

ENBRIDGE PIPELINES INC.

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INTERVIEW  
OF  
BLAINE REINBOLT

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1 INTERVIEW OF BLAINE REINBOLT, TAKEN AT 9:32 A.M.:

2 MR. JENNER: Good morning. Today is

3 Friday, July 30th, 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. We're here in regards to a pipeline

8 spill in Marshall, Michigan that occurred on

9 Monday, July 26, 2010.

10 We'll first go around the room and have

11 everyone introduce themselves.

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

13 engineer with Pipeline and Hazardous Materials

14 Safety Administration. [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]

16 MR. TOLLEFSON: Tyler Tollefson, senior legal

17 counsel, Enbridge Pipelines.

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

19 centre supervisor, Enbridge Pipelines.

20 MR. REINBOLT: Blaine Reinbolt, control

21 centre supervisor, Enbridge Pipelines.

22 MS. BUTLER: Karen Butler, PHMSA, [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED], regional project manager.

24 MR. JENNER: Okay, thank you.

25 QUESTIONS BY MR. JENNER:

26 Q MR. JENNER: I'll just get a little bit

27 about your background. When did you start with

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1 Enbridge?

2 A I started with Enbridge in 1979.

3 Q If I can just have you give a little history of  
4 your various jobs there.

5 A Sure. So I started out in a field role at Edmonton  
6 terminal and worked shift work as an operator for  
7 approximately 20 years. Then I had a role still at  
8 Edmonton terminal as a coordinator for about five  
9 years. Then the last 6 years, I've been with the  
10 control centre in various roles from coordinator up  
11 to supervisor.

12 Q How long have you been in this current position as  
13 a supervisor?

14 A About a year -- maybe a year and a half, sorry.

15 Q How are things -- do you enjoy your current  
16 position?

17 A I do.

18 Q Are things going smoothly for you?

19 A It's a great job, yeah. I enjoy it, yeah.

20 Q Thank you for the background.

21 We're obviously focusing on the incident on

22 Monday. I understand that you were contacted in

23 regards to issues that were happening on line 6B.

24 And if you could just walk us through the moment

25 that you heard, that you were contacted and that

26 you -- I think you were called, but I'll have you

27 tell the story.

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1 A Sure. So I believe early Monday morning I got a  
2 call from Darin Parsons, the shift lead on. It  
3 would have been around 3:30 MST, and he basically  
4 explained to me that he was -- they were having  
5 problems starting up line 6B.

6 Some of the problems that they were  
7 experiencing he felt were due to a column  
8 separation. He explained that there was other  
9 issues going on. Basically we had a station  
10 bypassed upstream of Marshall in anticipation of  
11 integrity tool and that there may have been some  
12 poor timing on some of the units start -- starting  
13 up.

14 He explained that they had put in  
15 approximately 1,600 cubes of oil and only taken out  
16 about 300 cubes. So at that point, we brought in  
17 the MBS analyst, who's Jim Knudson, and he



18 explained to us that the MBS alarms that we were  
19 receiving were false.

20 So we discussed prior startups, and typically  
21 what was mentioned to me was it took approximately  
22 3- to 700 cubes to pack the line. So I think again  
23 I asked why -- why we thought -- why they thought  
24 this was happening, why this was different.

25 We went back to the shutdown, and they felt  
26 there was excessive drain on the shutdown and back  
27 to the bypassing of Niles station and the poor

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1 timing on the start up of units on the first  
2 attempt. They also mentioned that they thought  
3 that they had just about had the column together  
4 and just required another -- another push.

5 We talked about the ten-minute rule and Darin  
6 explained to me why -- Darin explained to me first  
7 how long it took to get pressure at the upstream  
8 station and then why they went past the ten  
9 minutes. They had calculated about a 700-cube  
10 drain to get pressure to Marshall.

11 So, in fact, they had calculated a time where  
12 they felt that they should have pressure at  
13 Marshall station, and I think that time was about  
14 1:58 or 1:57 MST. So they got to that time; they  
15 never had pressure; they commenced the shutdown.

16 Q Okay.

17 A So, yeah, we did discuss the ten-minute rule. I

18 asked if we needed to contact regional management.

19 They felt that because the MBS alarms were invalid

20 that we did not need to talk to regional, and that

21 was when we decided to start -- that's when I

22 decided to give the okay to start up again with the

23 information that was presented to me. That was the

24 end of the conversation.

25 Q Okay, thank you. Let me go back and follow up on

26 some of that. You had mentioned discussion about

27 alarms which were deemed invalid.

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1 A Mm-hm.

2 Q Can you elaborate on the alarms that you were told  
3 about and why they were invalid?

4 A It was -- basically Jim had mentioned there was MBS  
5 alarms occurring on the startup and during the  
6 startup but indicated that these alarms were false.

7 Q And who came to that conclusion that those alarms  
8 were false?

9 A He did, the MBS analyst, Jim.

10 Q And that was -- what was that based on? His -- how  
11 did he determine that to the best of your  
12 knowledge?

13 A I think you'd have to talk to him about that. I'm  
14 not sure. I just -- he told me they were false,  
15 and I just took it as that.

16 Q Does false -- does that mean that --

17 A Not valid.

18 Q Okay. Do you have any -- you were at home at this

19 point?

20 A Pardon me?

21 Q Were you at home when you received these calls?

22 A I was at home, yeah.

23 Q Do you have any equipment or capabilities to

24 access -- call in and access data if you wanted to

25 look at some numbers?

26 A No, I don't.

27 Q Okay. So you rely on them to update you with all

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1 the information?

2 A Yes.

3 Q What did you do after the phone call?

4 A Laid in bed and thought about what was going on.

5 Q You couldn't immediately fall back to sleep, huh?

6 A No. Yeah, thought about it for a bit. Tried to go

7 back to sleep. Maybe dozed off for a bit and then

8 got back up. And by then, it was pretty much time

9 to get ready to come into work.

10 Q Okay. How often might you receive a call while

11 you're at home? I understand that's part of the --

12 A On-call rotation.

13 Q -- on-call rotation. How often does that occur?

14 A It's -- it's funny because some -- we go on call

15 for about a week from a Thursday to a -- Thursday

16 noon to Thursday noon, and sometimes you might not

17 get called at all during that week. Sometimes you

18 can get called every night.

19 Q Oh, is that right?

20 A Right.

21 Q Okay.

22 A So it's -- I'd say on average, maybe one or two

23 times a week.

24 Q What are the nature of the calls?

25 A They're more just to inform us what's going on,

26 anything -- any emergencies, anything safety

27 related, anything customer related that they feel

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1 we may need to inform people about us.

2 Q Okay. Were you -- I'm sure you had a lot of  
3 questions for them when they called. Were you  
4 satisfied with the information that they were able  
5 to provide at that time?

6 A I was satisfied with their thought process, with  
7 Darin's thought process.

8 Q Was everyone in agreement about how to proceed  
9 after your phone call discussion?

10 A We had agreed -- yeah, we had agreed that we --  
11 what they had thought was that they were very close  
12 to joining that column so that we just needed  
13 another push basically to get there. So we agreed  
14 that it was -- yeah, that we -- we would start up  
15 and try it again.

16 Q How can they determine if they're close to bringing  
17 the column together?



18 A I'm not sure. They just told me they were close,

19 and I just took their word for that.

20 Q So and your understanding was they're looking at

21 some information from SCADA, from other data that

22 satisfies them that progress was being made in

23 pushing the column together?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. So after you got the phone call and you're

26 thinking about it for a while, did you ever pick up

27 the phone and call in? Like, what did you do after

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1 that?

2 A I called back at -- boy, I'm thinking around 5:30

3 which probably would have been 4:30, sorry, MST the

4 one time.

5 Q 4:30 MST?

6 A Yes.

7 Q All right.

8 A Asking how things went, and they hadn't started up

9 yet.

10 Q Who did you talk to?

11 A Darin. So they -- he explained to me that they

12 were continuing to investigate the pressures and

13 were just getting ready to start up. And that was

14 it. And then I was getting ready for work, and I

15 was on my way into work.

16 Q Were you surprised that they hadn't started up yet?

17 A No, just that they were still investigating whether

18 or not -- what they needed to do and reviewing

19 the -- reviewing the pressures.

20 Q Was there any new information that they

21 communicated to you?

22 A No.

23 Q Okay. At any point in the first or second

24 conversation, was the possibility of a leak

25 discussed?

26 A Yes.

27 Q Okay. Can you share that conversation?

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1 A At different points in our conversations, we kept  
2 questioning the amount of oil that was going in and  
3 not enough coming out and basically determined, you  
4 know, this is either a lot of packing or a leak.

5 Q Okay. And --

6 A With the information that I was given, it -- and we  
7 all agreed that it was -- we needed to pack more.

8 Q Who raised the possibility of packing? Who --  
9 how --

10 A Both Darin and Jim.

11 Q And did they justify why they thought it was to  
12 you?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And did they give specifics about why they went  
15 with the packing theory?

16 A Kept going back to the poor startup -- poor timing  
17 of units, sorry, and the fact that we were

18 bypassing Niles station and the excessive drain on

19 shutdown.

20 Q Maybe you can help me explain -- understand the

21 excessive drain on shutdown. "Excessive" meaning

22 in this sense more than -- more than typical that

23 you would expect in terms of draining?

24 A Not sure. That's just what they told me.

25 Q Okay. Have you in your tenure experienced

26 situations where the first startup -- let's say a

27 similar situation where you're trying to resolve a

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1 column, and first startup did not work, and the  
2 second one was attempted and was successful.

3 A I was not a pipeline operator.

4 Q Oh, I'm sorry.

5 A I was a tank farm operator.

6 Q Tank farm operator, okay.

7 In your current position now, has that ever  
8 been run by you?

9 A Not that I can remember.

10 Q Okay. So you made your way to work, and what did  
11 you see when you arrived? And what time did you  
12 arrive, and what did you see?

13 A Probably around 6:30 -- sorry, 5:30 MST.

14 Q Okay.

15 A I believe the day shift was on, Brad, and we  
16 were -- there was discussions taking place on not  
17 having enough power to overcome this column sep.

18 and join it back together.

19 Q Were you part of these conversations?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay. So what was -- what was discussed and what

22 came out of that?

23 A There was discussions on -- on trying to get

24 specific access to more power and units on --

25 upstream of Marshall.

26 Q How -- okay.

27 A But --

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1 Q I'm sorry.

2 A Sorry. In the meantime, we had discussed that we  
3 would get our engineering group involved, one of  
4 our engineers, Richard, to review the pressures.

5 Q So by the time you arrive, the second startup had  
6 been attempted and --

7 A Right.

8 Q -- (INDISCERNIBLE)?

9 So what was the purpose of getting Richard  
10 involved, the engineer?

11 A I think it was to verify how much pressure we  
12 should actually see, basically try to calculate how  
13 much pressure should be between the stations.

14 Q And what would that tell you? Why is it necessary  
15 to know how much pressure between the stations?

16 A It would indicate if -- if we would require more  
17 power.



18 Q So part of his involvement is if you had decided to  
19 give a third startup an opportunity, he is there to  
20 help you strategize about how to approach that?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay. So Richard is -- you contacted him, and he  
23 has some numbers to crunch?

24 A Right. He's on his way in to work basically.

25 Q Okay. Was he initially contacted at home?

26 A I think a call went to Richard at about 6:30 MST

27 just wondering when he was coming in or if he was

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1 on his way in. That's it.

2 Q Okay. Okay. And then -- so the decision to get

3 Richard involved was discussed. And what happened

4 after that?

5 A I believe Brad had the operator on review the

6 shutdown and the startups.

7 Q What was the purpose of this review?

8 A To see if anything was out of the ordinary.

9 Q Was the possibility of a leak discussed at this

10 point when you had arrived?

11 A I don't -- I don't recall.

12 Q Okay. Okay, so Brad is now talking to the

13 operator, and what are you doing at this time?

14 A I believe I was reading e-mails in my office at

15 that time.

16 Q Okay. And then what happens after that?

17 A What happens after that? I think Brad came down

18 and mentioned that there was -- there's abnormal  
19 low pressure at Marshall that was -- that was  
20 recognized and that he was going to advise regional  
21 management.

22 Q What was the significance of the abnormal low  
23 pressure at Marshall? What's the significance of  
24 that that was communicated to you?

25 A The operator on, Greg, had reviewed the shutdown  
26 and recognized that the pressures had gone to zero  
27 and stayed at Marshall. That's what was

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1     communicated to me and that that wasn't normal.

2   Q   Okay. And what was going to be discussed with

3     regional management? What was the purpose of

4     calling them?

5   A   I believe that if they were going to talk about

6     sending people out to start looking for any

7     indications.

8   Q   Okay, then what's happening after this?

9   A   I believe they were back in the control centre. I

10    would be back reading my e-mail. So at that point,

11    we'd be just -- I was waiting for an update from

12    regional and the shift leads.

13  Q   Okay. Who's the next person that you talked to?

14    Did regional call you? Did other leads talk to

15    you?

16  A   We talked. I believe Curt and I talked a bit about

17    it.

18 Q Okay.

19 MR. GOESON: This is about the time line

20 now where I'm coming in.

21 Q MR. JENNER: Okay, what was your

22 discussion?

23 A Kind of explained things to Curt. Mentioned that

24 we had advised region and that they were out

25 looking, that -- I believe that right at -- there

26 was someone at Marshall station that confirmed that

27 everything was okay there. And I think the

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1 discussion went that we were going to have Richard  
2 review our numbers before we -- we -- we did  
3 anything else. So basically we were waiting for  
4 Richard to come in.

5 Q Okay. And -- okay. And after this discussion with  
6 Curt, what are you -- what are you doing then?

7 A I can't remember. Probably discussing work, what  
8 upcoming work we had for the week.

9 Q Okay. At some point, a call came in, from what  
10 we've understood from talking to other people, that  
11 they had spotted some oil on the ground. Are you  
12 involved in the -- this kicks into emergency  
13 response actions. Are you involved in this part of  
14 the equation?

15 A We get notified, but the shift leads take control.  
16 They would have informed the regional manager, Tom  
17 Fridel, and he would have dispatched PLM.

18 Q Do you have an active role in this, or do you just

19 get updated from time to time?

20 A I would get updated.

21 Q Okay. From what you saw -- and we've heard that

22 there is emergency response training -- did things

23 go according to expectations in terms of how things

24 were organized and people doing their jobs as

25 expected?

26 A I knew that Tom Fridel was informed and called, and

27 to me, that's -- that's our role.

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1 Q Okay. Let me ask you, as your role as supervisor,  
2 what -- just describe your general  
3 responsibilities.

4 A In general, I'm a supervisor of a technical  
5 services group. So there's a group of four, five,  
6 six individuals that we support the control room,  
7 day-to-day issues from pipeline to terminal issues,  
8 from measurement to quality issues.

9 Q Is there -- who works -- who do you supervise?  
10 What are their titles?

11 A One is a pipeline coordinator, a terminal  
12 coordinator, and three analysts, quality  
13 measurement.

14 Q The analysts report to you?

15 A And the coordinators.

16 Q Right.

17 A Correct.



18 MR. GOESON: And the training.

19 A Also the training group. So I have a coordinator

20 in the -- in the training group that reports to me.

21 Q MR. JENNER: Did you stay on your shift for

22 the duration of your normal time?

23 A Which day?

24 Q On Monday.

25 A Monday, we probably worked a couple extra hours

26 that day, yeah.

27 Q Does someone come in to relieve you?

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1 A No.

2 MR. GOESON: These are administrative  
3 roles, 9-to-5 type work, not shift work.

4 Q MR. JENNER: Okay. Well, thank you for  
5 this information so far. I'm going to finish for  
6 now my questions --

7 A Sure.

8 Q -- and I know others have some follow-ups. Do you  
9 need a break?

10 A No. No, I'm fine.

11 Q Okay, great.

12 MR. JENNER: Karen, do you have some  
13 questions?

14 MS. BUTLER: Yeah, I do.

15 QUESTIONS BY MS. BUTLER:

16 Q MS. BUTLER: Thank you for coming in,  
17 Blaine, and for helping us get some of these

18 answers here.

19 When they first called you and started talking  
20 about the issue and explained all these issues that  
21 were coming into play, and they brought in the MBS  
22 analyst, was that decision to bring in the analyst  
23 prior to the call with you or after?

24 A Karen, basically it was Darin Parsons giving me a  
25 brief update on what was going on, and then  
26 probably a couple minutes into the phone call, he  
27 said, "Hang on. I'm going to get Jim on the line

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1 to help explain what's happening."

2 Q Okay.

3 A Jim being the MBS analyst.

4 Q Gotcha. Okay, so into the final call, they bring

5 in Jim.

6 All right, and did Jim actually use the term

7 "MBS alarms were false," or is that just

8 something -- control room terminology? Do you

9 remember?

10 A I'm pretty sure he did, and we asked the question

11 towards the end of the conversation if he was sure

12 that the alarms were invalid.

13 Q Did he explain to you why he was sure?

14 A No.

15 Q Did anybody ask why?

16 A No.

17 Q Did he mention anything in the model not being

18 brought up to the capability to bypass for pigging,

19 like, Niles station?

20 A I believe he did mention something about

21 transmitters being isolated. I believe he did.

22 Q Did anybody at this time that you recall mention

23 any communication outages to you?

24 A Not that I can remember, Karen.

25 Q Okay. Did they discuss with you that they had done

26 some historical review pressures? Did they give

27 you that indication or say it in that way at all?

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1 A No.

2 Q Okay. I know that you said something about you

3 didn't previously work on this particular line, but

4 you were a terminal operator. Since you've been on

5 shift for a year and a half, have you had calls

6 regarding column separation before?

7 MR. GOESON: So, Karen, just -- it's Curt

8 here. Blaine is not on shift.

9 MS. BUTLER: Right. I just meant on call.

10 Forgive me. I said it poorly.

11 MR. GOESON: Oh, okay.

12 MS. BUTLER: Thank you for the

13 clarification.

14 Q MS. BUTLER: When you're on call and

15 receiving that -- those callouts, have you received

16 callouts before regarding column separation?

17 A I don't believe so.

18 Q When you took your new position -- and because your  
19 background is obviously in terminals, and you have  
20 a very good familiarity, I'm sure, with liquid  
21 movement -- did they give you any specific training  
22 regarding what an operator on a specific bench  
23 might be up against or any specifics regarding what  
24 this line usually has concerns with?

25 A No.

26 Q In your other calls that you've received in past  
27 experience, have there been issues upon multiple

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1 restarts?

2 A Could you explain?

3 Q For example, have you received a call before where

4 it was a ten-minute rule being exceeded, and they

5 just needed another push?

6 A No, I said previously that I didn't recall being

7 called in regards to column separations.

8 Q Okay. So in your mind, that's what led to the

9 needed another push; right?

10 A That was what they were -- that was what was

11 presented to me.

12 Q Okay. I think you'd thrown out some numbers

13 before, and I apologize. I just couldn't capture

14 one as you said it, and that was -- you can't

15 explain that we put 1,600 cubes of oil in, and

16 we've taken out 300 cubes of oil, and you

17 referenced a number that it took to pack. Can you



18 tell me what that number was again?

19 A I believe it was 700 cubes.

20 Q Okay, thank you.

21 All right, you know, in thinking back since I  
22 triggered your memory a bit with mentioning that  
23 the transmitters may have been isolated at Niles  
24 for running the pig, did Jim reference in his  
25 conversation any other location that might be in  
26 the similar circumstance?

27 A Not that I recall.

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1 Q Okay, thank you. On the ten-minute rule when they  
2 described to you that they had done some  
3 calculations and had extended that initial time  
4 frame, did that surprise you, or have you heard of  
5 that happening before?

6 A Well, I hadn't heard of it happening before because  
7 I hadn't been called on it before, but the thought  
8 process that they explained to me made sense.

9 Q Okay. In the process of taking callouts like you  
10 do, do you ever ask questions regarding what alarms  
11 maybe besides the leak detection have come into  
12 play? Is that a standard question or something  
13 they normally provide you with background  
14 information on?

15 A That would be something that they provide us.

16 Q Now, did anyone in the calls make mention of the  
17 fact that there were low pressure alarms?

18 A Not that I recall, Karen.

19 Q And just so you know, we don't know that there were

20 for a fact. I'm just saying if they had mentioned

21 that, that might have triggered something else. So

22 another set of questions for me.

23 A Okay.

24 Q Were you aware of any pressure restrictions or any

25 special conditions on this particular line?

26 A No. The only -- the only thing they made me aware

27 of was that there was integrity tools in the line

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1 and that Niles was bypassed.

2 Q And they talked about the excessive drain up -- or  
3 drain down. Forgive me. I believe it was at  
4 Sarnia. Did they say anything about that they  
5 thought that starting this pump early had made that  
6 worse? Or you mentioned some unit timings that we  
7 didn't really ask you details on. What they were  
8 thinking there.

9 A Yeah, they did. Darin thought that possibly Tim  
10 had started a unit too soon upstream of Marshall  
11 which may have resulted in not putting that column  
12 together sooner.

13 Q Was Jim on the phone at the time that you mentioned  
14 that? Or if you don't recall, that's fine.

15 A Yes, he was.

16 Q Okay. Did he say anything different?

17 A No.

18 Q And so I take it because they're so busy explaining  
19 things that they're considering, that they really  
20 didn't emphasize to you that a leak could have  
21 caused something similar either? Or you mentioned  
22 that a leak was done in passing, and I'm just  
23 trying to figure out when they really started to  
24 pass that conversation on to you.

25 A I think it was just a general comment that when --  
26 when Darin explained to me that 1,600 cubes had  
27 gone in and only 2- to 300 have come out, it's one

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1 of two things. It's -- you know, it's packing or  
2 it's a leak.

3 Q Okay. All right. In order to prevent column  
4 separation, are you aware of some things that they  
5 can do on the pipeline to help prevent that?

6 A I am not.

7 Q Okay. Have they ever discussed getting you some  
8 equipment to look at regarding information from the  
9 control room, or is that -- I know you said that  
10 you didn't have it, but has that ever been  
11 discussed with you?

12 A No. We rely on our people that are on the job for  
13 that.

14 Q Okay. In regards to that then, when they prepared  
15 you for your position, did they give you, like, a  
16 standard set of questions that should always be  
17 asked or some guidance along those lines?

18 A No, but I believe they -- they give the shift leads  
19 direction on what information is required when  
20 they're updating us.

21 Q Okay. When you initially left the call that there  
22 would be -- well, let me back up. Prior to you  
23 calling back in to see how the status was going in  
24 following up, did they say anything to you, like,  
25 regarding -- when the engineer was going to get  
26 involved, was that your idea, or was that something  
27 they had already thought of and were pursuing, or

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1 how did that kind of surface?

2 A That came up when we were -- when I was on site at  
3 work.

4 Q Okay. Okay. And that was after you had called in.

5 Does that make sense? You called in from home to

6 see if they had started up yet, and then it was

7 later after you had made it to the office that they

8 decided to call or that you discussed calling

9 Richard in?

10 A Well, I think the decision to have the engineer

11 review was after the second startup.

12 Q Okay. And just for my education, does Richard look

13 at a hydraulic model, do you know, when he looks at

14 profiles or pressure?

15 A I'm not sure.

16 Q Is there any reason why calling Richard in is

17 different than calling the leak detection analyst



18 in your mind?

19 A Richard would look at it from an operational point  
20 of view.

21 Q Okay, gotcha. Okay. We talked about pressure  
22 alarms, but did anyone ever mention anything saying  
23 that there were some abnormal low pressures on  
24 pipeline 6B?

25 A No. Comments were made that it seemed like there  
26 was an excessive drain after the shutdown.

27 Q Okay. But not specifically referencing pressure;

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1 is that correct?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q Okay. Did you have other callouts that night?

4 A No.

5 Q When you said there were three analysts that report

6 to you, was that leak detection analysts, or is

7 that measurement analysts, or what's their

8 function?

9 A Measurement and quality.

10 Q Okay. So the engineering department and the leak

11 detection services that support your efforts, those

12 would be external to your oversight; right?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q And would that be true also for the batch tracking

15 system or the maintenance system like FacMan?

16 A Yeah, they don't report to me.

17 Q Okay. And so batch tracking versus measurement, do

18 they exchange information periodically, or how does

19 that work?

20 A No, measurement is more in-the-field measurement.

21 Q Okay, thank you. Were there any other

22 conversations with field personnel that you had? I

23 know you mentioned you talked to the one gentleman

24 from Chicago -- or from the Chicago area, sorry.

25 A I did not have any conversations with anyone in the

26 field. The shift leads would have.

27 Q Were you aware of anybody that was already in the

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1 field or on the way to the field prior to you guys

2 having the discussion about calling the region?

3 A I'm not sure when we found out that there was

4 somebody at Marshall that had checked the Marshall

5 station, whether that was before Tom Fridel was

6 called or not. I think it was before.

7 Q All right.

8 A But that was the only other field personnel that I

9 was aware of.

10 Q Do they give you any general training regarding

11 what might be considered abnormal operating

12 conditions on the pipeline?

13 A No.

14 Q Think that's all I had. Thank you so much.

15 A Okay.

16 MR. JENNER: Rick?

17 MR. GULSTAD: Oh, a couple.

18 QUESTIONS BY MR. GULSTAD:

19 Q MR. GULSTAD: When you're at home, do you  
20 have pipeline system drawings at home that you can  
21 sort of differentiate, for example, on 6B between  
22 where La Porte is or Marshall is, or are you just  
23 so familiar that you know these systems?

24 A I actually rely on the shift leads to explain it.

25 Q Okay. I know -- one thing that Darin passed on in  
26 hindsight was that he wished he would have realized  
27 the significance of seeing a zero pressure at

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1 Marshall. Would that have changed your thought  
2 process if you sort of -- if that had raised a flag  
3 in your mind that the pressure shouldn't have been  
4 at zero at Marshall during shutdown?

5 A I wouldn't have had the experience to know whether  
6 it should be at zero or not. I would, again, rely  
7 on the shift leads to say that it would be abnormal  
8 for it to be at zero. Myself, I wouldn't have that  
9 experience to know that it shouldn't be at zero.

10 Q So if -- if they had relayed to you that it  
11 shouldn't have been zero, would that have maybe  
12 changed your recommendation to, say, go proceed to  
13 start up again?

14 A I would be speculating on what I would have  
15 thought. I'm not sure.

16 Q Okay. Then the last thing that you -- you  
17 indicated then -- this is the first time we heard

18 this, but Darin indicated that Tim may have started  
19 up the unit at Marshall a little too soon but  
20 what --

21 A I think at Minden.

22 MR. GOESON: Minden.

23 Q MR. GULSTAD: Oh, at Minden?

24 A Yeah, upstream.

25 Q What is the consequence of starting that unit a  
26 little too soon?

27 A What was explained to me is that he may have

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1 pulled -- pulled pressure away too early. They  
2 felt that if they had packed more prior to starting  
3 that unit, it may have brought the column over the  
4 hill and joined it.

5 Q Okay. So it would have put the column together --

6 A Quicker.

7 Q -- quicker?

8 A Right.

9 Q Okay.

10 MR. GULSTAD: All right, that's all I've  
11 got.

12 MR. JENNER: Curt, do you have any  
13 follow-up questions or points of clarification?

14 MR. GOESON: No.

15 MR. JENNER: Great. We'll do a second very  
16 quick round.

17 A Okay.



18 FURTHER QUESTIONS BY MR. JENNER:

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

20 operational questions. I have standard questions

21 about -- unrelated to this. One area is just what

22 your schedule is, your work schedule. Can you tell

23 me what days you had worked prior to coming in on

24 Monday?

25 A Prior to coming in on Monday, I would have worked

26 the previous Friday.

27 Q Do you have Saturdays and Sundays as your normal

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1 days off?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q I have some questions about your health and

4 fitness. Are you overall healthy?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Do you have any preexisting conditions, medical

7 conditions?

8 A No.

9 Q Are you taking any prescription or nonprescription

10 medications?

11 A No.

12 Q Have you ever been diagnosed with sleep problems or

13 sleep disorder?

14 A No.

15 Q I know you were -- were you awakened when you got

16 the initial call at home?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And you were not able to get back to sleep until

19 you -- well, were you able to get back to sleep?

20 A I believe I dozed off a bit, but it was pretty

21 close to -- you know, within -- time to get up soon

22 anyway, so...

23 Q How did you feel when you made it in to work and

24 started your day?

25 A Good, normal.

26 Q Okay. Okay, thank you for that.

27 MR. JENNER: Karen?

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1 MS. BUTLER: Just one.

2 FURTHER QUESTIONS BY MS. BUTLER:

3 Q MS. BUTLER: Did they offer you any

4 explanation from the controller's perspective on

5 why he started the pump when he did?

6 A Only that there was enough pressure there to start

7 the pump.

8 Q Okay.

9 MS. BUTLER: Okay, thank you.

10 MR. JENNER: Rick, do you have any?

11 MR. GULSTAD: No.

12 MR. JENNER: Curt, anything else?

13 MR. GOESON: No.

14 CLOSING BY MR. JENNER:

15 MR. JENNER: Terrific. I'd like to thank

16 you for coming in and talking to us. We do

17 appreciate the information.

18 I know people will go back and have done some  
19 reflection on this and will continue to do so. If  
20 you can think of anything at this time in terms of  
21 any changes or revisions, any equipment or anything  
22 that could make -- help prevent this situation from  
23 happening again, we'd love to hear from you. Do  
24 you have any thoughts about that?

25 A I would prefer to go through our internal review  
26 first and get everything laid out before I make any  
27 kind of recommendation.

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1 MR. JENNER: I appreciate that. If you do,  
2 if something comes to mind, I encourage you to talk  
3 to officials, and we'd be happy to hear from you as  
4 well. We're trying to make this system as safe as  
5 possible as well. So we'll look forward to hearing  
6 any suggestions you have.

7 A Absolutely.

8 MR. JENNER: Do you have any questions for  
9 us?

10 A I do not, no.

11 MR. JENNER: Again, thank you very much,  
12 and this interview is concluded.

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14 PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 10:27 A.M.

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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 11th day of August, 2010.

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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: BLAINE REINBOET

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NO CHANGES

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*Blaire Renaud*  
SEPT. 01/10

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