

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

STATE CONTROL NO.: 05 362 024 065
REPORTING OFFICER: SERGEANT T. L. BREEN 0297
OCC TYPE: TAUM SAUK RESERVOIR BREACH
COUNTY: REYNOLDS
DATE/TIME: DECEMBER 14, 2005
OFFENSE STATUS: INVESTIGATION CONTINUING
LOCATION: LESTERVILLE
REPORT DATE: 03/01/07
TROOP OF OCCURRENCE: G
SCENE PROCESSED: N
DDCC AT SCENE: N

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

INTERVIEW OF THOMAS C. PIERIE

Staff Exhibit No. 14
Date 8/1/07 Case No. ES-2007-04
Reporter KF

1. On March 1, 2007, Sergeant Mark Dochterman and myself interviewed Tom Pierie, an employee of Ameren, regarding the breach of the upper reservoir at the Taum Sauk facility.

2. On March 1, 2007, Tom Pierie was interviewed regarding the upper reservoir breach at Taum Sauk, at a private office in the Ameren Headquarters building, St. Louis, Missouri. Also present for the interview were Ameren attorneys Robert Haar and Lisa Pake. Pierie resides at [REDACTED]

3. Pierie stated he is an electrical engineering and is assigned as a consulting engineer for Ameren and has been in that capacity for ~~four~~ ^{five} years. He was previously employed by Power Engineering Corporation, St. Louis, Missouri.

4. Pierie was presented with several copies of emails previously provided by Ameren, wherein he was either the author of the email or was a receipt of the email, related to the Taum Sauk facility. The emails were identified by a number assigned by Ameren and are referred to by that unique number (e.g. SHP 000000).

5. The first email was SHP 4125, dated October 7, 2005, and October 10, 2005, from Pierie to Rick Cooper and was related to the wind speed transmitter and the overtopping on September 27, 2005. Pierie stated it was ~~his~~ ^{Cooper's} idea to install a wind speed transmitter for the purpose of lowering the water level, in the event of overtopping from high winds again. The transmitter was ordered and was waiting for installation at Taum Sauk, as was a ~~thing~~ ^{probe} for placement in the gauge piping. He further described the ~~back~~ ^{pump} back shutoff operation related to the hi and hi-hi gauges and the measured comparison of the wall height being the same at the Gauge House and the Visitors Platform. He noted the hi and hi-hi probes were tested in February 2005; and at that time, a relay was bad and was replaced. He was aware of the gauge piping bow and had the material to repair the problem ordered on hand in October 2005, and hoped to have it repaired by the end of that month. He stated since the reservoir level had been lowered by two feet after the September 27, 2005, overtopping, ~~he~~ ^{Cooper} was not that concerned about future problems.

Ex. 1

6. Pierie stated during the 2004 liner replacement, Steve Bluemner, another Ameren engineer, gave him the measurement numbers of the wall heights ~~and assumed the low points of the wall were 1596 and 1596.2 before going back on line from the liner replacement.~~ He stated there was a hi probe trip in December 2004, and the project consultant (Tony Zamberlain firm) was called and corrective action was taken and the level was moved for the hi at 1596.7 and the hi-hi at 1596.9. He assumed Zamberlain and Rick Cooper did the move and took their elevations at the top of the wall at the Gauge House. Zamberlain advised him the "trip" of the probes was caused by finally getting enough water in the lower reservoir, to pump back the levels higher in the upper reservoir, hence the reason for moving the probes levels. He noted he did not know if the probes were ever moved after that time. He stated he was only involved with being consulted on the change of the wiring related to the lo and lo-lo probes and that change to series made sense. He noted he was never consulted on the change of the hi and hi-hi probes to series, which did not make sense and would have advised not doing. He believed that change would have been done at the Plant, and should have involved Zamberlain and Cooper. He stated it was not unusual not to be in the loop on a change of that nature. He was involved in testing the probes on December 14, 2005, by simply getting them wet to see if they would trip, which they did. On December 15, 2005, he was involved in further testing of the probes where they simulated a unit trip. He found at that time, they were wired in a series with a time delay. He again noted there would be no benefit to wire the hi and hi-hi probes in a series as opposed to the benefit of wiring the lo and lo-lo probes in a series.

7. He viewed email number SHP 4183, from Chris Hawkins to him, dated December 9, 2005, related to software switch changes. He noted these changes would have had no affect on the breach.

8. He viewed email number SHP 5359-5362, from Steve Bluemner, dated October 7, 2005, related to the gauge piping photos. He stated this was related to the design of the new gauge pipe housings, and he was copied for his information.

9. He viewed email number SHP 6749, dated December 12, 2005, regarding a teleconference on the Taum Sauk upgrade in the Spring of 2006. He noted it was not pertinent to the breach.

10. He viewed email number SHP 6755, dated December 14, 2005, related to the breach. He did not recall receiving, but thought he was one of the recipients because he was at Taum Sauk immediately after the breach.

11. He viewed email SHP 7263 and 7264, dated September 27, 2005, related to the overtopping from high winds. He was concerned about the wind and water level being up and thought a sonic or sonar transmitter might be the answer. He noted he only saw a trench in the road near the breach site, after the overtopping. He also noted the .4 "fudge factor", that was attributed to Jeff Scott, ~~would not have been advisable,~~ and he did not know how that figure was calculated.

12. He viewed email SHP 8821, dated September 28, 2005, from him asking if the hi and hi-hi probes picked up the overtopping. He

called Jeff Scott and was told Scott did not think the water got high enough. He noted the change in the PLC wiring would not have necessarily made a difference.

T. L. Breen, Sergeant
Division of Drug and Crime Control

TLB:lmn