

Statement of Steven Mussatti

November 27, 2018

On October 29, 2018 I was working vegetation management on the Enbridge Line 5 Right of Way (ROW) at Milepost 1172. I was with Gary Barningham from Enbridge and three contractors out of Illinois.

At approximately 12:30 pm Central, I saw an Enbridge pipeline inspection helicopter fly overhead. I first saw the helicopter when it was about one mile East of me. It passed overhead and continued West. The helicopter's altitude looked like it was around 400 feet above the ground. Everything looked normal to me. I have seen pipeline inspection helicopters pass overhead around 20 times in the past. I have been up in a helicopter twice, once on a pipeline inspection and once doing an incident response exercise.

At about 7:00 am Central on October 30th, my supervisor, Scott Paquette, called me. He said a helicopter went down not far from where I last saw it and that the pilot did not survive. He asked me to come to the trail head to assist.

I arrived at the trail head around 8:00 - 8:30 am. My supervisor asked whether I was willing to assist with recovering the pilot's body. I agreed and went in on an ATV to the accident site. Also with me were Dean Will (Enbridge), Joseph Seacotte (Enbridge), three Ashland Fire Department members, four or five Bad River Fire Department members, Jim Stone from Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission and a woman (I don't know who she was, but she was taking pictures of the accident site with the Sheriff's Deputy.)

I waited back from the accident site while Jim Stone and the unknown woman went up, then the Fire Department went in to retrieve the body, put it in a body bag and carried it out. I left the accident sight shortly afterwards.


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