

EXHIBIT 43

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Rebuttal of D. J. Duquette Expert Report
In the Case of
Robert Tomassini v. Chrysler Group, LLC

Migliaccio & Rathod, LLC

May 2016



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May 23, 2016
AIM 15018790-4-2

Subject: Rebuttal of D. J. Duquette Expert Report In the case of Robert Tomassini v. Chrysler Group, LLC

Dear Mr. Migliaccio:

This report provides Intertek AIM's rebuttal of the expert report prepared by David J. Duquette, PhD regarding fractured valve stems on tire pressure measurement sensors (TPMS). This rebuttal analysis shows that the Duquette report failed to consider several important factors in his analysis and that Duquette is in error regarding his conclusion that valve stem leakage due to stress corrosion cracking (SCC) would be slow.

If you have any questions about this report or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very respectfully,



Eric V. Sullivan, P.E.
Principal Engineer



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1 | Personal Background

Eric Sullivan is a Principal Engineer at Intertek AIM and provides metallurgical engineering expertise in the areas of welding, nondestructive examination, and materials selection. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Metallurgical Engineering from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, California (1979), and is a Professional Metallurgical engineer in the State of California (MT 1771). Mr. Sullivan's training includes an extensive training course on electron microscopy that was provided by Lehigh University, including evaluation of fracture surfaces. His experience and training is more fully set forth in his curriculum vita, which is provided in Appendix A. Mr. Sullivan's hourly rate for time spent working on this matter is \$280. Mr. Sullivan's testimonial experience is provided in this report as Appendix B.

In over 35 years of professional experience, Eric Sullivan has investigated hundreds of failures in valves, machinery, engines, pressure vessels, nuclear and fossil power plants, chemical plants, and refineries. Eric Sullivan has performed cause and origin investigations for explosions and fires at refineries, gasoline storage facilities, chemical plants, power plants, and buried pipelines. In many cases, evaluation of fracture mechanisms played a key role in Mr. Sullivan's investigations.

Eric Sullivan has also performed numerous fitness-for-service evaluations of materials, including evaluation of cracked turbine case bolts for the nuclear plant at San Onofre, California, stress corrosion cracking of valve bonnet bolts in petrochemical refineries, stress corrosion cracking of boiler tubes and pressure vessels, and stress corrosion and fatigue cracking of valve cover bolts for large natural gas compressors.

A list of documents on which I have relied upon in the preparation of this report is provided in Appendix C. I understand that discovery in this matter is ongoing and that the Defendants or third parties may produce additional information that has a bearing on my analysis. I reserve the right to supplement or amend my conclusions as necessary in light of such additional information. I also understand that the class definition may change in light of such additional information.

2 | Introduction

I was asked to review and evaluate the rebuttal report prepared by David J. Duquette, PhD, regarding failure of tire pressure measurement sensors (TPMS) due to stress corrosion cracking (SCC). Duquette prepared a rebuttal to my report "Preliminary Evaluation of Fractures in Tire Pressure Monitoring Sensors" and to the reports prepared by David McLellan and R. F. Lynch. In my report, I determined that the valve stems on the TPMS devices are fabricated from an alloy that is susceptible to corrosion, which can result in sudden failure of the valve stem and cause rapid deflation of the tires. The defect of the stems pertains to the use of the particular group of aluminum alloys that contain copper as one of the alloying elements. The group of aluminum alloys that contain copper are designated as the 2000 series of alloys (or 2xxx series). It is well known that the 2xxx series of copper bearing aluminum alloys are susceptible to SCC in the presence of chlorides. There have been widespread reports of valve stem failures on TPMS devices. Laboratory analyses of broken TPMS valve stems have shown that the failures are due to SCC in the presence of chlorides.¹

The results of my metallurgical analysis show the sample that I examined suffered from intergranular SCC and that chlorides were present on the fracture surfaces. Based on my work to date, I have determined that the potential for SCC of TPMS valve stems affects all members of the class because the key factors for SCC are present for the entire class. The three main factors for SCC are (1) chemicals in the environment, (2) an alloy that is susceptible to SCC for specific chemicals in the environment, and (3) stress.

I have concluded that all members of the class with 2xxx series aluminum valve stems have this material defect because all of the TPMS devices have valve stems composed of an aluminum alloy that is susceptible to intergranular corrosion and SCC. When a susceptible aluminum alloy is used for the TPMS valve stems, intergranular corrosion and degradation of the valve stems is progressive and inevitable. The intergranular corrosion and degradation begins as soon as the valve stems are exposed to the saline environment and chemicals to which automobiles are typically exposed. The two other factors involved in SCC of the valve stems, stress and environment, cannot be reasonably avoided because stress is inherent to the design of the part and chlorides are widespread in the environment.

The report by Duquette concludes that there are very few failures of valve stems and implies that only the worst combination of variables results in SCC of the valve stems. Duquette states that "It is my opinion that the SCC that has been identified in a few cases are isolated incidences, and it is not endemic to any class of vehicles." In this rebuttal report, I will show that there are specific errors in the Duquette conclusions and provide evidence that intergranular corrosion and SCC are widespread in the 2xxx series aluminum TPMS valve stems.

¹ "Chrysler Materials Engineering Lab Reports 135639 and 137860," (see Preliminary Evaluation of Fractures in Tire Pressure Monitoring Sensors Appendices C and D).

3 | Analysis

3.1 Introduction

The Duquette report can be broken down into several main areas of opinions that can be generally summarized as follows:

- The SCC failures of valve stems would not have occurred if the vehicle owners had followed the Chrysler Owners Manuals regarding replacement of the valve cap after adjusting or checking the tire pressure and if the owners had performed regular cleaning of the valve stems.
- Leakage of the TPMS valve stems due to SCC will be slow at first; therefore, there is no need to consider the possibility of a sudden “air out”.
- Maintenance practices of vehicle owners are responsible for the “few” reported instances of SCC.
- Multiple alloys with various heat treatments have been used and some of those combinations are more resistant to SCC than others.
- The SCC of valve stems is limited to a few isolated cases and it is not endemic to any class of vehicles.

3.2 Analysis

3.2.1 Removed Valve Caps

Duquette concludes that all known failures have occurred due to missing valve caps. He states that “It must be concluded that the cracks and failures that were observed occurred on vehicles where the valve caps had been removed for some period.” The fact that salt deposits and corrosion products are frequently found inside fractured valve stems does not prove that the valve cap had been removed. Duquette failed to recognize that saline solutions would be likely enter the valve stem through growing stress corrosion cracks. I agree with Duquette’s conclusion that a crack will not propagate through the entire circumference of the valve stem at once, but will rather penetrate at one point first. Once the crack has penetrated through-wall at one point, there will be a path for salt water to enter the inside of the valve stem. Laboratory analyses performed by Chrysler support my conclusion that road salts can enter the valve stems through a growing stress corrosion crack.

The Chrysler Lab Report 137860 (included in my report Preliminary Evaluation of Fractures in Tire Pressure Monitoring Sensors) provided a chemical analysis of deposits found on the inside of a fractured TPMS valve stem. The results of the analysis showed the deposits were composed primarily of calcium (Ca), chlorine (Cl), and aluminum (Al). Only low levels of silicon (Si) were detected, which is consistent with the silicon content of the 2XXX series of aluminum alloys. The deposits analyzed were entirely consistent with calcium chloride road salts combined with aluminum corrosion products. The Chrysler Lab Report 137860 was not entirely clear about the precise region that was analyzed, and the analysis might also represent a spot that included both calcium chloride surface deposits and exposed areas of the aluminum valve

stem. However, the results of the analysis are completely inconsistent with the combination of road grit and sand that would be expected if the materials had entered through a removed valve cap.

I have concluded that saline solutions (salty water) will enter the interior of the valve stem through growing stress corrosion cracks and that the absence of the valve cap is not necessary for this to occur.

Duquette relies on the Continental A.G. corrosion study as support for his conclusion that no SCC would occur if the valve cap were maintained in place. In that study, the corrosion damage was most pronounced in the 2011-T6 when exposed without the valve cap. However, no fractures occurred in a total of 90 tests of the 2011-T6 valve stems. In Chrysler Lab Report 135639, six fractured valve stems were examined and found to have failed due to SCC. The report indicated that each of those valve stems was made of 2030 alloy in the T4 heat treatment condition (2030-T4) and that all six failed due to SCC. The only conclusion that can be drawn from the Continental A.G. tests is that those tests were significantly less severe than real world conditions for valve stems that are exposed to salty water and other chemicals that may be present on the roads. The test conditions of the Continental A.G. corrosion study were not aggressive enough to cause valve stem failures and cannot be used to predict whether the presence of a valve cap would prevent failures in the salt belt, including New York state.

3.2.2 Slow Leakage at First

Duquette concludes that drivers would have plenty of warning of impending valve stem fracture because they would only leak slowly at first through a growing crack. Duquette opines that “Since there is no reliable evidence of any lack of vehicle control because of possible SCC in the valve stems of any Chrysler vehicles, and such a result is inconsistent with the progressive nature of SCC, it is my opinion that a discussion of the possible catastrophic results of an “air out” situation is not scientifically relevant.”

The slow leakage scenario is no more than a hypothesis generated by Duquette to support his opinion that the discussion of an “air out” is not scientifically relevant. In the valve stem that I examined and in the ones examined by Chrysler, the SCC has taken place outside the pressure boundary. As shown in Figures 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3, the SCC fracture occurred just below the threaded portion of the valve core. That location is not pressurized and will not leak, even if the SCC cracking penetrates all the way through the thickness of the valve stem.

I have concluded that the SCC forms just below the threads of the valve core because it is a location with the highest tensile stress in the valve stem. That tensile stress is present in all of the TPMS valve stems due to the fact that the valve core must be tightened sufficiently in order to prevent leakage. When the valve core is first assembled into the valve stem, it is tightened by the manufacturer to prevent leakage. Duquette presents no evidence that Chrysler over-tightened or under-tightened any of the valve cores of any Chrysler vehicles.

A simple analysis of the forces involved shows that a tensile stress is developed in the valve stem, but only in the region between the valve core threads and the valve core seal. That is also the thinnest region of the valve stem due to the presence of both internal and external threads. The pressurized region of the valve stem exists only below the rubber seal of the valve core. The diagram in Figure 3-4 illustrates this condition.

As the SCC grows and extends around the circumference of the valve stem, the remaining sound material will eventually become too thin to support the load and the end of the valve stem will break off. Once the end of the valve stem breaks off, the valve core will come out and result in a catastrophic air out. There are many examples of such air outs in the CAIR records provided by Chrysler, which were either not provided to, sought, or otherwise reviewed by Duquette. Even if the air out does not result in an immediate catastrophic accident, the consequences of a sudden loss of tire pressure on a busy highway or at night on a poorly lit roadway are readily apparent.

I have concluded that Duquette is wrong in his assumption that only a slow loss of air pressure will occur due to SCC of the valve stems.

3.2.3 Owner Maintenance Practices

The Duquette report concludes that all cracks and failures that were observed were due to owner maintenance practices, including failure to maintain the valve caps in place. He states that "It must be concluded that the cracks and failures that were observed occurred on vehicles where the valve caps had been removed for some period."

Duquette's conclusion that the valve caps were removed for all of the failed valve stems appear to be based in part on the finding of chlorides and possible corrosion products on the inside of some failed valve stems. Duquette also cites the results of testing performed by Continental A.G.² As described above, I determined that saline solutions with chlorides can enter the interior of the valve stem through growing stress corrosion cracks. Once a stress corrosion crack penetrates through wall on the valve stem, capillary action will draw in any saline solution that is present on the outside.

I reviewed the saline immersion and fog tests performed by Continental A.G. and concluded that those tests do not replicate the severity of the actual conditions valve stems are typically exposed to in locations where chloride salts are used for deicing roads. Although the report states that 2,510 parts were tested, it is noteworthy that not even one of the valve stems tested fractured during the test. Continental A.G. tested 90 valve stems with removed valve caps fabricated from 2011 aluminum in the T6 condition. Of the alloys and heat treatments tested, the 2011-T6 combination is known to be the most sensitive to SCC failures. The fact that not a single fracture occurred is convincing proof that the salt spray testing detailed in the Continental A.G. report was not as severe as the actual service conditions of the known failures.

I determined that at least one factor in actual service conditions is more severe than the salt spray and immersion tests performed by Continental A.G. As the road salts and other materials collect on the valve stem, normal evaporation tends to concentrate the deposits resulting in a highly concentrated salt paste. Also, the testing done by Continental did not attempt to measure or duplicate the pH (acidic or basic conditions) of the typical saline deposits on valve stems of vehicles that have been in service.

I have concluded that neither the Continental A.G. salt solution and spray testing nor the presence of salt deposits on the inside of the valve stem support a conclusion that the valve caps had been removed for some period. In fact, the owner of the vehicle for the failed valve

² Continental A.G. presentation "TPMS - Tire Guard Wheel Unit, TGIB, Mechanical cracks on valve stem" in July, 2009.

stem that I examined (Mr. Tomassini) reported that he always kept the valve cap in place and that he washed the car on a regular basis.³

I have also noted from my examination of the valve stems, it is apparent that when a properly installed valve cap is in place, there is a small crevice that is formed in the threaded area adjacent to the valve cap. Not only is the crevice area difficult to clean completely, it is precisely aligned with the location or position where the cracking has been observed.

3.2.4 Multiple Alloys and Heat Treatments

The Duquette report concludes that only the 2011 aluminum alloy in the T6 heat treatment condition is susceptible to SCC and that some of the class of vehicles “may” have the other alloys that were used. I agree with Duquette’s conclusion that the 6xxx series of aluminum alloys are essentially immune to SCC in the environment and chemicals to which automobiles are typically exposed. I do not believe that valve stems fabricated from the 6xxx series of aluminum should be included in the class.

I do not agree with Duquette’s conclusion that “When used properly, with the valve stem cap installed, the 2011 and 2030 alloys used for the cores of the valve stems are virtually immune to SCC.” Duquette failed to note that industry accepted literature shows that all of the 2xxx series aluminum alloys are susceptible to SCC. For example, the ASM Handbook on “Properties and Selection of Nonferrous Alloys and Special-Purpose Materials” gives a D rating for stress corrosion resistance of Alloy 2011 in the T4 condition.⁴ Only materials with an A or B rating are recommended for use in an industrial or sea coast conditions where chlorides are typically present. Neither the 2011-T4 nor the more susceptible 2011-T6 would be recommended for use in a chloride environment, such as the environment and chemicals to which automobiles are typically exposed in the “salt belt”.

Duquette also concludes that “It is unlikely that the valve stems used in the Chrysler vehicles retained any residual stresses from manufacturing.” I do not see any factual basis or support for this conclusion in the Duquette report. In fact, the threaded area of the valve stem is machined, a process that typically leaves a layer of deformed and cold worked material. The deformed and cold worked material will certainly have significant residual stress that can contribute to SCC of the valve stems. Although residual surface stress can contribute to the initiation of SCC, it is my opinion that the primary source of stress driving the stress corrosion crack growth is due to the force generated when the valve core is tightened. During tightening, the valve core is compressed as the valve core seal is forced against its seat in the valve stem. An equal and opposite tensile force is generated in the valve stem, but only in the region between the threaded portion and the seal of the valve core. The location of the elevated tensile stress in the valve stem is consistent with the typical location where SCC has been observed.

³ Tomassini deposition, pp. 103 – 107 where Mr. Tomassini described his regular washing of the vehicle and maintaining of the valve stem caps in place on the valve stems.

⁴ ASM International, Metals Handbook Volume 2, Tenth Edition “Properties and Selection of Nonferrous Alloys and Special-Purpose Materials”, Page 30.

3.2.5 Only Isolated Failures

Duquette's opinion that only isolated valve stem failures have occurred due to SCC is contradicted by widespread reports of valve stem failures. In fact Chrysler's Customer Assistance Inquiry Records (CAIR) and warranty claims, both only pertaining to Class Vehicles in New York State, show hundreds of warranty claims, and over 150 CAIR reports related to valve stem failures. For instance in one CAIR report, the customer stated "...that the sensor was not hit or damaged, it just blew out." It is of particular interest to note that the tire shop which the customer went to for repairs told the customer that "... the sensor breaking off is common and they see many of them and they are manufacturer defects." The implication is that so many valve stems are failing due to corrosion, the tire stores are aware there is a widespread problem.

I find it curious that Duquette either ignored or did not have access to Chrysler data related to TPMS valve stem failures. As stated in my report on the failures, there is quite solid evidence that Chrysler knew about the problem and eventually changed the alloy specifically due to the breakage of the 2xxx alloy valve stems. As a consultant to Chrysler, Duquette should have access to actual numbers of customer complaints related to TPMS valve stems.

Duquette also failed to consider widespread reports from tire repair shops and the many NHTSA complaints lodged by owners of Chrysler minivans. As stated in my report, a simple internet search for TPMS valve stem failures shows there are widespread reports from tire sales and repair shops indicating that valve stem failure due to corrosion are quite common. Photographs provided on many of the tire repair web sites show fractures that are consistent with SCC.

Although Duquette opines that SCC can only be attributed for certain to the 8 valve stem failures that were analyzed in the laboratory, it is my opinion that corrosion related failures can be readily identified by the average mechanic at a tire shop. Realistically, there are only two possible mechanisms for fracture and separation of the valve stem. Either the valve stems have suffered an external impact or force that breaks the stem, or the damage is corrosion related. Corrosion related failures such as SCC produce dull fracture surfaces with little no apparent deformation of the metal. In contrast, a mechanically induced failure due to impact or overload will result in a shiny fracture surface and significant plastic deformation (e.g., permanent stretching of the metal) in the region next to the fracture.



Figure 3-1 — TPMS Device Sample A with Fractured Stem.



Figure 3-2 — TPMS Device Sample A, Close-up of Fracture (At Arrow).

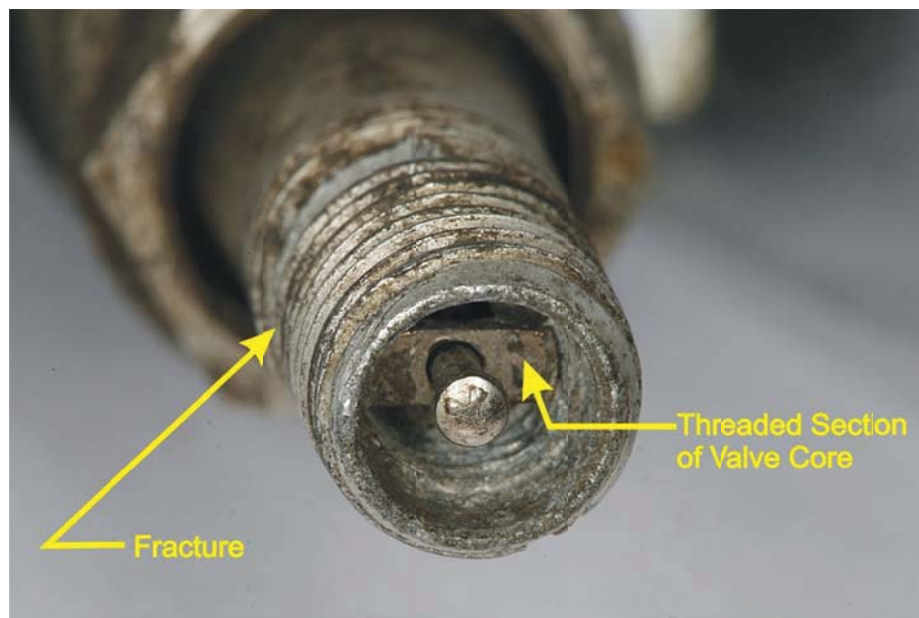


Figure 3-3 — TPMS Device Sample A, Close-up of Inside Surface.

NOTE: The fracture occurred just below the threaded portion of the valve core, a location that will have relatively high tensile stress due to reduced wall thickness in the threaded region. There are both internal threads and external threads at the location of cracking.

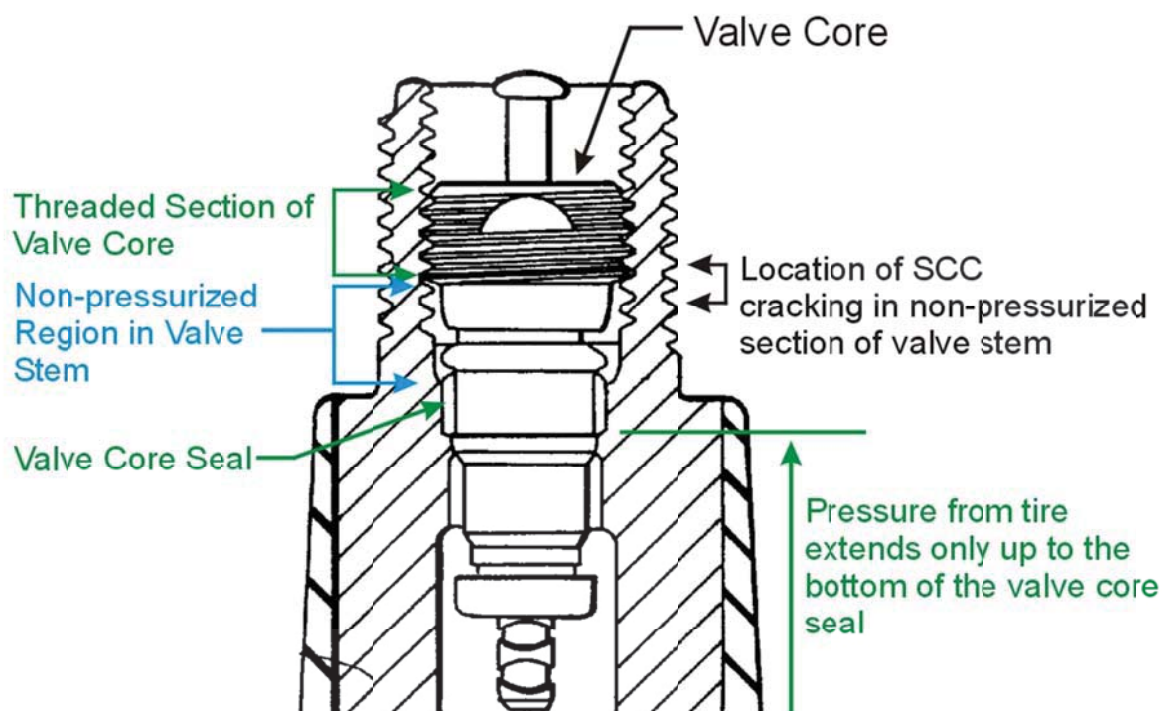


Figure 3-4 — Illustration of Valve Core and Pressure Boundary Within Valve Stem.

NOTE: Tightening the valve stem results in tensile stress in the valve stem wall, but only in the region between the valve core threads and the valve core seal. All SCC cracking failures of the TPMS valve stems has been observed only in the region between the valve core threads and the valve core seal.

4 | Conclusions

4.1 Summary of Findings

I have concluded that all members of the class with 2xxx series aluminum valve stems have this material defect because all of the TPMS devices have valve stems composed of an aluminum alloy that is susceptible to intergranular corrosion and SCC. When a susceptible aluminum alloy is used for the TPMS valve stems, intergranular corrosion and degradation of the valve stems is progressive and inevitable. The intergranular corrosion and degradation begins as soon as the valve stems are exposed to the saline environment and chemicals to which automobiles are typically exposed. The two other factors involved in SCC of the valve stems, stress and environment, cannot be reasonably avoided because stress is inherent to the design of the part and chlorides are widespread in the environment.

I have determined that the defect does not occur when the valve stem finally breaks off, but rather has manifested itself as soon as the SCC or intergranular corrosion begins. Although the SCC and intergranular corrosion are not visible to the naked eye, it is progressive and does not stop once it has started. Once crack growth has started, it is very difficult to clean the valve stems sufficiently to remove all of the chlorides that have penetrated deeply into the cracks.

4.1.1 Removed Valve Caps and Cleaning

I found that it is incorrect to conclude that the SCC failures could be avoided if the vehicle owners had followed the owner's manual with regard to replacement of the valve caps and regular cleaning. The outside of the valve stem will still be exposed to environments that cause SCC even if the valve cap is in place. It is also impractical to clean the valve stems after each use of the vehicle and SCC will take place each time the valve stem is exposed to the saline environment and chemicals to which automobiles are typically exposed. It is illogical to think that a vehicle owner is going to wash the vehicle during ongoing storms, when the exposure to deicing road salts is greatest.

4.1.2 Slow Leakage at First

The conclusion that leakage will be slow at first is wrong. Chrysler's own CAIR records show many instances of air outs inconsistent with slow leakage.

4.1.3 Multiple Aluminum Alloys

I agree that the 6xxx series of aluminum alloys are not susceptible to SCC when subjected to the environment and chemicals to which automobiles are typically exposed.

It is wrong to conclude that any of the 2xxx series alloys are immune to SCC, particularly when that conclusion is based on a test (e.g., the Continental A.G. tests) that is much less severe than the actual conditions valve stems are exposed to. The Continental A.G. tests were much less severe and quite different from the actual real-world conditions. The Continental A.G. tests of 90 valve stems with the most susceptible chemistry and microstructure, and removed valve caps, did not result in a single failure.

4.1.4 Few Isolated Cases

It is wrong to conclude that intergranular corrosion and SCC of valve stems is limited to a few isolated cases and it is not endemic to any class of vehicles. The Duquette report ignores Chrysler's own data, including documents showing that Chrysler changed the material specification for the valve stems based on customer complaints of breakage. The Duquette report ignored hundreds of warranty claims and CAIR reports that highlight the problem.

It is also wrong to conclude that only a full laboratory analysis can positively identify cases of SCC in the valve stems. Other than corrosion, the only credible failure mode for the valve stems is mechanical impact and I have not seen any evidence of such a failure mode in the testing I performed on Mr. Tomassini's valve stem or in the documents that I have reviewed. It is my opinion that corrosion-related failures can be readily identified by the average mechanic at a tire shop.

Realistically, there are only two possible mechanisms for fracture and separation of the valve stem. Either the valve stems have suffered an external impact or force that breaks the stem, or the damage is corrosion related. Corrosion-related failures such as SCC produce dull fracture surfaces with little or no apparent deformation of the metal. In contrast, a mechanically-induced failure due to impact or overload will result in a shiny fracture surface and significant plastic deformation (e.g., permanent stretching of the metal) in the region next to the fracture.

It is also unrealistic to assume that the huge increase in valve stem failures reported by tire repair/sales shops is solely due to an increase in mechanical damage events.

Appendix A | Curriculum Vitae of Eric V. Sullivan, PE



ERIC V. SULLIVAN, P.E.
Materials and Metallurgical Engineer

Mr. Eric Sullivan has over 32 years of metallurgical engineering experience in the fields of materials, metallurgical, and welding engineering, nondestructive examination, and failure investigation. Mr. Sullivan specializes in the analysis of mechanical equipment, engines, combustion and steam turbines, and devices that are involved in complex accidents, losses, fires, and explosions. Mr. Sullivan is also experienced in providing testimony for deposition, mediation, and trial.

Specialized Professional Competence

- Metallurgical engineering
- Failure analysis and prevention
- Fire and explosion investigations
- Fatigue
- Nondestructive examination
- Field testing/instrumentation
- Welding
- Quality assurance
- Expert witness
- Fracture mechanics
- Mechanical testing
- Accident reconstruction

Equipment

- Utility and industrial boilers
- Machinery
- Pressure vessels
- Heat exchangers
- Industrial furnaces
- Ski lifts
- Bolts and fasteners
- Gasoline engines
- Diesel engines
- Automobiles and trucks
- Pumps
- Steam tubing
- Steam turbines
- Combustion turbines
- Generators
- Oil and gas pipelines
- Gas field equipment
- Welded structures
- High energy steam piping
- Fans
- Structures
- Valves and piping

Industries

- Metals processing
- Petrochemical
- Manufacturing
- Fossil and nuclear power generation
- Construction
- Aerospace
- Refinery
- Electronics

Recent Work

- Failure Analysis — Refinery piping failures, underground steam pipe failures, underground gasoline and crude oil pipeline failures, well casing failures for a salt dome natural gas storage facility, industrial gas and diesel engines, turbochargers, valves, pumps, gasoline and crude oil pipeline ruptures, fire protection system piping, water piping, and nuclear plant turbines, bolts, valves, and piping systems.
- Fire and Explosion Accident Investigation — Evaluation of failures of equipment, devices and systems that cause accidents, fires and explosions, including oxygen and oxyacetylene systems, refineries, copper smelters, industrial boilers, pump seals, pressure tanks, vessels, and natural gas storage facilities.
- Accident Reconstruction — Evaluation of accidents involving oxygen and oxyacetylene welding system explosions, oil refinery fires and explosions, personal injuries, rocket fuel oxidizer explosions, building explosions caused by leaking buried gas pipelines, underground migration of combustible gas.
- Technical Consulting — Engineering analysis and consulting on large legal cases involving refinery and chemical plant equipment integrity.
- Welding – Preparation and review of welding procedures and welding repair procedures for power plants, piping and equipment.

Project Experience – Metallurgical Engineering

- Failure Analysis — Failure analysis for a wide range of components, including pumps, pressure vessels, machinery, turbines, motor vehicles, electronic components, piping, and medical implants.
- Rotating Equipment — Instrumentation and evaluation of vibration in petrochemical equipment; failure analysis of gas and steam turbines; development of fracture mechanics code for evaluation of defects in steam turbines; fitness-for-service evaluation of inspection indications in turbine rotors; failure analysis of pumps and other machinery.
- Pressure Vessels/Piping — Metallurgical and failure analysis of buried petrochemical pipelines, steam lines, boiler tubes, water and hydraulic piping; evaluation of creep and creep/fatigue of high-temperature components; fitness-for service analysis of weld defects.
- Materials Review
- Testing and Instrumentation — Strain gage analysis of high pressure natural gas storage vessels and hydraulic piping systems; instrumentation of laboratory test setups for computerized data acquisition of strain, pressure, temperature, displacement, and force

- Accident Reconstruction — Explosion analysis of medical oxygen systems and oxyacetylene welding equipment

Education and Professional Background

- B.S. (Metallurgical Engineering), California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, California (1980)
- Professional Engineer, Metallurgical, California No. 1771
- Licensed Private Investigator, State of California
- Comprehensive Courses:
 - *Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Training*, University of California, Santa Cruz (July 1995)
 - *Scanning Electron Microscopy and X-ray Microanalysis*, Lehigh University (1992)
 - *Hazardous Materials Management*, University of California, Santa Cruz (July 1993)
 - *BATC Refinery Contractors Process Safety Orientation* (May 1999)
- Recipient of ASM Metallography Award

Selected Reports, Publications, and Invited Lectures

Task 1 – Initial Evaluation of LNG Tank Explosion at Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation on January 29, 2014, Intertek AIM Report AIM 14078700-4-1 (September 2014).

Failure Evaluation of a Steam Tube, Intertek AIM Report AES 14038651-2-1 (September 2014).

Evaluation of Press Alternate Repair Schemes, with M. Cronin, Intertek AIM Report AES 12078179-4-4 (June 2014).

MSP–JV–Te Mihi Geothermal Plant Notes Prepared for Witness Statement for Adjudication/ Arbitration (Intertek AIM Project 0229 AES 13108493-4), Intertek AIM Report AES 13118518-4-1 (May 2014).

Metallurgical Evaluation of Waterwall Tubes with Blisters at El Centro Power Plant, Unit 4, Intertek AIM Report AES 14038632-2-1 (April 2014).

Nondestructive Inspection of a Duplex Stainless Steel Vapor Compressor Impeller and Housing, Intertek AIM Report AES 11027696-4-2 (March 2014).

Failure Investigation of a Screw Compressor Shaft Fracture at the Ripon Cogeneration Plant, Intertek AIM Report AES 13108508-4-1 (February 2014).

Review of fabrication and Construction Procedures for Grade 91 Piping and Fittings at Walter Scott Energy Center, Unit 4, Intertek AIM Report AES 13078439-2-2 (January 2014).

Investigation of Terminal Heat Exchanger Tube Failures at the Indianapolis Airport, Indianapolis, Indiana, Intertek AIM Report AES 12088185-4-1 (December 2013).

Failure Analysis of Stage 8 and 9 Compressor Blades and Vanes, Select First Stage Blades, and Analysis of Slag Deposits, Intertek AIM Report AES 13108503-2-1 (December 2013).

Investigation of a Hydraulic Cylinder Check Valve Failure, Intertek AIM Report AES 13108493-4-1 (October 2013).

Metallurgical Evaluation of Proposed Water Treatment Substitutions, Intertek AIM Report AES 13088459-3-1 (September 2013).

Metallurgical Investigation of a Gate Valve Failure at Petro Star's Valdez, Alaska, Facility on December 28, 2008, Intertek AIM Report AES 09017043-34-3 (September 2013).

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Additional Information

For more information regarding Intertek AIM's personnel and services, please contact our Sunnyvale, CA (USA) office at 408-745-7000 or our Houston, TX (USA) office at 832-593-0550 or visit our website at www.intertek.com/aim.

Appendix B | Testimonial Experience of Eric V. Sullivan, PE

Testimonial Experience – Eric V. Sullivan, PE

DATE	CASE NAME	CASE DESCRIPTION	Case No.	COURT
2-10-1999	Charles F. Clark and Kathleen Morgan Clark vs. Pacific Gas and Electric Company	Personal Injury, failure of a telephone pole step	CV – 983027 Trial Testimony	Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco
9-19-1996	Pries v. Bob Molinaro, PG&E, & Mueller Valve Co.	Gas valve failure, house burned to the ground, Pleasanton, CA	V-010584-4 Deposition	California State Superior Court, San Francisco County
6-25-1999	Lahkeka Lewis v. San Leandro Unified School District	Wall radiator bolt failure, broken leg	H-1921821 Deposition	California State Superior Court, Alameda County, Southern Division
7-25-2000	John J. Seroogy v. The Pillsbury Co, et al.	Food contamination with plastic piece, intestinal injury	306491 Deposition	California State Superior Court, San Francisco, San Francisco County
8-29-2001	Federal Insurance Company v. CHI Western Operations, Inc., McMaster Carr	Explosion and fire in an air over oil pressure accumulator	F-99-6181 AWI/DLB Deposition	United States District Court – Eastern District of California
6-6-2002	Silva v. Aspen Precision Technologies, et al.	Accident With 24 foot extension ladder	224633 Deposition	California State Superior Court, Sonoma County
11-08-2002	Mohave LLC v. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries ⁴	Weld Fractures on wind turbine ladder rungs	Arbitration Testimony	American Arbitration Association Case No. 50 T 1980011900 and 50 T 1980045800
10-21-2002	Patrick L. Crocker vs. New Age Et. Al.	Caster Wheel Rivet Failure	99AS04536 Deposition	Superior Court, County of Sacramento, CA
7-1-2003	BART/Jones Vertrans Vs ECS Corporation	Escalator Step Chain Failures	C 01-5366 MMC Deposition	United States District Court, N. California
9-10-2003	Honeywell International, Inc. vs. Eagle Picher Industries, Inc.	Failures of turbocharger compressor wheels	CV02-04279NM (CWX) Deposition	United States District Court, Central District of California
1-24-2005	David Pafford and Tina Pafford Vs. Del Monte Foods Corp.	Steam Valve Failure With Personal Injury	CGC03422797 Deposition	Superior Court, San Francisco County
1-11-2008	Brian Moore vs. BT	Injury Due to Failure of	05CECG03049	Superior Court,

DATE	CASE NAME	CASE DESCRIPTION	Case No.	COURT
	Mancini Co., Bigge Crane and Rigging, et. al.	Banding Strap	Deposition	County of Kern, Metropolitan Division, CA
1-8-2009	BP Amoco Chemical Company vs. Flint Hills Resources, LLC	Condition of Assets involved in chemical plant sale	05 C 5661 Deposition Daubert Hearing Trial Testimony	United States District Court, for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
10-13-2008	Travelers Property Casualty of America	HVAC System water Leak with damage to multiple stories of 8 story building	106CV067292 Deposition	Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara
7-20-2009	Pacific Indemnity vs. Solar Turbines	Gas Turbine Damage due to ingestion of pieces of the FOD (foreign object damage) screen.	GC038236 Deposition	Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
9-30-2009	Pacific Indemnity vs. Solar Turbines	Gas Turbine Damage due to ingestion of pieces of the FOD (foreign object damage) screen.	GC038236 Trial Testimony	Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
4-01-2010	Regency Gas Services vs. General Electric Company	Fire Caused by Failure of a Natural Gas Compressor	2008-16567 Deposition	District Court, Harris County, Texas
12-17-2013	Petro Star Inc. VS. Samshin Limited et. Al.	Fire and explosion at the Petrostar Refinery, Valdez, Alaska	NO. 2010-68788 Deposition	District Court, Harris County, Texas 164th Judicial District
9-22-2014 9-23-2014	Petro Star Inc. VS. Samshin Limited et. Al.	Fire and explosion at the Petrostar Refinery, Valdez, Alaska	NO. 2010-68788 Trial	District Court, Harris County, Texas 164th Judicial District

Publications in the last 10 years – None

Appendix C | Documents Relied Upon