

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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MARATHON PIPE LINE OIL *

RELEASE IN EDWARDSVILLE, * Accident No.: PLD22FR002

ILLINOIS ON MARCH 11, 2022 *

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Interview of: TREY HOWARD, On Duty Pipeline Controller
Marathon Operation Center

Findlay, Ohio

Tuesday,
April 5, 2022

APPEARANCES:

KIM WEST, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

TONYA WITTENMYER, Counsel
Marathon Pipe Line Oil

WESLEY MATHEWS, Accident Investigator
Department of Transportation PHMSA

JOSHUA STUFFT, Operations and Logistics Manager
Marathon Pipe Line Oil

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I N T E R V I E W

(1:44 p.m. EDT)

1 MS. WEST: Can I put that a little closer to him?

2 MR. HOWARD: Sure.

3 MS. WEST: Just because I don't want to risk not getting it,
4 I'm also going to do my phone.

5 MR. HOWARD: Okay.

6 MS. WEST: There we go. I can grab that, too. Thank you.
7 So good afternoon. This is April 5th. It's now 1:44 Eastern
8 Daylight Time. My name is Kim West and I'm the pipeline
9 investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board. We're
10 in the office of Marathon, located at 539 South Main Street,
11 Findlay, Ohio, 45840.

12 This interview is being conducted as part of an investigation
13 into the crude oil release on March 11th, 2022 -- 2022 that
14 occurred in Edwardsville, Illinois. The NTSB number for this case
15 is PLD22FR002, and the purpose of the investigation is to increase
16 safety, not to assign fault, blame, or liability.

17 The interview is being recorded and may be transcribed at a
18 later date. A copy of the transcripts will be provided to you for
19 review prior to entered into the public docket. This is your
20 opportunity to correct anything that has been transcribed
21 incorrectly, but not change your answers or add content. So do
22 you agree to have the interview recorded?

23 MR. HOWARD: Yes.

1 MS. WEST: Okay, thank you. So Mr. Howard, please provide
2 the spelling of your name, the company you work for, and your job
3 title?

4 MR. HOWARD: Okay. Trey Howard, T-R-E-Y, first name, last
5 name H-O-W-A-R-D. Pipeline controller for Marathon Pipeline.

6 MS. WEST: Okay. So you're permitted to have one other
7 person present during the interview. This person is of your
8 choice. It can be a supervisor, a friend, although I don't know
9 who would -- a union representative, a family member, attorney, or
10 nobody at all. Do you choose to have a representative?

11 MR. HOWARD: Yes, Tonya.

12 MS. WEST: Please state for the record who you have selected,
13 which you just did.

14 MR. HOWARD: Tonya.

15 MS. WEST: Okay. Can your designated representative please
16 state for the record the spelling of your name, job title, and
17 your affiliation?

18 MS. WITTENMYER: Sure, Tonya Wittenmyer. T-O-N-Y-A W-I-T-T-
19 E-N-M-Y-E-R. And I work for Marathon, and I'm the lawyer.

20 MS. WEST: Now we'll go around the room and have each person
21 introduce themselves for the record. Please state your name with
22 spelling, job title, and your employer's name. And I'll start
23 clockwise.

24 MR. STUFFT: Joshua Stufft. That's J-O-S-H-U-A S-T-U-F-F-T.
25 The operations and logistics manager for Marathon Pipeline.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Wesley Mathews. W-E-S-L-E-Y M-A-T-H-E-W-S.
2 I'm an accident investigator with DOT PHMSA, P-H-M-S-A.

3 MS. WEST: And my name's Kim West, that's K-I-M W-E-S-T. I'm
4 a pipeline investigator with the National Transportation Safety
5 Board. All right.

6 So, with that, we'll go ahead and get started with the
7 questions.

8 INTERVIEW OF TREY HOWARD

9 BY MS. WEST:

10 Q. Could you start off and talk to us about your background?
11 Could you tell us your job title, education, who you work for,
12 years with the company, previous positions, roughly how many years
13 with that position? I know it's a lot right there, but just to
14 give us some background.

15 A. Okay, got you. Yep, I graduated from Lake Erie College with
16 just a Business Administration degree, and then a few years later
17 I started working here at Marathon in my current position. I
18 started that position in 2019 as pipeline controller, so I've been
19 in this position for little over three years.

20 Q. Okay. So if you can describe your current job, tell us
21 exactly what you do and what details you can provide.

22 A. Got you. So yeah, as a pipeline controller, variety of
23 things. One of the roles is basically just following the
24 schedule, directing the flow of oil and fuel from a receipt point
25 to a delivery point, so basically from point A to point B;

1 monitoring that it's getting there safely, whether that would be
2 making sure the pressures are where they're supposed to be, making
3 sure that the line is not leaking; communicating with the field as
4 they are, you know, doing operations on their end of things or
5 doing field work to help repair the line or do maintenance on the
6 line; and basically just be kind of like a guardian of safety that
7 that line is operating as it's supposed to and on schedule.

8 Q. I like that, a guardian. Could we talk a little bit about
9 your qualifications and certifications and -- for your current
10 position?

11 A. Yes. So basically, you know, up until I worked here, I
12 didn't have any background in pipeline, but we go through quite a
13 process to be able to be qualified to operate these lines. So
14 when I got hired in, we spent about the first six weeks in, like,
15 a classroom setting pretty much just learning the A, B, C's of,
16 you know, pipeline operations. So the terminology, understanding,
17 you know, what a valve is, what a pump is, different types of
18 products. So kind of just the general basics that you need before
19 you can even really learn what's going on. So we spent six weeks
20 in that.

21 You know, we took a test about every week over the chapter
22 that we happen to be studying that week. And then after those six
23 weeks you get moved out to console, which is basically where you
24 operate from. So if you guys were up there earlier, basically
25 where the controller was sitting. You hang out there and that

1 was, I believe, about a five month process. From me I went up
2 when I was learning my first console, I think I got out there
3 March 2019 and then I was finally on my own towards the end of
4 July 2019. But basically, you start off mainly just observing.
5 So kind of similar to shadowing. Obviously, you're asking
6 questions.

7 The controller that you're sitting with is already qualified,
8 so they're providing you with instruction on why they're doing
9 things. And then over the course of time, you gradually do a
10 little bit more, little bit more, little bit more. Towards the
11 end of the five or six months, four or five, however long, it just
12 depends on the individual. Towards the end you're basically doing
13 most of the operations with supervision. And if you have
14 questions along the way while you're doing that, there's different
15 chapters or topics in, like, a training -- we called it a
16 playbook, and the analyst that you're sitting with and the
17 training specialist, too, will teach you different topics that you
18 can learn along the way. And then it gets kind of progressively
19 more complex as you go through.

20 So that is -- so it's basically a combination of, you know,
21 on-the-job training and then also, you're still doing continual
22 learning to solidify the foundation. So after about the, you
23 know, you go through that process for four or five months.
24 Towards the end, you're pretty much doing most of the work while
25 still being supervised. And then you go through a panel, which is

1 kind of a similar setting like this; you have a couple of shift
2 specialists and shift supervisors that ask you a variety of
3 questions around your console, pipeline operations in general, and
4 it usually, you know, is an hour or two. I think mine was about
5 two hours. And it, you know, they basically just verify, you
6 know, that you know what you're talking about. They'll ask you
7 situational questions, you take a written test as well, and then
8 once you pass that, then you are qualified to operate that
9 console.

10 Q. And how many are you qualified right now? Consoles.

11 A. Three.

12 Q. Three.

13 A. Yep.

14 Q. Those are?

15 A. Console two, console seven, and console eight. And, console
16 eight, which is the line where the Woodpat is, that was my second
17 console that I learned.

18 Q. Okay. That was the second one?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So we're going to talk a little bit about the event. So
21 thank you, really, for giving us that background.

22 So starting on the day of the accident, if you can just walk
23 us through your day with as much detail as possible, starting when
24 you first notified, or how your day went that morning.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. Was it a normal day? Was it ?

2 A. Right. Yep, I usually wake up, if on day shift, I usually
3 wake up about 4:30 a.m. Everything up until I got to work was
4 normal. Got in here about 5:15, began shift change with Peyton
5 (ph.), who is a previous analyst, and in the shift change,
6 essentially, we're just going over what events happened with him
7 last night that are of note; what events in the schedule that I
8 have for today, what I can expect to do; any maybe ongoing field
9 work or alarms that I may have to deal with during the day or just
10 have an awareness of. We discuss that during shift change and
11 then, you know, basically, if I have any questions over, you know,
12 what he discussed, I'll -- we'll talk it out so we have clear
13 communication. Then he'll leave and I'll take over.

14 Once I take over, I will check in, and on that specific day,
15 everything was pretty much normal. There wasn't anything abnormal
16 at the time of check in that would have been of concern, so I
17 checked in. As part of the check in, similar to shift change, you
18 kind of go over -- you have a, it's called Magron (ph.), but it's
19 like an electronic sheet, basically, on the computer that we have
20 to check off certain boxes. We're looking at CPM, which is our
21 lead detection system; making sure that looks okay as we check in.
22 We're looking at the schedule to make sure we're actually pumping
23 the right product on the line at the right time; we're not too
24 far, you know, ahead or behind or anything like that.

25 I'm trying to think. There's a variety of things, but

1 it's --

2 Q. In that shift change --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What did you discuss?

5 A. In that shift change, what --

6 Q. If you recall. I know it's been a while.

7 A. There wasn't anything, like, I guess I can't think of
8 anything out of the ordinary. It was just normal shift change of
9 you know, what operations I was going to have during the day.

10 Q. Were you in the middle of a shipment?

11 A. Well, yeah the lines are running but there wasn't any actual,
12 like, active operation that we had to do in the middle of shift
13 change. So everything was pretty much in a steady state and there
14 wasn't -- we weren't, like, trying to multitask anything in the
15 operation while we were talking it out. It was -- we -- there was
16 a gap in operations that allowed us to have that conversation.

17 Q. Were there other lines that were running too, as well?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Concurrently?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Which was those?

22 A. So we have the Ozark line, which is (indiscernible) Roxanna,
23 the Woodpat line, which is, Wood River to Patoka, which is the --
24 where we had the release. There is the Nashville system, but that
25 line, I can't remember, I believe that line was not running at the

1 time. Let me see. I believe those were the only two lines
2 running at the time, but I can't say for sure.

3 Q. It's been a while.

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. So anyway.

6 A. So --

7 Q. Keep going.

8 A. Yep. So as I did check in, you know, everything was normal.
9 There wasn't anything really out of the question. I verified all
10 the stuff we talked about. I maybe had one or two operations
11 within the first three hours of the shift, none involving the
12 actual Woodpat line that I can recall. I had, I believe, one
13 field call in. On the Woodpat, there was a company that was doing
14 some welding, so I basically -- it didn't have -- it was not going
15 to have any effect on the line, basically.

16 They contacted me, let me know at what mile marker they were
17 going to be doing their work and essentially, my responsibility
18 was to just let them know if the line shut down. Other than that,
19 there was nothing else really. So I took his name and number down
20 and that was covered. And then probably, I don't know the exact
21 time, but about three or four hours into the shift is when the
22 leak happened.

23 Q. And this is your first day on duty?

24 A. Correct.

25 (Crosstalk)

1 A. This is my first day on duty. I had a -- I would've -- my
2 last day working before that would have been Tuesday. So I had
3 two days off and I had just pretty much standard days off. I
4 think the day -- the evening before I worked, I might have went to
5 the grocery store to get some food together for the three day
6 weekend I was going to be working, so it was a standard day off,
7 yup.

8 Q. So as you said, you were -- up until the time of that
9 failure, what was going on?

10 A. Up until, or?

11 Q. As you -- just continue on, I guess. Hopefully you're --

12 A. Okay, so now I'm pretty much up to the event. There was,
13 like I mentioned, I may have had one or two other operations that
14 weren't on the Woodpat that were finished by the time the rupture
15 occurred. So that would -- that's pretty much covers up until
16 then.

17 Q. Okay. Now, do the calls come directly to you?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Like, you mean when the field calls in or?

21 Q. Yes, or --

22 A. Like our --

23 Q. Your normal number that you call in that's on your marker,
24 does that come directly to the controller or how does it get
25 routed -- how'd it get routed to you? You said the two events

1 that happened; how did those call get brought in to you?

2 A. When you say events, do you mean, like, the operations that I
3 was performing?

4 Q. You said there was two things that happened on the shift
5 prior to the accident, one was the company that was doing some
6 welding near the line but not on the line.

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. How did you know and how does it come through to you?

9 A. So they -- yeah, they called in directly. They called in
10 directly and it was on the line.

11 Q. Okay, it's based on the -- oh, it was on the line?

12 A. Yes. Yup, but they call in directly to our phone.

13 Q. Oh, okay. Then it's posted --

14 A. So they have our phone number.

15 Q. On the markers?

16 A. I don't know.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I don't know.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I think what you are -- I don't want to speak for you, but I
21 think you may be referring to, like, a line crossing when, like,
22 the public calls in.

23 Q. When you have your line workers out there, they have your
24 phone number, the company name, and there's a number associated
25 with that. If somebody has -- they see something out there, they

1 call that number, does that number come directly to you or does it
2 get routed through someone else?

3 A. Oh, I see. I see what you mean now.

4 Q. Does that make sense now? Okay.

5 A. Yeah, so in that case, it rings in -- it would -- that would
6 ring in to all of us, all of our consoles, yeah. But if somebody
7 is doing, like, specific work, they usually have our direct line.
8 So it wouldn't ring in to everybody, it would come straight to us.

9 Q. Okay. So whoever they coordinated with before would have
10 known to give them your number directly?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Yup.

14 Q. Is that right? That makes more sense.

15 A. And it -- but they communicate with us pretty frequently, so
16 they, you know, they have our -- yeah, they've had our direct line
17 for a while.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Yep.

20 Q. So let's talk about the actual emergency. So when did you
21 first notice there was a problem and kind of walk us through it.

22 A. Okay. Yep, so when it happened, when the rupture happened, I
23 had a unit there at Wood River. It shut off unexpectedly and a
24 multitude of alarms come in.

25 Q. You mean a pump? You mean --

1 A. Yeah, I'm sorry. Yeah, a pump. Yep, it was pushing it out.
2 It was the only one running there at Wood River. And the line was
3 in a steady state, so there hadn't been -- when I say steady
4 state, we hadn't made any changes at Wood River, which is, you
5 know, where we were sending it out or Patoka, where we were
6 delivering it to. So we were in a steady state. The unit shut
7 down, got a multitude of alarms and --

8 Q. Meaning it automatically shut down?

9 A. Yes. It -- uncommanded, so I didn't press anything to shut
10 it down, it shut down on its own. And I received a multitude of
11 alarms, and my first initial thought was we had an issue with the
12 booster. I saw the pressure on the booster dip pretty good and it
13 returned. So I was looking at that and I thought maybe that it
14 had flaked out or just a quick issue that caused us to have a loss
15 of suction. So when -- I saw that happen with the booster, and so
16 I issued a start to another unit there at Wood River. And as I
17 issued a start to that unit, which is a pump, I realized that it
18 wasn't the booster and something didn't look right. The pressures
19 were not maintaining as they should.

20 So at that point, I issued a stop to the unit that I had just
21 tried to start up.

22 Q. Unit two?

23 A. Unit two.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Yep. I issued a stop to that because I realized it wasn't

1 the booster and that something -- at this point, I didn't know
2 that it was a leak, but I knew that something wasn't right.

3 So we shut that down, or I shut that down, meaning I stopped
4 it, and then I began the shut-down process, which was,
5 essentially, just closing a couple valves because we didn't have
6 any other pumps running so there -- it wasn't -- we weren't
7 flowing. I did have to shut off the booster, I guess that is a
8 pump that would have to be shut off. So I shut off the booster
9 and I closed it in at -- when I say closed in, I closed the head
10 gate at Patoka, which is the delivery side, and I closed in at
11 Wood River receipt side --

12 Q. Meaning valve?

13 A. Mean -- yeah, closed in the valve.

14 Q. Closing the valve? Okay.

15 A. So, like, tank valve --

16 Q. Right.

17 A. And there's two or three other valves there at Wood River.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Head gate and a few other valves that I closed in to
20 basically stop any flow on the pipeline. At that point, I went
21 over to my specialist and I informed him, I said, hey, I had this
22 unit shut down unexpectedly, I didn't make any changes.

23 Initially, I thought the booster was the issue, but after
24 investigating it further, looking at the pressures, I don't
25 believe the booster was the issue.

1 Q. Who was the specialist?

2 A. Chase Dravis (ph.).

3 Q. You couldn't have the spell would you?

4 A. Oh, last name --

5 Q. Okay, we'll get it later.

6 A. His last name's tough. Yeah, I don't -- I really don't want
7 to try.

8 Q. You don't have to.

9 A. Okay. And so at that point, he helped me start to
10 investigate and look into the pressures and the leak detection
11 system to see, kind of, you know, what was going on. So at that
12 point, it kind of got escalated.

13 While he was looking at it, I went back to call the Wood
14 River area to see, you know, if they had -- if there was any field
15 work or they were doing anything that may have caused to have an
16 issue -- caused us to have an issue with that unit. And from my
17 conversation, there was no work that they were doing. So I went
18 back up to Chase's desk, the specialist's desk, and kind of, you
19 know, he was investigating further and I was kind of there
20 answering questions, letting him know what I was seeing, what I
21 was thinking, as far as the pressures and kind of how it just shut
22 down. And then after a few more minutes of that, he had me go
23 back and call Wood River again, the area operators, and have them
24 walk the manifold, which is just the piping at the station that's
25 out of the ground that's, you know, located by the tanks and the

1 booster.

2 And so they looked at the manifolds, and the manifolds were
3 fine there at Wood River and Roxanna station. And they said the
4 manifolds looked good. At that point, you know, Chase kind of
5 escalated it further to where they needed to, well, I don't want
6 to speak for him because I had to go back to operating the other
7 lines that I had on there. So the conversations that he had, I
8 can't necessarily speak to it, but essentially, they had -- they
9 started driving the pipeline to see if there was a leak since
10 there was no field work that caused the issue.

11 Q. Okay, so let me understand. Maybe I got lost here. So the
12 first indication for you is, unit number two, the pump unit went
13 down, you said on low suction?

14 A. Unit three was the one that was running initially.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Unit three shut down.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Yep, that was the initial -- first indication.

19 Q. So it was still down.

20 A. Yep.

21 Q. And then you started unit two.

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. To see if you can keep the flow moving?

24 A. Correct. Because I, at that time, obviously now I know that
25 it wasn't the case, but at that time, I thought it was just an

1 issue with the booster that, for some reason, stopped putting out
2 pressure for a split second that was just enough to catch that
3 unit and cause it to go down. But after --

4 Q. Unit number three?

5 A. Yes, unit three. And so then I started unit two and after I
6 started unit two, I continued to pull up trending -- basically,
7 looking at the pressures before and while, you know, the -- at the
8 current time to see how they looked. And I noticed that the
9 station wasn't holding pressure like it typically would when a
10 unit is starting up. And at that point, I realized that it wasn't
11 the booster. Like I said, I didn't know exactly at that point
12 that it was a leak, but I knew something wasn't right. So, I
13 issued a stop to that unit two at that point and began the rest of
14 the shut-down process, which would be closing off valves along the
15 line.

16 Q. So has it ever -- situation not starting unit two, has that
17 ever happened before where the unit went down? Unit three,
18 whichever unit is running, it went down. Is there any situation
19 you've experienced where that happened?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Yes. There, you know, it's not an everyday thing, but on
23 occasion, you can -- on that line you can have units shut down,
24 yes.

25 Q. And why would that be?

- 1 A. A variety of reasons. You know --
2 (Crosstalk)
- 3 A. Yeah. Usually -- obviously, usually it's not a leak.
- 4 Q. Obviously.
- 5 A. But, you know, whether you could have -- a tank could be
6 Low, so which provides problems getting pressure to that unit.
7 You know, field work that you didn't think was going to affect
8 operations affect operations, or just equipment malfunctions.
9 Something, you know, a pressure or, not pressure, an electricity
10 blip or just general equipment malfunctions may cause units to
11 shut down.
- 12 Q. Okay. Have you ever experienced that?
- 13 A. Sorry.
- 14 Q. I timed that just right, didn't I?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. Yep.
- 18 Q. Sound like it's not normal activity, but has -- happens
19 occasionally.
- 20 A. Correct.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. Yep.
- 23 Q. And we have explanations for that.
- 24 A. Yep.
- 25 Q. So at this point, you're not really thinking, leak, you're

1 thinking, something's wrong with the equipment. I need to --

2 A. Well, I wouldn't say I wasn't thinking leak.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. But I will say I wasn't for sure that it was a leak.

5 Q. Okay. It's in the back of your mind.

6 A. So -- right. I knew it -- there was a -- I just knew
7 something was wrong, you know?

8 Q. Right.

9 A. So like, I -- at that -- like I said, after I started up that
10 unit two, I realized that it wasn't an equipment issue that I
11 could see that was the problem, which is why I shut it down and
12 was trying to figure out -- at that point, we're trying to figure
13 out, you know, why the unit shut down and what the problem was,
14 so.

15 Q. So maybe I missed it; did unit two also go down?

16 A. I shut it down.

17 Q. You shut it down?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So what prompted you to shut it down and not just keep it
20 running?

21 A. So this -- the pressures at the station were not holding up
22 like they typically would when you start a unit. So when you
23 start a unit, the control valves pinch down to build up pressure.
24 And I was watching the pressures as it was trying to start up, and
25 the pressures weren't building up like what I'm used to seeing.

1 And so at that point, I was like, well, it's not the booster
2 because the booster would give us enough pressure to -- that it
3 would operate normally. And that's what caused me to issue the
4 stop because the pressures at the station didn't look normal.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. On the startup.

7 Q. So when you started the equipment you might have inrush (ph.)
8 or something else going on so that you could -- to get that pump
9 up and moving, you'll see something -- more normal pattern? Is
10 that what I'm hearing?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. So like, usually when you start up the unit, the control
14 valve will pinch down to build up -- the pressures at the station
15 will actually increase until it starts, you know, ascending out.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. So during that process where it typically builds up pressure,
18 it wasn't building up as much pressure as I'm used to seeing.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. And so I knew something wasn't right. I knew a leak was a
21 potential, but at that point in time I didn't know for sure that
22 it was a leak.

23 Q. So I hear that this is when you called the specialist in?

24 A. After -- once I completely shut down the line. So I shut off
25 the unit and I closed in the valves.

1 Q. On both ends?

2 A. On both ends.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. And then once it was completely, you know, closed in and
5 there was no more flow anywhere, then I went immediately over to
6 the specialist and kind of explained the situation to him and, you
7 know, basically, just told him, I said, you know, my unit's shut
8 down on me unexpectedly. I originally thought it was the booster,
9 but I don't think that's the case. Can you help me look into this
10 to see what's, you know, what's going on? So that was my
11 immediate next step.

12 Q. So once that conversation happens, did you say you went back
13 to the console to look for the other lines that you were running?
14 Is that what you did next?

15 A. Correct. So we had that conversation. I went back -- I made
16 the call to the operator at Wood River.

17 Q. That's what I thought you said. Okay.

18 A. Yep, to see if there was any work they were doing. They said
19 no. I went back, told Chase that; the specialist, and then I went
20 back, yes. I had other stuff -- I didn't have any, like, active
21 operations, but obviously I had to monitor, make sure everything
22 was going okay while he was continuing to investigate. Then when
23 I had a little break, I went back up to him again and that's when
24 he, you know, suggested that we have them -- the operators there
25 at Wood Haven, or not Wood Haven, Wood River, to walk the manifold

1 to make sure that, you know, there wasn't a leak at the actual
2 station.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. So at this point, we're kind of starting to think like, you
5 know, maybe why -- I don't want to fully speak for him, but at
6 this point, we know, you know, something is probably wrong, yeah.
7 So they looked over the manifolds, they called me back and said
8 they didn't see anything. I reported that back up to the
9 specialist desk, and this is probably like, around the time
10 they're beginning the stop-help-start process. And then after
11 that, I went back and continued to operate and maintain control of
12 my console. And then, you know, if they had any questions, they
13 would come back and ask me or I would run up to them if I, you
14 know, had anything I wanted to add.

15 Q. Okay. And what are the -- when you started shutting down,
16 how long does that process take?

17 A. So it --

18 Q. Typically.

19 A. Typically, like, if you -- it varies. It depends on how many
20 units you have running there at Wood River. This was, obviously,
21 a unique situation because, you know, there was essentially no
22 unit running except for the one that I shut down once I realized
23 that it, you know, something was wrong. So I would say probably,
24 at that point, maybe three minutes because since all the units
25 were off, only thing was left is to close in the valves. And the

1 valves, you know, they vary in length in time they take to close.
2 It may be a minute, a minute and a half for valves, some valves,
3 only 30 seconds. So it was an abnormal shutdown that just
4 happened pretty quick because all our pumps were essentially off.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Yep.

7 Q. So then what happens once the decision is to bring up stop-
8 help?

9 A. Stop-help-start?

10 Q. Start -- I can't get the last one. Then what happens?

11 A. So --

12 Q. From your perspective.

13 A. Yeah, at that point, as far as a stop-help-start is
14 concerned, my job is pretty much done unless they have additional
15 questions for me.

16 Basically, my part of the stop-help-start is if, you know,
17 like this; we have an incident that is some sort of problem or
18 it's kind of unexplainable, we don't know what's going on, shut
19 down the line, notify the specialist of the problem, and contact,
20 you know, I'll contact the area on my end. They'll continue to
21 contact the area, but I may contact the area to see if there was
22 any initial idea of why that problem may have happened.

23 So then once I notify the specialist and they investigate
24 further, then they kind of escalate it from there and I go back
25 and just continue to operate. Of course, if any new information

1 comes in to me, you know, I'll go over and let him know, but at
2 that point, it's kind of been escalated and handed off.

3 Q. And you can't start it until the team on start-help -- stop-
4 help-start.

5 A. There you go.

6 Q. Until they decide they're ready to get your approval.

7 A. Correct, yeah.

8 (Crosstalk)

9 A. So they'll --

10 Q. Nothing more you can do.

11 A. Right. So they'll come to me and say, hey, we want you to
12 tag out the units and the headgates. So tag out basically is just
13 like a check that if you wanted to start that unit, a warning pops
14 up and lets you know, like, do not operate for stop-help-start.
15 So you know, you see that, you know you're not going to start that
16 unit.

17 So they'll come over and let me know to put tags on the
18 headgates and the valves. And that, you know, is kind of the --
19 we know we're not touching that line until everything goes full
20 circle and the issue is resolved and we're comfortable restarting
21 the line.

22 Q. So the leak was found by a field personnel?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Of the operators?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Um, who initiated that action? Is that not your action, or?

2 A. Yes. That would -- I -- that was not my action.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. So I escalated to the specialist and then the specialist and
5 supervisor contacted the field. I don't know exactly who they
6 spoke to, and then they, you know, they took it from there. So I
7 can't speak a whole lot into the conversations or who exactly was
8 notified at that point moving forward with it. I mean, I -- like
9 I said, I talked to the area initially, but as far as the stop-
10 help-start process, I didn't initiate the conversation with the
11 field on that.

12 Q. Okay, but Wood River -- earlier on you were looking at is
13 there anything going on inside the station itself?

14 A. Right, right. Yep. Yes.

15 Q. That happens there. And so that was checked off saying that
16 it's complete, nothing is going on there.

17 A. Right.

18 Q. So now you go next.

19 A. And that was kind of before -- it was before the stop-help-
20 start technically started.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Yep.

23 Q. Have you ever had problems like this before on this line?

24 Meaning -- it's kind of -- it's a hard question to ask because

25 it's a sense of -- you have a pump that goes down low on suction.

1 A. Mhm.

2 Q. You try and restart it, or you move (indiscernible) another
3 unit.

4 A. Right.

5 Q. And it's still not responding correctly. Obviously, it has
6 resolved itself because you haven't had another leak.

7 A. Right, yeah.

8 Q. Did you have something similar happen to you?

9 A. From the sense of units shutting down, I would say yes. You
10 know, the booster is tricky because it can run at pretty low
11 pressures. So you know, we -- the booster can sometimes cause
12 little problems there, which is kind of what threw me off
13 initially on that, but, you know, I haven't had any problems to
14 this magnitude. Obviously, I thought incorrectly when it -- in
15 regards to the booster, so.

16 Q. So when did you find out about the leak? At what point?
17 Because this is out -- now out of your hands.

18 A. Right. Well, I found out that it was confirmed a leak
19 probably, you know, roughly 20 to 30 minutes later. My -- a
20 specialist came over and told me that, you know, they saw a
21 product on the ground and that it was actually, you know, leaking
22 at that point. We, you know, up until that point, I had my
23 suspicions, but from my standpoint I didn't know for sure until
24 then.

25 Q. Okay. And then once you know what happens, what is your role

1 at this point?

2 A. Really, just if there's, you know, in this case, once they
3 knew that there was a leak, I was removed from console. Well, I
4 should -- we did -- I did shift-change with somebody else. It
5 wasn't like I just --

6 (Crosstalk)

7 A. Right, we didn't just leave it empty. So at that point, I
8 did shift-change with another analyst who took over for me.
9 Basically, obviously, we had a lot to discuss so I passed along
10 the basics, like the general operations for the other lines that
11 he was going to have to take over, and I also filled him in on
12 everything I knew up to that point with the, you know, leak
13 situation.

14 At that point, you know, the field was starting to call in
15 and let me know that they were manually closing off certain
16 blocked valves along the line to isolate things. So you know,
17 when the field calls in we have a notepad where we keep track of
18 who's calling and where they're at and what they're doing, so I
19 was sharing that information along with him. In Magron we have
20 event write-ups. So you know, obviously you had to write up on
21 this situation with the stop-help-start, so I was going through
22 that information with him as well. Any request that the field lab
23 had for us, I was letting him -- making him aware of that.

24 And after the shift change, I had to go take a drug test and
25 an alcohol test and then I came back up and had a conversation

1 with the supervisor over essentially, you know, kind of similar to
2 this, like what, you know, what -- the events that happened, what
3 my thought process was through those events. They took recording
4 of that, and then at that point I was -- I had to go home. And
5 then, basically, until the drug test results came back, I couldn't
6 operate. But, in the meantime, you know, if the supervisor or
7 anybody had any questions, follow up questions or anything like
8 that, I was available to answer those. So that was kind of the
9 process after -- once they knew it was a confirmed leak.

10 Q. Okay. And how long did it take from the time you knew before
11 your drug testing?

12 A. Less than an hour. I believe it was within probably half an
13 hour. It -- once they knew it was a leak, I probably did a shift
14 change about 20 minutes after that, and then probably another 20
15 minutes and then I took the test.

16 Q. And who did you shift-change with?

17 A. Billy Tafflinger (ph.).

18 Q. You know the spelling? This is the real test. I'll spell it
19 just general. That's all right.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. That's not critical. Okay, so at that point, you went home
22 ready to answer questions if you needed them.

23 A. Right. Yep.

24 Q. And then when did you start up again?

25 A. Thursday of the following week. So little under a week.

1 Q. Okay. So was that the -- when you were told about the
2 release, was that the first time you were notified there was a
3 leak on a system, or did you suspect that before?

4 A. So you mean when the specialist --

5 Q. Told you.

6 A. Came over and told me?

7 Q. That's the first time you were notified?

8 A. That's the first time, yes, that I knew officially there was
9 actually a leak on the system.

10 Q. Okay. Can you walk us through your leak detection system?
11 How it works, I don't mean the engineering piece, but from your
12 perspective, how it works.

13 A. Right, right. So from my perspective, there's two levels.
14 Well, there, you know, there's general state, which everything
15 should be close to zero. There's a mathematical model that, you
16 know, I don't know exactly how it works, but in a steady state,
17 everything's fairly close to zero. There's a warning threshold
18 and then there's a leak threshold.

19 Q. I'm sorry, when you say, close to zero, meaning it's at a
20 steady state and if it fluctuates?

21 A. Yeah, it --

22 Q. So it stays somewhere around zero?

23 A. Correct, correct. You know, obviously, it won't be exactly
24 at zero, but it'll stay near that level. And then if something
25 happens, there -- something could cause it to clip the, I don't

1 want to -- I'm trying to figure out how to say this.

2 Q. Take your time.

3 A. To my level --

4 Q. Yeah.

5 A. Of, you know, operation, nut basically --

6 Q. We don't expect you to engineer (indiscernible), just from
7 your perspective, what it looks like and what you do.

8 A. So our role with CPM, from our level, is we monitor every
9 hour. We take a look at it to make sure everything looks steady.
10 We take action if it clips a -- we get a warning alarm or a leak
11 alarm; which it has to clip certain thresholds to do that. At
12 that point, if we get a warning or a leak, we investigate why the
13 alarm may be ringing in. So in that case, we're pulling up the
14 line that, you know, wherever -- whichever line the alarm is on
15 to, you know, take a look at the line to see how the flows look.
16 We're looking, obviously, at -- to see if we get any alarms that
17 ring in regarding pressure or anything of that nature. And then
18 on the CPM model, you can kind of see where -- it's call F-dif and
19 V-dif. F-dif monitors flow rate and V-dif monitors, like, the
20 gravity and pressure and temperature.

21 So we're looking at those to see how they look, and
22 basically, looking for a cause of why we got either a leak warning
23 or leak alarm and investigate from there whether, you know, we
24 either have a reason where we need to prove to get the meters
25 accurate or there was -- could be some field work that was going

1 on that could have caused, you know, one of those alarms to ring
2 in. And we also have to do a write-up in Macron, which helps to
3 get our specialist's eyes on that alarm as well. And then
4 typically, if it's something that we don't, you know, if we don't
5 have a good guess on why it's coming in. Even before I would get
6 Macron write-up finished up, I would go over to the specialist and
7 say, hey, I got this, you know, I got this leak warning or alarm.
8 I'm going to write it up, but I just -- I don't exactly know
9 what's going on, so if you want to continue to take a look into it
10 in the meantime. That's typically how I go about when we get a
11 CPM.

12 Q. Now in this case, did you see indications that the leak was
13 increasing, or was it just -- it just leaked?

14 A. It just leaked.

15 Q. You had no indications prior to that?

16 A. No, the --

17 Q. Seeing something's slightly off and then getting worse and
18 worse?

19 A. Right. It was kind of all at one. And it happened so fast,
20 the -- wasn't -- the CPM didn't -- wasn't a factor until the line
21 was shut down.

22 Q. Okay. Okay, that's kind of what I heard from you.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Just want to make sure.

25 A. Yep.

1 Q. I think this may not be a question for you, do you know how
2 the line was secured?

3 A. When you say, secured?

4 Q. Meaning to stop any further leak. Because you were pulled
5 off before the leak was confirmed, right?

6 A. No, I was pulled off after the leak --

7 Q. Was confirmed.

8 A. Was confirmed. Once they knew it was an actual leak, you
9 know, they -- that's part of the process; you have to, you know,
10 get tested, so. It was after the leak confirmed. I do -- I don't
11 know the full answer to that, but the answer that I can provide
12 is, you know, I closed in the valves that I could control.

13 And the field called in and there was at least two or three
14 valves that I don't -- can't operate in the operation center, but
15 they can operate locally, that they were telling me, I'm at this
16 site, I'm closing in this blocked valve to help isolate the line.
17 That's the furthest that I can probably explain on the line being
18 secured.

19 Q. Okay, and those are completely manual, or controlled at the
20 site?

21 A. They --

22 Q. Is a difference?

23 A. I believe it -- so, the valves at the field we're calling, I
24 don't actually see those valves. There just basically designed
25 for a situation like this where they need to isolate. So they

1 have to go to those locations, and I don't know if they have a
2 tool or they manually just turn the valve until they --

3 (Crosstalk)

4 Q. -- on them? Or no, because you don't see them, so -- unless
5 you took a tour.

6 A. Yeah, I don't know exactly. I haven't seen them, so I don't
7 know exactly how they work.

8 (Pause)

9 Q. Can we talk about alarms? And so what alarms were you seeing
10 building up to and before you shut down, I guess?

11 A. Okay, yep. So pretty much, a few of them rang in at once.
12 Obviously, unit uncommanded shut down, rang in --

13 Q. Rang in meaning?

14 A. Rang in -- popped up -- populated on my screen to notify me.

15 Q. Okay. So you visually saw it?

16 A. Yeah, visually saw it.

17 Q. Is there audible?

18 A. Yes, audible, yep. It'll -- you'll get a couple beats.

19 It'll let you know booster low suction pressure, station low
20 suction pressure, low discharge pressure at the station. There
21 was a bunch of alarms, but those are the ones that I remember, you
22 know, initially ringing in. And it's kind of, you know, what
23 prompted my process, so.

24 Q. You have to acknowledge them to make it stop, or do they time
25 out? The alarms.

1 A. So you -- there's two different -- you can silence them
2 without -- you can keep them up on the screen, but to actually
3 clear them, you -- yeah, you have to acknowledge them. Yep, yep.

4 Q. You can just turn off the sound though?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Because the volume --

7 A. Yeah, yeah. If you wanted to keep them up there, yes,
8 without it beeping.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Yep.

11 Q. All right. (Indiscernible). I forgot to ask you a question.
12 When it comes to the lines that you're controlling on console A,
13 are there other pipelines that are, say, non-jurisdictional to DOT
14 that are not common carriers, or we would not be aware of them?

15 A. I'm not sure I exactly understand.

16 Q. That's not a good question. That might be a question for you
17 than anybody. Okay, we'll just let that one go because I don't
18 think I can articulate that in a way.

19 Let me ask you a question not associated with the date. Have
20 you been involved in any drills?

21 A. Drills?

22 Q. Being that we will imagine there's a pipeline leak and we
23 have to react accordingly; we have to call in to find out to
24 regulating agencies; there's operational requirements on how to
25 stop that leak and where do we go, what do we do, what equipment

1 do we need? And then part of that drill would be the control room
2 and their actions. Have you been involved in something like that
3 drill? And usually there's other agencies and parts of the
4 company itself that are involved.

5 A. No, I don't believe so. We do leak scenarios in our
6 training. That's usually involved with just, like, our operations
7 center, our training team. But, as far as, you know, other
8 departments or, you know, reaching out to anybody outside, not
9 that I can speak to. But two or, I think it's three times a year
10 now, we have group trainings where we go over different leak
11 scenarios and kind of, like, you know, what-if scenarios, you
12 know, what you should be -- past leaks that have actually
13 happened.

14 We, you know, it's got CPM pictures in it, like slideshows
15 showing, you know, what it typically looks like; what the alarm
16 screen'll look like, you know, which alarm's ringing, and how the
17 analyst reacted to it, but also how -- basically, the best way to
18 react to the scenario. So we do go over that a couple times a
19 year, at least, you know, from a controller and a training
20 standpoint of what our role is.

21 Q. All right. Let me go back to -- so can I talk about -- a
22 little bit more about your shift itself? What's typical of your
23 shift, and how was it compared to that day?

24 A. When you say, shift, do you mean just, like, the standard
25 operations or just my --

1 Q. It's your typical shift.

2 A. My job, you know, the -- just a regular day. Yeah, it -- I
3 can't say it was anything out of the ordinary. I mean we --

4 Q. Oh I'm sorry, that's not what I'm saying.

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. So do you work two days on? Do you take two days off?

7 A. Oh.

8 Q. What is your shift?

9 A. Yeah, so it would -- two days on -- basically, it's like 2-2-
10 3. So I would work Monday, Tuesday, be off Wednesday, Thursday;
11 work Friday, Saturday, Sunday twelve hour shifts, that would be
12 one week. And then, you know, that would be kind of like the
13 heavy week. And then the light week, since I just worked the
14 weekend, I would be off Monday, Tuesday, work Wednesday, Thursday;
15 and then be off Friday, Saturday, Sunday. So it's kind of like a
16 two week -- one heavy -- heavier week, one lighter week.

17 Q. Okay. And I was going to ask you, so the night before, did
18 you get adequate sleep? How do you think it went before --

19 A. Yeah. Yeah, it was a typical -- usually, I try to go to
20 sleep between 9 and 10. You know, I don't know the exact time I
21 went to sleep that night, but it was a normal -- it was sometime
22 between 9 and 10 where I usually go to sleep and I, pretty much
23 every day I have to work, wake up at 4:30. So probably around
24 seven hours of sleep.

25 But I felt fine in the morning and I got a full night's

1 sleep, no interruption or waking up or anything like that, so.

2 Q. No cat jumping on you?

3 A. Yep, nothing like that.

4 Q. Okay. And what, you know, what hours do you work? Do you
5 work typical hours, or -- within your shift?

6 A. 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. is standard. And I was obviously on
7 day-shift at that time. And typically, we rotate every four weeks
8 from days to nights. But I had been on days for quite some time,
9 so there wasn't any, like, you know, where I was used to being on
10 nights and now I'm switching back over to days. I had been on
11 days for at least a couple weeks. So I was -- had a pretty set
12 schedule, you know, going into it. But standard is four weeks on
13 days, four weeks on nights rotation.

14 Q. Okay. Thank you.

15 A. Yep.

16 Q. So my last question: is there anything else that you think
17 we need to know that's important for us to know?

18 A. No, not off the top of my head.

19 Q. Okay. A lot going on.

20 A. Yeah, yeah.

21 Q. Okay, great. Now, I'll go around the room for other
22 questions and then we'll move around.

23 A. Okay. Okay.

24 MS. WEST: Let's start with you.

25 MR. MATHEWS: All right. This is Wesley Mathews.

1 BY MR. MATHEWS:

2 Q. I just have one question for you: so how often do you switch
3 between consoles?

4 A. It depends on coverage of basically, you know, who's on
5 vacation or, you know, but I would say that you're probably
6 rotating to a new console maybe three days. So if you -- say --
7 say you work -- I was on console eight Monday and Tuesday. For
8 those two days, I had to work the weekend. I might be on another
9 console for the Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and then the next week I
10 could be on another console. It really all depends on the
11 coverage. There could be times where you're on the same console
12 for, you know, a week or two straight if you're the only one there
13 that knows that console. Or there could just be different people
14 having different days off where you'll do two days in a row and
15 then you might move to another console and operate it.

16 Q. Okay. Do you know beforehand if that's going to happen?

17 A. Yes, we have a schedule that kind of lays out, you know --
18 like, if we wanted to look the night before, that'll show us. And
19 it even -- it goes out a couple weeks that we would know.
20 Obviously, things can change if people call in sick or something
21 like that, but typically, you have a good idea of, you know, what
22 console you're going to be on.

23 Q. When's the last time you did a console switch?

24 A. Let me see. Well, yesterday I was on -- yesterday, which
25 would have been Monday, I was on console seven. And I last worked

1 the Thursday before that, and I was on console eight. So just
2 yesterday, basically I had to switch, yup.

3 Q. And do you find that doing the console switches, can it throw
4 you off your game, you know, your routine?

5 A. I don't think so. I mean, that comes back to having a good
6 shift change and check in, you know? Because the shift change is
7 key to knowing, like -- for instance, if I've been off that
8 console for a while, shift change helps you, you know, get brought
9 up to speed on what's going on; the different pass-alongs that may
10 be there from, you know, certain field work or equipment that may
11 be out of service. As long as you have that information, you're
12 pretty much good to go because, you know, the training, you know,
13 you've spent months doing these operations, so it's more so just
14 making sure you know the current events that are going on. But
15 no, I don't -- for me, it's not an issue.

16 Q. Okay. Yeah, and I just thought of another question. It's
17 kind of on a different line, but so for console eight, do you
18 remember -- you were talking about earlier, you know, you had a
19 call from the folks in the field saying they were doing work on
20 the line; how often does that happen on that Woodpat line? And to
21 that effect, do you remember, like, a time before that -- this --
22 before this incident?

23 A. Yeah. Typically, every day you have some type -- it might
24 not be the same work at the same place, but typically, every day,
25 at least during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, the

1 field is doing some type of, you know, maintenance; making sure
2 every, you know, they have certain things that they have to do
3 every month to make sure everything is up to standard and safety.
4 So it's common, you know, that you have something going on on a
5 normal weekday during normal business hours. So pretty much every
6 day.

7 Q. And do you remember the last time on the Woodpat that you
8 had, before this, that they called something in, and did it change
9 anything that you were doing there? I mean, it might be a while
10 back, so I --

11 A. Yeah. I don't remember specifically, but it is, you know,
12 there's a couple times a week that, you know, you might have to --
13 they need to test something or they may need yo -- if you're
14 running one pump, they may need to see another pump running, so
15 you may have to switch pumps. So I can't say exactly when it was,
16 but you know, it happens on a fairly regular basis.

17 Q. Sure. All right, thanks that's what I -- all I had.

18 MR. STUFFT: Okay, Joshua Stufft talking.

19 BY MR. STUFFT:

20 Q. Trey, you had talked about the units that shut down. Can you
21 describe what units were running on the system and what shut down,
22 and then what shut it down?

23 A. Yep. So at the time, we were just running unit three there
24 at Roxanna Station. That unit shut down on low suction pressure.
25 And then unit two was the unit that I started up and then a couple

1 minutes later, shut back down. And also, obviously the booster
2 there at Wood River was running the whole time and I had to shut
3 that down as well to begin the shut-down process.

4 Q. Okay. Kind of along Wesley's lines; you mentioned some field
5 work, you know, going on and you made a call to the area. Was
6 there any communication following that call with the people that
7 were doing the work on the line?

8 A. Yes. Yes, I called, probably -- basically a minute after --
9 I don't know if it's exactly a minute, but pretty much after I got
10 it shut down, within a quick reasonable time, I called the company
11 that was work -- doing the -- or was planning on doing the welding
12 and let them know, hey, I just shut down the line. We got
13 something going on, I just wanted to make you aware. So I did
14 notify them shortly after we shut down.

15 Q. And you had described the leak detection system, or CPM; did
16 you actually get a leak warning or a leak alarm?

17 A. Yes. We did -- I did get a leak warning after I shut down
18 the line. I don't know the exact time, but it probably was -- a
19 couple minutes after the line was shut down, it did -- I did get a
20 CPM that rang in.

21 Q. Do you recall if that was a warning or an alarm?

22 A. That's a good question. I don't know off the top of my head.

23 Q. And then, you know, with this situation of course, you now
24 know what happened, but do you feel like you were adequately
25 trained to handle an abnormal event?

1 A. I do. I do feel like I was -- I'm adequately trained. We,
2 you know, like I mentioned before, we go through these events a
3 couple times a year and so, you know, I felt I was prepared. I
4 felt like I responded fairly well. Obviously, after the fact, you
5 know, if you could go back, you would have things you would do a
6 little bit differently. But yeah, I definitely felt like I was
7 adequately trained and, you know, I felt like I handled the
8 situation fairly well.

9 Q. Okay. And then you mentioned the stop-help-start; do you
10 know, or do you recall, having training outside stop-help-start
11 and maybe when that might've occurred?

12 A. Yep. That's something we -- well, obviously, we learn --
13 well, I shouldn't say obviously, but we learn about it initially
14 as a part of our qualifying process. So like I mentioned, in the
15 classroom, we would go over it there. There's a chapter on it in
16 the playbook that I learned that we would review while I'm sitting
17 out on console with the analyst. And he's teaching there, so I
18 would see it there as well. And then also as a part of our group
19 trainings that we do a couple times a year when we review, like,
20 the leak scenarios, we'll discuss, you know, the stop-help-start
21 process and then specifically what, as an operator, our role is in
22 that.

23 Q. So do you feel like you have the authority to shut down a
24 line?

25 A. Yes, absolutely.

1 MR. MATHEWS: That's all I have for this.

2 MS. WEST: Okay. I'll do one more round if there are no more
3 questions.

4 BY MS. WEST:

5 Q. You talked about the company that was working on the line.
6 Do you know about where it was? And do you know what company, or
7 any more details about that?

8 A. Am I allowed to say the company? I don't --

9 Q. Yes, you're allowed to say the company's name.

10 A. Okay. Black Hawk. I don't know the exact mile post. I do
11 know it was further down the line. So it was --

12 Q. Closer to Patoka zone?

13 A. It was probably about mid-way through the line.

14 Q. Okay. Were they working for you or, meaning Marathon, not
15 you personally, or what kind of work were they doing out there?

16 A. So they were getting set up to weld. I don't know -- that's
17 pretty much the extent of what I know.

18 Q. Weld on your line or on another line?

19 A. On the Wood --

20 Q. On this line?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. And maybe you already know this, but, the -- do you
23 know the location of the release? A mile post or?

24 A. I believe it was around six miles. I don't know exactly
25 though.

1 Q. Had that already been requested, or -- I don't remember
2 seeing --

3 MR. STUFFT: Yes.

4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it is.

5 MR. STUFFT: Yes, so there -- that is a --

6 MS. WEST: Request.

7 MR. STUFFT: A request has been provided.

8 MS. WEST: Okay.

9 MR. MATHEWS: It's in -- I can find it in my notes, but it's
10 in the --

11 (Crosstalk)

12 MS. WEST: I'll get with you in just a minute. Okay.

13 BY MS. WEST:

14 Q. And the other question was on -- there was some more --
15 another activity going on during that shift. Do you remember what
16 that was?

17 A. Another activity?

18 Q. Or besides the welding going on there was something else.
19 You mentioned there were two events that were happening throughout
20 your shift before the release.

21 A. Oh. Yeah, it was I had to switch -- a bat (ph.) switch at
22 Cushing (ph.) on the Ozark line. That probably was an hour or two
23 beforehand.

24 MS. WEST: Okay. That's what it was. Actually, that was my
25 questions.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. Yeah, I'm -- I have no more questions.

2 BY MR. STUFFT:

3 Q. Trey, at the event, I know you said you were running one
4 unit; is that typical at Roxanna?

5 A. Yes, but it really depends on -- the flow varies if we are
6 tightlining, which means we're running -- basically, all the way
7 from Cushing, we're combining the Ozark and the Woodpat, you're
8 probably running more than one unit. If you're just running out
9 of Wood River, then running just one unit is typical. So it can
10 vary though. You can come in, you can just as easily have a
11 couple units running as you can, only have -- only having one unit
12 running.

13 Q. What would dictate?

14 A. What would dictate that? The scheduled flow rate that we
15 were supposed to be going, timing up -- if we were trying to time
16 up when we were going to do the tight line, we may have to speed
17 up or slowdown that will require a couple of units. And then
18 also, depending on what product is in the line, the heavier the
19 product, you know, the slower the line will typically go. So that
20 also factors into, you know, how many units you need to run or,
21 you know, what the schedule's calling for in that regard.

22 Q. So this particular day, was that a heavy product or a light
23 product?

24 A. It was a heavy product and there was really no concern for --
25 we only had one unit running because we were going to be shutting

1 down later that day, so there was no concern for trying to time up
2 any turns or any need to go any faster than what we were scheduled
3 to go.

4 Q. Okay. And do you know when that batch was started? I guess,
5 how far into the batch would we have been when you made the shut
6 down?

7 A. I don't know. I mean, we were -- we had just started the
8 batch, I know that. We had been in the batch for some time.

9 Q. Was that prior to your -- did the previous controller start
10 that batch or did you start that batch?

11 A. I can't remember for sure.

12 MR. STUFFT: Okay. That's all I have.

13 MS. WEST: Well, I want to thank you very much for answering
14 our questions. I know this is a little more difficult and
15 probably not normally what you do.

16 MR. HOWARD: Right.

17 MS. WEST: But we do appreciate you and the work you do as a
18 controller. We know it can be very difficult at times, and I
19 thank you again for coming in and answering our questions.

20 MR. HOWARD: Yeah, absolutely. Thank you guys. Good to go?

21 MS. WEST: One other thing.

22 MR. HOWARD: Oh, okay, okay.

23 MS. WEST: As I mentioned earlier, we'll have the
24 transcripts. We'll have them transcribed and then you can take a
25 look at those. So if you can give us your contact information.

1 Can I have that now?

2 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

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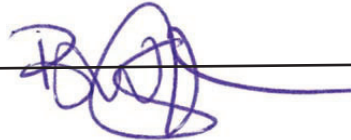
IN THE MATTER OF: MARATHON PIPE LINE OIL
 RELEASE IN EDWARDSVILLE, ILLINOIS
 ON MARCH 11, 2022
 Interview of Trey Howard

ACCIDENT NO.: PLD22FR002

PLACE: Findlay, Ohio

DATE: April 5, 2022

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.



Brandy Wainright
Transcriber

