

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

STATE CONTROL NO.: 05 362 024 022 REPORT DATE: 01/13/06
REPORTING OFFICER: SERGEANT M. S. DOCHTERMAN 0250 TROOP OF OCCURRENCE: G
OCC TYPE: TAUM SAUK RESERVOIR BREACH
COUNTY: REYNOLDS SCENE PROCESSED: N
DATE/TIME: DECEMBER 14, 2005
OFFENSE STATUS: INVESTIGATION CONTINUING DDCC AT SCENE: N
LOCATION: LESTERVILLE

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

INTERVIEW OF KEITH L. MENTEL

Staff Exhibit No. 48
Case No(s) ES-2007-0474
Date 8/13/07 Rptr UV

1. On Friday, January 13, 2006, approximately 1256 hours, I interviewed Keith L. Mentel concerning the breach of the Taum Sauk upper reservoir in Reynolds County, Missouri, on Wednesday, December 14, 2005. The interview was conducted in a private office at the Ameren Training Center in Fenton, Missouri. Present during the interview was Steve L. Burnett, Security Investigations Coordinator, with Ameren. The interview concluded at approximately 1335 hours.

2. Keith L. Mentel is a white male, date of birth [REDACTED]. He resides at [REDACTED]. His residential telephone number is [REDACTED]. Mr. Mentel has been employed with Ameren UE for approximately thirty-six years. He is a Hydro Plant Technician at the Osage plant.

3. Mr. Mentel provided the following information: Mr. Mentel stated two people were always at the Osage power plant. One was behind the desk, and the other was in the field. They would rotate every other day. The rotation was flexible, but averaged rotating every other day. Shift hours were as follows: 0700 to 1500, 1500 to 2300, and 2300 to 0700 hours. They would work six days and then have two days off. The shifts would rotate every fifth week. On Wednesday, December 14, 2005, Mr. Mentel had been on the midnight shift, 2300 to 0700 hours. He stated nothing unusual occurred during his shift. Taum Sauk was double pumping; and approximately 0445 hours, one of the pumps shut down on an auto stop at 1,592 feet. Mr. Mentel stated the auto stop was "standard, right down to the 't'." Mr. Mentel stated he was not sure which pump went to auto stop, but believed it to be the #1 pump. At approximately 0512 hours, the Power Dispatcher in St. Louis requested the other pump, presumably #2, to be shut off. There is a direct line from the Osage plant to St. Louis for such requests. The #2 pump was shut off and the reservoir level was 1,593.7 feet. Mr. Mentel stated that it takes approximately two minutes for the reservoir level to settle after the pumps have been shut off. He stated this is so, because the pumps are large and takes sometime for them to stop turning.

4. Mr. Mentel stated everything was normal that morning. He had until 0600 hours before Taum Sauk would start the Generating Cycle (Create Electricity). He stated he lost the Generating Permissive, and Taum

Sauk was no longer ready to respond. Mr. Mentel contacted the Power Dispatcher in St. Louis and told him he had lost the Generating Permissive. Mr. Mentel noticed the lower reservoir was steady, but there was a high tail alarm. Mr. Mentel explained the high tail alarm is an alarm, which signals when the water level in the tail of the power plant is too high. He called the Power Dispatcher in St. Louis, who also verified the alarm. Mr. Mentel immediately called Rick Cooper, the Taum Sauk plant manager; and relayed all the information to him. Mr. Cooper advised him to watch his monitor. The skate alarm that used to be connected to the float went off. The float used to be used before the liner was put in. The probes took the place of the float. Mr. Mentel did not know what the skate alarm was even connected to, since the float was removed. I asked Mr. Mentel if the skate alarm could have been connected to the high-high probe, to which he said he was not sure and did not want to speculate. Mr. Cooper called Mr. Mentel back and stated something to the effect, "Your tail water is correct. I got to go."

5. Approximately 0610 hours, Hydro Technician Chris Lee, came in to relieve Mr. Mentel. Mr. Mentel briefed Mr. Lee and then went home and went to bed. Mr. Mentel stated, "I did not know the magnitude of the problem until the next morning." He stated they had Generating Permissives fail in the past. It was usually because of a switch or something small. He stated the problems were rare and could not remember when the last one occurred. Mr. Mentel stated he was unaware of any probe problems at the upper reservoir at Taum Sauk. He stated there was a note taped to the console at the Osage plant that the high and high-high probes were set at 1,596 feet and 1,596.5 feet, respectively. He stated the note had been there for some time, but uh ~~was~~ aware of when it had been placed there. Mr. Mentel stated he had been to the Taum Sauk facility only twice, once as a tourist and once work related. He stated the visit was over ten years ago.

6. This investigation is continuing.

Mark S. Dochterman, Sergeant
Division of Drug and Crime Control

MSD:lmh