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Office of Aviation Safety, Eastern Region

Date: May 31, 2023

Subject: NTSB# ERA23LA225

Contact: John Anthony Dilavore (A&P Mechanic)

The individual noted above provided the following information via a telephone call. The below contents are a summary of what was reported:

- The aircraft owner had reported that a little oil had accumulated on the windscreen during recent flights. The owner wanted to troubleshoot this oil leakage.
- Mr. Dilavore reported that when the aircraft arrived at his shop in April 2023, he washed the airplane and engine to begin troubleshooting the leakage. He observed oil on the top of the engine.
- He reported that from his assessment, it looked like a previous mechanic tried to seal the engine spine with sealant. He observed that there may have been oil leaking from the propeller hub area. As a result, the propeller was removed, overhauled, and reinstalled. The overhaul was accomplished by another shop.
- Mr. Dilavore reported that he observed that the crankshaft seal was old and brittle. While the propeller was off the aircraft for its overhaul, he changed the crankshaft seal.
- He further reported that while the propeller was off the engine, he pulled the old sealant on the casing of the engine and put new sealant on the spine of the engine to help address any leaks.

- Mr. Dilavore recalled that this was a very high time engine, and the engine had sat for a long time, which in his experience can lead to a leaking engine and other internal problems.
- The maintenance entry from April 2023 reflects the work performed on the aircraft. After the completion of the work, a test flight was performed and no oil leakage was observed, and the engine produced normal power.
- Mr. Dilavore stated that he did not recall servicing any spark plugs during this most recent maintenance in April 2023. He stated that he did not recall removing any ignition harnesses while accomplishing work on other areas of the engine.
- Mr. Dilavore stated that there were no issues reported with the spark of the engine.
- He stated it is possible that he could have loosened items on the engine, but it is his practice to tighten anything he loosens. He stated that it is possible that he could have forgotten to tighten something that he loosened during the maintenance actions, however, again he cannot recall servicing the spark plugs or removing the ignition harnesses.

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