

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

Date of Transcription 5-15-2014

On Wednesday, May 14, 2014, this agent met with MAXIE ROSELL who is the Safety, Security, and Risk Management Manager for Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC), DOUGLAS WINEGARDNER and ALBERT M. ORGAIN who are both attorneys at the Sands Anderson law firm located in Richmond, VA (representing REC in this matter), and several engineers from REC. This agent met with them at a newly planted corn field that parallels Ruther Glen Road adjacent to Loving Lane located in Caroline County, VA. The purpose of the interview was to obtain information about the power lines, power line poles, historical information about the easement, and gather photographic evidence of the power line strike reference the hot air balloon crash that occurred on May 9, 2014.

The power lines that were struck are referred to as "The Caroline Packing Lines," that run from the Caroline Pines switch station along Ruther Glen Road to the Caroline Packing Company.

ROSELL verified through REC documents that this power line easement had been in place since 1951.

The power lines provide single phase service to residences, and it provides either A, B, or C service. Each single phase line is a 7,200 volt line that then runs from a transformer where it then provides 120 to 240 volt residential service. The manufacture date of the nearest pole was March 1999 (this is manufacture date not installation date). The pole was described as a 40 Class 5 pole.

ROSELL explained that per National Electric Safety Code (NESC), ten percent of the 40 foot pole (4') plus two foot equals 6 foot which means the 40 foot pole would be buried 6 feet in the ground thus the pole stands 34 foot from the top of the pole to the ground.

After this agent took photographs of the scene at ground level, this agent provided his Department issued NIKON D40 camera to ROSELL who photographed the lines from an elevated position from a REC bucket truck.

Investigation on 5-14-2014 at Caroline County File # 14-02-08-0678

by Special Agent William H. Ticho III  Date dictated 5-15-2014 -5

Photographs take by ROSELL show contact marks and electrical arcing on two of the three electrical lines.

The photographs of the lines specifically show pitting and deformation of the ACSR 336 (aluminum conductor steel reinforced)

ACSR is a high- strength stranded cable designed for use in overhead power lines. ACSR uses aluminum alloy wires that are concentrically stranded around a steel core.

ROSELL also took photographs from the elevated boom of the power line service truck that showed the corn field the balloon was attempting to land in.

There were also photographs taken of yellow melted and charred debris that was hanging from tree branches near the power lines.

REC workers removed the insulated sleeves that they had placed onto the power lines and any other equipment that would place weight on the power lines, this was done in an effort to record the most accurate measurement from the ground to the area of the lines that showed the contact marks.

This measurement was recorded to be approximately 30' from the tallest line to the ground.

This agent sketched the power pole and power lines and recorded all measurement taken.

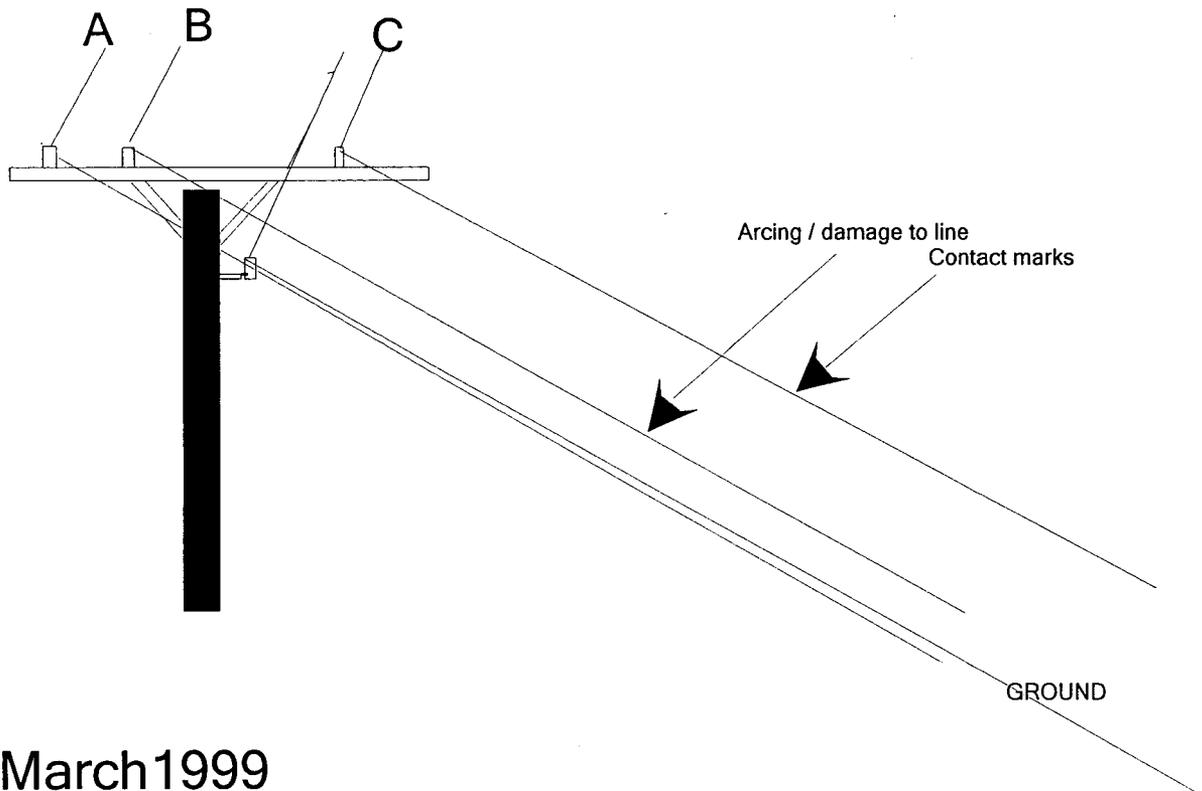
Attached is a FX3 diagram detailing the power lines and approximate location of the balloon basket strike in relation to the power line pole.

All photographs taken on this date have been placed into a 1A file and attached to this report.

Virginia State Police



Drawn By S.A. W.H. Ticho III	Location: Ruther Glen Rd. Caroline County
Date Drawn 5/27/2014	Incident Date: 5/9/2014
Scale Not to scale	Case 14-81-02-5007



Pole date March 1999
Power pole approximate height 34'
Line height- approximate height 30'