. The column separation alarm happening at the
9 1500 and 1505 that clearing, that's a normal
10 circumstance on a shutdown?

11 A In some cases. It depends -- it depends on the
12 pressures on the line. And the alarm isn't
13 received as a column separation alarm; it's
14 received as a five-minute volume balance alarm.

15 There is not --

16 Q Right.

17 A There is -- the operator, unless he's aware of what

18 the pressures are in the line, would not know
19 whether it was a column separation unless he looked
20 and determined he was under vapour pressure for
21 that. The model is the only tool that we have that
22 will calculate that out in realtime.

23 Q All right. So the model generates it five-minute
24 volume balance, but then we have an analyst tell us
25 it was due to column separation; right? So the
26 operator doesn't make that call; the analyst makes
27 that call; is that correct?

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1 A I believe the analyst said that the column
2 separation occurred and that the five-minute alarm
3 was attributed to the column separation that
4 occurred.

5 MR. GOESON: Are we talking about the time
6 frame during the shift?

7 A No.

8 MR. GOESON: Are we talking about --

9 A I believe she's talking about 1500.

10 MS. BUTLER: Yeah, we're talking about
11 Shane's shift.

12 MR. GOESON: Okay.

13 MS. BUTLER: Yes, because I was trying to
14 understand -- the reason this came into play right
15 here is because I was trying to understand two key
16 concepts which is what role, if any, the bypass
17 situation at Niles had on indications they would

18 have received during that normal shutdown if it had
19 already been bypassed. And then secondly, to
20 understand whether or not this was a typical
21 condition for this particular line segment. And
22 what I'm getting is it may or may not have been.
23 That would have been based on the pressures. And
24 so that ties in a little bit with the fact that a
25 pressure would have gone to zero, and it normally
26 shouldn't have.

27 Q MS. BUTLER: Okay, so I think I'm clear. I

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1 will reread this in detail after I've got a chance

2 to think about this a little more. I appreciate

3 your tolerance --

4 A Oh, no problem.

5 Q -- in how I ask these questions. And the fact that

6 you've explained there are no automatic triggering

7 changes or software elements that would come into

8 play, that helps simplify things.

9 And if there's anything about the model that

10 you find unique to this particular line, I would

11 like your input on that. Is there anything in the

12 model that you find unique to this particular line?

13 A Only the fact that the model is in -- the model is

14 in a constant state of development, such as I said,

15 for things such as, like, the bypass valve at Niles

16 and that.

17 As -- you know, as we get information and we

18 review our models on a regular basis, we start to
19 notice things that aren't -- that aren't in there
20 that should be added, so we'll contact our SCADA
21 department.
22 Now, our projects department usually heads up
23 developments on lines and additions of things and
24 changes that are made, which funnels that
25 information through to our IT SCADA. It's only
26 been in the -- probably the past couple of years
27 that we've really become a strong player in getting

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1 that information.

2 Now, the department I'm in used to be part of
3 an engineering department, and then it's moved into
4 the IT SCADA department. So as we moved into the
5 IT SCADA, those type of things have improved where
6 we're starting to get more information on things
7 that have been added to the pipeline.

8 But as far as any remodels, whether it's line
9 6, line 5 or any of our newer ones, they're always
10 in a state of constant development. That's why we
11 have engineering -- we have engineers to constantly
12 develop and improve the capabilities of -- of the
13 models.

14 Q So, Jim, there's one thing that puzzles me a bit,
15 and maybe you can explain this, and that is, you
16 know, besides being a previous modeller, I also,
17 you know, spent first behind the consoles, and so I

18 have a real propensity for wanting the operators to

19 see very accurate data.

20 And so I'm a little bit baffled by the fact

21 that we've ran a pig on this line obviously before

22 because we're doing digs as a result of that,

23 right, and we're running a set of pigs now, but yet

24 this bypass situation, it shouldn't be the first

25 time this has occurred.

26 So somewhere along the line, somebody either

27 did exactly what you did or meaning the forced

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1 option, and they just never came back and made a
2 note of it, or they just let kind of the console
3 operator suffer through a little bit of unknown
4 territory there.

5 So is there any thoughts you have on how that
6 could have occurred, like, how it didn't get
7 noticed before now?

8 A Yes. I think you're looking at this as a
9 consistent problem, and it isn't a consistent
10 problem. This is more associated with a transient
11 condition during a startup --

12 Q Right.

13 A -- where a requirement was needed to do this. In
14 normal conditions, whether the station were to be
15 bypassed or not, the model, once regained into a
16 balanced state, would not need these type of
17 requirements. It's only because of the heavy

18 transition during a startup that I felt that I did
19 not want to take away the opportunity for the model
20 to put together the column correctly by having the
21 diagnostic flow that I observed at Niles as
22 influencing it.

23 Q Yeah, I get -- yeah, I get the fact that during
24 different conditions in a startup or shutdown, this
25 isn't going to be as significant, but because those
26 are such hairy times when things can go wrong,
27 that's why I said what I said, so I appreciate your

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1 feedback very much.

2 A Okay. Like, it -- like, there could be a startup,
3 or there wouldn't be a problem. You know, I don't
4 know if there wasn't a -- if there wasn't a column
5 separation at Marshall, maybe this wouldn't have
6 been a problem.

7 We pressure our sections based on flow metres.
8 There's a flow metre at Griffith, and there's a
9 flow metre at Marshall. Those flow metres
10 influence the calculated pressures, and in the
11 absence of pressures at Niles because of the
12 isolation, this might have had a strong effect on
13 it.

14 Now, if the column had been intact at
15 Marshall, then this might not have been an issue at
16 Niles.

17 Q Okay.

18 A But I felt that triggering false diagnostics on a
19 startup into a column separation, it seemed prudent
20 to me as an analyst and having the capabilities of
21 optimizing our model, that it seemed prudent to be
22 able to take these steps and try to equalize the
23 pressure correctly in the model for Niles.

24 Q Right, gotcha, and I so appreciate that.

25 Just so I don't make one -- another incorrect
26 assumption, I take it that the other analysts have
27 the same capabilities to be able to do that, the

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1 same action or not?

2 A They might not have ever have taken that action

3 before, but when we do things like this that are a

4 little bit out of the norm, we tend to document

5 them correctly and step by step. In this

6 particular case, in order to be able to influence a

7 header-force device, there's actually a detailed

8 write-up on how to do this.

9 And in addition to that, if we're unable to

10 understand how to do it, we do have backup support

11 24/7 for all of our analysts so that he can talk to

12 an engineer who can provide them with the correct

13 instruction for doing this.

14 Q All right. I so appreciate all of that. Thank you

15 very much for that last little bit of discussion.

16 MS. BUTLER: And I think I'm done. I'm

17 sorry it took a while.

18 MR. JENNER: Okay, thank you.

19 MR. GULSTAD: I don't have many questions,

20 but...

21 QUESTIONS BY MR. GULSTAD:

22 Q MR. GULSTAD: You referred to a column

23 separation at Marshall, but how close to the

24 Marshall station can you -- can you determine where

25 that column separation really is?

26 A We can't because what we're using is we're using

27 the pressures from Minden, and we're using the

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1 existing elevation changes. So providing those
2 elevation changes are accurate, we can -- the model
3 can do a pretty good job of getting close. But as
4 far as me knowing exactly what the mile post is --
5 unless I exactly zoomed in to see exactly where
6 that was, I would not know exactly where it was.

7 Q Would you know if it was upstream or downstream of
8 Marshall?

9 A Unless I zoomed in, I would not. And in my case, I
10 did not zoom in on it. I was simply more involved
11 with waiting for pressure to arrive at that -- at
12 that point.

13 Q When you say "zoom in," what do you -- what do you
14 mean?

15 A Well, zoom in, we're able to select the section of
16 the pipeline that we wish to look at. Normally, we
17 would be looking at the section from Griffith to

18 Sarnia, and that can be influenced by mile post. I

19 can change the mile post so that I can strictly

20 look at a very small segment of it.

21 But that's not normally something you would do

22 in light of a column separation. It's something

23 you may do if you're examining for incorrect --

24 like, a batchness alignment or incorrect interface.

25 We would look for something like that, but it's not

26 something you would normally do to look for a

27 column separation.

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1 Q So when you isolate it down by a mile post, does it
2 have to be at a station or a valve, or can it just
3 be any mile post within the system?

4 A It can be any mile post within the -- within that
5 section. Like, when we look at a -- when we look
6 at the model for line 6, we're looking at it from
7 superior all the way to Sarnia, and you can isolate
8 the section between Griffith and Sarnia, and you
9 can also isolate the -- the -- you could isolate it
10 to look between Minden and Marshall.

11 Q Okay. So if a shift lead had requested that,
12 that's something you could have done if they had
13 requested it. Just something you normally don't
14 do; right?

15 A That's not something we would normally do. I guess
16 in our system, we accept a column separation, you
17 know, on or about a particular point, and the

18 activities in the control centre are to quickly
19 regain those columns, you know, as quickly as
20 possible.

21 Q But if they had -- if they had requested that,
22 that's something you could have -- you could have
23 done?

24 A It's something that they could have done if they
25 had cho -- if they desired to.

26 Q Okay. So elevation goes into the model; right?

27 A Yes, elevation is part of the model.

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1 Q And how would running a pig affect -- could that
2 possibly create a column separation if it was in
3 the right spot?

4 A It's never been my experience in, like, the two
5 years that I've been doing this that a pig would
6 cause -- would cause that type of a problem. There
7 are -- there are factors that it will cause.
8 There's a certain amount of increase in resistance
9 depending on the type of pig that is run. You
10 know, there are things, you know, anomalies such as
11 having to bypass a station, and maybe we don't have
12 the transmitter out on the main line. We're not
13 mapped to that one. We might be mapped to one
14 inside, or the transmitter out in the main line
15 might be broken. And in cases like that, sometimes
16 we do have to turn off pressures for the station.
17 But in most cases, it's usually able to handle it.

18 Q Once the pigs were to go pretty close to Marshall,
19 if they had ever gotten there, would you have run
20 into the same problem with bypassing Marshall that
21 you ran into with bypassing Niles?

22 A I couldn't answer that unless I looked exactly at
23 that station and saw the way it was. And like I
24 said, like, it was only the fact that there is
25 diagnostic flows created at Niles, and I did not
26 want this diagnostic flows turning up with our --
27 with the model's ability to follow the integration

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1 of the column at Marshall that I took the steps
2 that I did.

3 So whether this would happen at Marshall, I
4 would have to review the actual in-prep file for
5 the model to determine whether there actually was a
6 bypass valve at that station.

7 Q You'd just have to check the configurations?

8 A Right.

9 Q And just one last question. At the end of the
10 shift, you were -- you indicated you were still
11 seeing an active alarm?

12 A Right.

13 Q What was that alarm for? I guess I didn't quite
14 catch that.

15 A The alarm was the same category of alarm that we
16 had at 1500. It was the column separation. The
17 column had never been reintegrated at Marshall so

18 that when we influence the flow coming from

19 Griffith on the startup, the model ring to this

20 again.

21 Q So it was that same column separation that you

22 had --

23 A Right.

24 Q -- indicated at Marshall --

25 A Right.

26 Q -- was still there?

27 MR. GULSTAD: Okay, that's enough questions.

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1 Thank you.

2 MR. JENNER: Curt, anything?

3 MR. GOESON: None for me.

4 FURTHER QUESTIONS BY MR. JENNER:

5 Q MR. JENNER: I don't have anymore

6 operational-type questions. I have some standard

7 other questions related --

8 A Okay.

9 Q Can you tell me what previous shifts you worked

10 prior to this one that we're discussing?

11 A I started on -- when did I start? I think I

12 started on Wednesday. So I think I started

13 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

14 night.

15 Q Were those day or evening shifts?

16 A They're all night shifts.

17 Q All night shifts. Do you consistently work night

18 shifts?

19 A Not consistently, but right now, we're -- we're one

20 person short, and we're waiting for somebody to

21 start training. So we normally have five people.

22 We have four people right now. And of course, this

23 is holiday period, so we are doing some certain

24 amount of overtime within the context of the

25 guidelines that are provided by the control centre.

26 Q Just general health questions. Are you in overall

27 good health?

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1 A Yeah.

2 Q Any conditions? Medications that you're on?

3 A Well, just for like everybody else my age, [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]. And other than that, nothing

7 else.

8 Q Okay. Did you feel -- how did you feel at the

9 start of your shift?

10 A Good.

11 Q Good?

12 A Yeah. I've been doing this so long, it's just -- I

13 know how to -- I know how to get enough sleep. I

14 know how to make sure I'm not fatigued while I'm on

15 shift. I usually pay a lot of clo -- like, close

16 attention to the amount of workload that I carry so

17 that I'm not -- I'm able to respond at any time

18 correctly to any calls or any MBS alarms that we
19 have. I'm very diligent in making sure I don't
20 overtire myself or I'm not fatigued at the start of
21 any shift.

22 Q Terrific. Okay, thank you.

23 A Okay.

24 MR. JENNER: Karen, anything else?

25 FURTHER QUESTIONS BY MS. BUTLER:

26 Q MS. BUTLER: I have one more, and that is
27 is there -- in your model, can you force or

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1 override a pressure or flow?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And if you do so, how is that picked up, or how
4 does somebody know that that's been a force value?

5 A I guess I should probably clarify what I mean by
6 "force." It actually isn't a force value because
7 we allow the model to do a calculation. We don't
8 force a raw value in at any time. What we do is we
9 examine the transmitters that we receive, and in
10 some cases, we receive the multiple transmitters,
11 but we're only mapped to one transmitter that we
12 use, and this may be out on the main line.

13 So let's say if you have three transmitters
14 that are three, two and one, one and -- one being
15 inside the station and three and two being outside.
16 If we had a figure of both three and two, we would
17 need to -- we would need to turn it off because we

18 cannot map a model while it's running. We have to
19 actually map it while the mod -- offline in a test
20 environment, and then we're able to remap and
21 create another -- create a model of -- with an
22 existing line fill and then reload that line fill
23 so we don't miss anything from the transition to
24 the change in the model. But for most cases, when
25 we turn off something in the model, the model will
26 actually calculate out a fairly correct value.
27 Now, when you say "force," I'm kind of a

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1 little bit reluctant into you thinking that if we
2 read 35 pounds at a station, we would actually put
3 a 35-pound value in. That's not the case. We
4 allow the model to use its gradients and to use its
5 calculations based on flow upstream pressure,
6 downstream pressure to actually create a correct
7 pressure that in most cases, from my experience, is
8 very close to what the SCADA value is.

9 Q Okay. So if you lose a transmitter, and you let
10 the model keep calculating, and those -- that would
11 frequently, I would think, generate some alarms?

12 A Not necessarily.

13 Q Okay, so when it -- I'm sorry. Go ahead.

14 A Okay, if we lose -- if we lose that particular
15 transmitter, it doesn't necessarily mean that
16 that's going to go into an alarm because the model
17 at realtime is always calculating out that value.

18 So as long as that value is close to the SCADA
19 value and there's no changes on a pipeline, then
20 there will never be an alarm that will occur
21 because that value is so close to it, but with --

22 Q All right. I --

23 A Go ahead.

24 Q I guess I was thinking is that I lose a transmitter
25 due to lightning, so the actual value of that
26 transmitter is no longer valid. So what then?

27 A What in terms of the model?

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1 Q Yes.

2 A In terms of the model, if there is no change, it
3 balances, is maintained on the pipeline, there's no
4 change in rate, we may not see anything other than
5 a flag for it being a bad value.

6 Q Okay, but if there is a change in rate or balance
7 shift, what then?

8 A Then if it's flagged as bad, the model would
9 automatically start calculating out its value, but
10 if it's still coming in as a good value and that
11 SCADA value changes, the model should change with
12 it. But if the value stays frozen, then it is --
13 there's a difference between what the model is
14 using and what the SCADA value frozen is. And at
15 that time, it will generate an alarm.

16 Q Okay. And when it generates an alarm like that,
17 what does it -- what would it say?

18 A If it generates, it would always be the same. It
19 would come in as a 5-minute balance alarm or a 20
20 or 2 hour.

21 Q Okay, thank you.

22 A Okay.

23 MR. JENNER: You all set, Karen?

24 MS. BUTLER: Yes, I am. Thank you.

25 MR. JENNER: Great. Rick, anything now?

26 FURTHER QUESTIONS BY MR. GULSTAD:

27 Q MR. GULSTAD: I was just curious. Who do

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1 you report to? If you have a question on a model
2 or some issue with your model, who would you
3 consult with?

4 A If it's while I'm on shift, I have a 24-hour
5 support number that I can call. We -- we have a
6 paging system, and someone will be able to respond
7 to that page 24/7.

8 Q Someone within Enbridge?

9 A Someone within my own department, and that person
10 would be an engineer who is probably -- usually
11 involved with development of models or repairs or
12 maintenance on models.

13 Q Okay. And you mentioned that a shift lead could
14 zoom in themselves, but don't they have to work
15 with you if they wanted to zoom in on a --

16 A Well, within our system -- the MBS system is
17 available to the operator. Now, it's available for

18 viewing, and the privileges of being able to make
19 changes in that model exist within our group. But
20 the operator and shift lead are able to see the
21 actual model. So they can change how they view it.
22 Those are components of their view.

23 Now, it's not normally something that they
24 would do. It's something that I might do if I'm --
25 have an area of interest. And I guess what I said
26 was a column separation -- column separation isn't
27 usually my area of interest because I'm more

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1 interested in it being integrated because our
2 Enbridge systems are run with four liquid mediums,
3 and they're not usually running (INDISCERNIBLE)
4 states.

5 So most of the time, when we are looking at
6 the models, we're looking at them in pure liquid
7 states, so there is no need to ever zoom in on
8 something. Usually the zooming in -- the zoom-in
9 feature that I would use is more associated with
10 the batchness alignment or determining if an
11 interface might be causing the problem within the
12 model or creating an alarm.

13 Q And then you could zoom right in where that
14 interface might be?

15 A Right.

16 Q Okay.

17 A Because we -- usually we run a test environment

18 where we -- we load a line fill that we get from
19 CMT, and we can compare that to the actual line
20 fill that's been in the running model, and then we
21 can use that to determine exactly how far out the
22 interface is and whether that inter -- that
23 distance is sufficient enough to be attributed to
24 alarms that are being caused.

25 MR. GULSTAD: Got it. Thank you.

26 MR. JENNER: Curt?

27 CLOSING BY MR. JENNER:

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1 MR. JENNER: You've provided us with a
2 tremendous amount of information, and we do
3 appreciate that, and I think Shane owes you a
4 dinner because his interview is going to be shorter
5 than yours. So you helped him out indirectly.

6 Again, I want to thank you for all the
7 information you provided and any inconvenience we
8 caused you.

9 We're -- as I stated earlier, we're trying to
10 think of any changes that we can think of to make
11 the system even safer than it is, and if anything
12 that you can think of right now to help prevent
13 this, we'd love to hear from you.

14 A No. I mean, I can only look at my own position
15 within Enbridge, and I really feel I did everything
16 I possibly could. As a matter of fact, I actually
17 think I went even further than I probably would

18 normally have gone in light of, you know, the
19 difficulty that we had on the startup.
20 You know, I felt an obligation to influence,
21 like, the header-force device at Niles, you know,
22 which is not something you would normally do. This
23 might be done sometime after the fact. But because
24 we were -- we were trying to integrate this column
25 at Marshall, I didn't want that to interrupt that
26 process of doing it. So my goal was to try to
27 maximize efficiency of the model.

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1 MR. JENNER: Okay, I appreciate that. Very
2 good. Well, again, thank you very much for your
3 help.

4 A Oh, you're welcome.

5 MR. JENNER: We'll finish this interview.

6 -----

7 PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 4:48 P.M.

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1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT

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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 10th day of August, 2010.

12

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18 C. L. Stabbler, CSR(A)

19 Court Reporter

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

* * * * *

Investigation of: *

ENBRIDGE OIL SPILL, *
MARSHALL, MICHIGAN *

Docket No.: DCA-10-MP-007

* * * * *

Interview of: Jim Knudson

Date: Sept. 01/2010

CHANGES TO STATEMENT

WITNESS NAME: _____

DATE OF STATEMENT: _____

PAGE	LINE	CHANGE	REASON
7	3	BB to	VB spelling error
11	19	blot to Plot	spelling error
12	1	be to do	wrong word spelling
12	27	higher to lower	incorrect phrase
17	10	INDISCERNABLE to volume	missing word.
18	24	Whoever to wherever	wrong word
24	13	alternatively to alternative	wrong word
24	27	INDISCERNABLE to SARNIA	missing word.
38	11	Jura TIRA	spelling error
40	11	time line	wrong word
50	24	batchness to batch misalignment	wrong phrase
53	19	Ring to Responded	wrong word
58	2	it to if	wrong word
60	2	four to full	wrong word
60	3	INDISCERNABLE to in a liquid	missing words

1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT

2

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

12

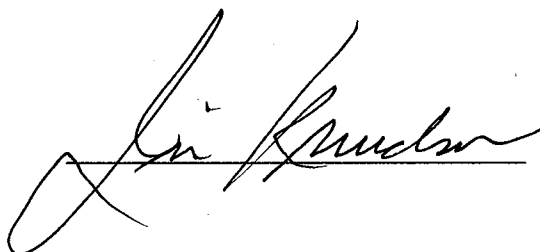
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Knudson", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.