

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

HOUSE EXPLOSION IN FIRESTONE, *

COLORADO, APRIL 17, 2017 *

* Accident No.: DCA17FP005

* * * * *

Interview of: RAY CASIAS

Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection
District Business & Education
Center
Longmont, Colorado

Tuesday,
July 25, 2017

APPEARANCES:

RAVI CHHATRE, Investigator in Charge
National Transportation Safety Board

MATTHEW MCKENZIE, Attorney
National Transportation Safety Board

GBENGA AJIBOYE, General Engineer
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
(PHMSA)

MICHAEL LEONARD, Quality Assurance Professional
Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission

MATTHEW LEPORE, Director
Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission

DOUG PRUNK, Fire Investigator
Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District

DAVID PUC CETTI, Fire Investigator
Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District

DAVID MCBRIDE, Vice President of Health, Safety &
Environment
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

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I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. CHHATRE: Good morning. Today is Tuesday, July 25th,
3 2017. We are currently at Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection
4 District's Business and Education Center located at 8426 Kosmerl
5 Place, Longmont, Colorado. We are meeting regarding the
6 investigation of explosion of a house located at 6312 Twilight
7 Avenue, Firestone, Colorado that occurred on April 17, 2017.

8 My name is Ravi Chhatre. I am with the National
9 Transportation Safety Board located in Washington, D.C., and I am
10 investigator in charge of this accident. The NTSB investigation
11 number for this accident is DCA17FP005.

12 I would like to start by notifying everyone present in this
13 room that we are recording this interview and we may transcribe it
14 at a later date. Transcripts will be provided directly to the
15 interviewee for review and identifying any typographical errors.
16 The transcripts may be posted in NTSB's public docket.

17 Also, I would like to inform Mr. Ray Casias that are you
18 permitted to have one other person present with you during the
19 interview. This is a person of your choice -- your supervisor,
20 friend, family member or, if you choose, no one at all. Please
21 state for the record your full name, spelling of your name,
22 organization you work for and your title, business contact
23 information, such as mailing address, and whom you have chosen to
24 be present with you during your interview.

25 MR. CASIAS: My name is Ray Casias, R-A-Y, C-A-S-I-A-S. And

1 contact information would be [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. And I currently work
2 for Select Energy Services. And I contract for Anadarko Petroleum
3 Corporation. And I choose to be here by myself.

4 MR. CHHATRE: Now, I would like to go around and have each
5 person introduce themselves. Please state your name, spelling of
6 your name, your title and the organization that you represent and
7 your business contact information, starting from my left.

8 MR. AJIBOYE: My name is Gbenga Ajiboye, spelled G-B-E-N-G-A,
9 A-J-I-B-O-Y-E. I'm a General Engineer for the Office of Pipeline
10 Safety, Western Region, which is PHMSA. My contact information is
11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. And my email is [REDACTED].

12 MR. LEONARD: Mike Leonard, first name, common spelling, last
13 name, L-E-O-N-A-R-D. I'm the Quality Assurance Professional for
14 the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, phone number
15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED], email address is [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED].

17 MR. LEPORE: Matt Lepore, common first name, last name,
18 L-E-P-O-R-E. I'm the Director of the Colorado Oil and Gas
19 Conservation Commission, telephone number, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], email,
20 [REDACTED].

21 MR. PRUNK: Doug Prunk, Fire Investigator for Frederick
22 Firestone Fire Protection Agency. It's D-O-U-G, P-R-U-N-K,
23 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 4.

24 MR. PUCETTI: Dave Puccetti, Fire Investigator, Frederick
25 Firestone Fire Protection District, D-A-V-I-D, P-U-C-C-E-T-T-I.

1 Phone number is [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Address is [REDACTED],
2 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

3 MR. McBRIDE: I'm David McBride. I'm Vice-President for
4 Health, Safety and Environment for Anadarko Petroleum Corporation.
5 It's David, D-A-V-I-D, McBride, M-C-B-R-I-D-E. Email address is
6 [REDACTED]. My phone number is [REDACTED].
7 And my address is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED],
8 [REDACTED].

9 MR. MCKENZIE: My name's Matt McKenzie. I'm an attorney with
10 the NTSB Office of General Counsel, headquarters at 490 L'Enfant
11 Plaza Southwest, Washington, D.C., 20594. Email is
12 [REDACTED] And I can be reached at [REDACTED].

13 MR. CHHATRE: Thank you for that.

14 INTERVIEW OF RAY CASIAS

15 BY MR. CHHATRE:

16 Q. Mr. Casias, for the record, give us your education,
17 background, any formal education, any training with the company,
18 outside the company.

19 A. I recently got certified for LDAR for inspections for
20 emissions and air control.

21 Q. Okay. Any formal education?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Just high school.

25 Q. I see. What is your related work experience?

1 A. My work experience? I've worked in the oil and gas industry
2 for five years. I did vertical wells, horizontals, mostly
3 regulatory inspections, make sure that all signage and everything
4 is proper for the state regulations. And now, I do LDAR
5 inspections for the state, air quality and emissions.

6 Q. I would go back to the well swap between Noble and Anadarko.

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. If you just go back and walk me through what your
9 responsibilities were then. Were you still a contract employee
10 from Anadarko at that time?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And were you still with your parent -- current company at
13 that time?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So tell me what you are supposed to be doing at that time of
16 the swap.

17 A. During that -- during the swap, I would pull on location and
18 I'd have a check sheet that I would go through and make sure all
19 the signage was properly displayed on the facility. And, you
20 know, from the tanks being properly labeled and then going to the
21 wells -- make sure those were properly labeled. Make sure all the
22 components to the wells were, you know, in proper place. And
23 pressure testing the wells to a certain pressure to make sure
24 everything was basically not leaking from that time with the
25 pressure testing for 15 minutes. So, that was my duties during

1 that time.

2 Q. Anybody from Anadarko's side helping you with that process?

3 A. We had a group of people that were helping, yes, during that
4 time.

5 Q. Do you remember any names, titles?

6 A. Oh, it goes down from supervisors to -- there's many
7 contractors. But as far as names, you want me to --

8 Q. How much do you remember?

9 A. Not really. There are guys that are no longer with us
10 anymore.

11 Q. Okay. This check sheet, the check sheet that you had that
12 you are going through?

13 A. Um-hum.

14 Q. Was that provided by Anadarko or Noble?

15 A. Yes. Yes.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Anadarko.

18 Q. And did that have any names with all the other team members
19 or your name or --

20 A. It had the names of who was the current inspector on that
21 facility. So we went, you know, which was -- I was an inspector
22 on that facility. And we just had to put the name and date and
23 the time, how long we were there, how long we initially did the
24 pressure testing on those current wells that we did. So --

25 Q. And what about the pressure testing? Did you have the

1 procedure given to you for that or it was understood?

2 A. Yes. Yes. There was a procedure.

3 Q. And did you have anybody on the Nolan -- Noble side for the
4 handle of inspection or checking?

5 A. No. Nobody was on the Noble side.

6 Q. Noble side.

7 A. So everything was given when they did that whole changeover
8 process. We were given a packet and we would have to go each
9 individual facility that, you know, was given in our packet to go
10 and change out lease signs, change out, you know, all the labeling
11 on the tanks and, you know, paint them. Change out the signage
12 and make sure everything was proper for Anadarko's facilities and
13 make sure everything was proper for the state as well.

14 Q. So you are familiar with all the routing, all the piping in
15 the facility?

16 A. Yes. Yes.

17 Q. Now would that check sheet -- check sheet that you were
18 given, would that show any abandoned lines any --

19 A. No.

20 Q. It would not?

21 A. No.

22 Q. So how would you know if any line at that point -- at any
23 given well, is functioning, abandoned, in place?

24 A. At that time we didn't know what was abandoned, what was not.
25 We were, you know, if a well was shut in, it was shut in. But as

1 far as lines being abandoned, there would be clearly an indication
2 that there was a line that would be abandoned. But for my
3 understanding that, you know, I didn't know there was a line that
4 was abandoned at all.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. We basically, you know, took inventory from what kind of
7 thief hatches there were, what kind of pressure relief valves and
8 components that were associated with that facility. And as far as
9 going out to the well head, we just made all the components were
10 good, you know, they were in place, properly working. And all the
11 bolts and everything that were in place for the valves, you know,
12 were in place. And that was basically what we did.

13 Q. And how many of these well swaps kind of handle or you were
14 involved with or this was the only one?

15 A. No. That wasn't the only one.

16 Q. So, how many you did with Noble on -- this is the only one
17 that you had to do with the transfer or change?

18 A. No. I've probably dealt with hundreds of facilities.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And mainly Noble or other companies or --

22 A. There were mostly from the changeover from Noble to when
23 Anadarko took over them. That's what we were doing is switching
24 all the signage, the lease signs, the labeling. That's what we
25 did for regulatory.

1 Q. So this was not the first one you did?

2 A. No. This wasn't the first one.

3 Q. Okay. Now all the other -- so the pressure test -- what
4 pressure testing you did? Walk me through that.

5 A. We would make sure all the crown valves and everything was --
6 would be closed. And then we'd go the well head and make sure the
7 well head was open. And we would, you know, make sure all the
8 valves were in the current places of the procedures. And then
9 we'd, you know, do a testing from the float -- from the header --
10 from the well head to the header at the separator and make sure
11 there was no pressure drop within a 15-minute time.

12 Q. So in this case where the -- do you remember where the well
13 header as well as the separator was?

14 A. What's that?

15 Q. For this particular well --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. We are talking about now very close to the accident scene.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You are familiar with that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And that is the one you worked on to take -- to go through a
22 checklist?

23 A. I can't remember if that's the exact one. But there was, you
24 know, multiple ones that we, you know, did within that area.

25 Q. If you want I can give you the well number. Would that help

1 you? Or will the community help you or --

2 A. It could help. But, you know, this was probably done three
3 years ago.

4 Q. I understand. I understand. If you remember, you remember.
5 If you don't, you don't.

6 A. Right.

7 Q. And it is 2-3, V-Victor, 6-1-4-J-I.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. Which is near --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. The explosion site.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Have you been to the explosion site since the accident?

14 A. I've seen it. Yeah.

15 Q. Okay. Now have you seen the well which is nearby?

16 A. Yes. Yes.

17 Q. So that is the well we are talking about?

18 A. Yes. Yes.

19 Q. In this particular case, in fact. So there are the -- so on
20 this particular well, do you remember doing a pressure test?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And for the pressure test, do you do pressure testing on all
23 the piping also?

24 A. I mean, just from the well head to the separator. That's,
25 you know, all the piping that we do.

1 Q. But in this case, where the separator was?

2 A. At the battery, at the -- where the tanks are at.

3 Q. Okay. And that would be at other location -- this location?

4 A. Yes. Yes.

5 Q. So do you remember doing the pressure test from this well to
6 the separator point?

7 A. Probably. I mean, like I said, it was three years ago.

8 Q. Sure.

9 A. And in that time span, we've done hundreds of facilities.

10 So --

11 Q. But that will be documented in your --

12 A. Right.

13 Q. Check sheet, right?

14 A. Yeah. Yeah.

15 Q. What time you did a test?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Where you did the test and all that?

18 A. Yes.

19 MR. LEONARD: Where was the battery located?

20 MR CASIAS: I think the battery is located right behind the
21 Sherwin Williams on that corner. There's that little cul-de-sac.

22 MR. LEONARD: Right. Okay.

23 BY MR. CHHATRE:

24 Q. Do you know the street? Anything?

25 A. I don't know exact street. There's a Sherwin Williams paint

1 shop. And it's just east of there.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. In a little field.

4 Q. And at what pressure you do the pressure test? Do you
5 remember that?

6 A. At what place?

7 Q. No. At what pressure?

8 A. Whatever the well had -- whatever that particular well was
9 reading as a, you know, PSI. We would just do it from what those
10 gauges said to -- we'd put gauges, you know, new gauges on the
11 well head to the separator and that's how we conduct. You know,
12 if it had 300 PSI we would just make sure there was no fluctuation
13 in pressure at that time, in that time span.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And if it passed, it passed. If it failed, then we would
16 write a work order for it and have it come looked at.

17 Q. And then that would be Noble doing that or you guys doing
18 that?

19 A. That would -- Noble had no part of that.

20 Q. Okay. So the well already had been transferred to --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Anadarko at that time.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. All right.

25 MR. LEONARD: Can I have a clarification?

1 MR. CHHATRE: Sure. Go ahead. Identify. Identify.

2 MR LEONARD: Are we talking about just the flow line? I'm
3 Mike Leonard. Sorry. Are you talking about just the flow line or
4 all of the lines going to the battery?

5 MR. CASIAS: Just the flow line.

6 MR LEONARD: Just the flow line?

7 MR. CASIAS: Just the flow line from the well head to the
8 separator.

9 MR LEONARD: Okay. Thank you.

10 BY MR. CHHATRE:

11 Q. Now do you recall anything that did not pass at this
12 particular well or you did -- everything passed or you just have
13 no recollection?

14 A. I mean, to be -- like I said, it was three years ago. I
15 mean, if something weren't to pass then we would've had to put a
16 work order in for it. There's fluctuation in pressure. Then we
17 would've put a work order in for that to be, you know, come out
18 and be further inspected. But as far as my understanding, I -- it
19 passed with the flow line.

20 Q. Does the well have to be working at that time -- producing?
21 Or when you did -- or does it have to be producing?

22 A. It didn't have to be producing to be pressure tested. We
23 could, you know, open the well up and then just, you know,
24 pressure it from the well head to the separator. And then if it
25 was shut in, we would just pressure test it and shut it back in

1 and relieve the pressure from that flow line.

2 Q. Okay.

3 MR CHHATRE: And David, did you provide us this check sheet
4 for this particular well?

5 MR. McBRIDE: Yes sir.

6 MR. LEONARD: Was that a completed check sheet or just the
7 blank, standard procedure?

8 MR. McBRIDE: No. It's a completed check sheet. It's got
9 his name on it, you know, that he went to the location.

10 MR. LEONARD: Thank you.

11 BY MR. CHHATRE:

12 Q. Now if there's any modification that needs to be done to that
13 particular well or any well, would you be doing that at that time
14 or could be it will happen at a later date?

15 A. If it was something that could have been fixed on site, then
16 yes, something could've been fixed. But like a particular flow
17 line, then we would have had to put a work order in for that to
18 have it come and be further taken care of.

19 Q. Okay. Do you recall doing anything like that for this
20 particular well in question?

21 A. No. No.

22 Q. And after you took all, did you ever have to go back to this
23 particular well for any inspection, anything at all?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Looking at this drawing, do you remember where the pressure

1 testing was done connection-wise or --

2 A. So, I mean, looking at the well -- so we, you know, here's
3 the master valve. If the master valve was closed, we would open
4 the master valve. And then we, you know, there's a Balon valve
5 here that we would, you know, open up and conduct our, you know,
6 pressure to the separator.

7 Q. If you would write down the well and --

8 MR. LEONARD: Is that a better picture for you?

9 MR. CASIAS: Yes.

10 BY MR. CHHATRE:

11 Q. And write down -- write down today's date and your name on
12 there, please.

13 A. Okay. So --

14 Q. Write down the components you have described.

15 A. So there's the master valve here.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. And we would -- and then we would open that up. And then
18 this ball valve here -- this Balon, you know, is currently closed
19 right now. But it would be -- we would open this one here and
20 then shut all these ones up here. And then the ground valve is
21 right here. This which one --

22 Q. Write down this component. I understand all right now but I
23 may not remember two months down the road. You need a pen?

24 A. Yes. Please. So we would open this up here. And then we
25 would go down to the casing right here.

1 MR. LEONARD: Open the master valve.

2 MR. CASIAS: Open the master valve. And then we would open
3 this valve here -- the ball valve here. And then we would open
4 this ground valve which this ground valve would go to the
5 separator. And then at the separator, there's another crown valve
6 and another valve that we would, you know, open up the crown
7 valve. And then we'd shut the one that's actually going into the
8 separator. And that's where we would conduct our pressure testing
9 right there. So we'd put a gauge there. And then we would simply
10 just time it. You know, our tests at the time were 15 minutes
11 long.

12 BY MR. CHHATRE:

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And we would, you know, conduct in that 15 minutes to see
15 whether there would be any pressure drop.

16 Q. See if it would separate?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you can just write down the components there too.

19 A. See below here, the picture doesn't show but -- yeah. So
20 there's a valve a here.

21 Q. Go ahead. Circle it, mark it and put your name again on this
22 one so --

23 A. This ball valve here is what, you know, not on this
24 particular flow line, but an example. We would open it up here
25 and then close it here. And this is where we would put our

1 pressure gauge.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. We would put our pressure gauge here and then we'd have a
4 pressure gauge at the well head. And we would see what the
5 fluctuation was from the starting time to the ending time and to
6 see what it dropped. And if it didn't drop at all, then it would
7 simply pass.

8 Q. And how much mediation is allowed to say that.

9 A. There's a 10% difference. So if it dropped anywhere from 10%
10 and beyond, then we would have the flow line come be tested.

11 Q. Up to 10% it's kind of accepted that --

12 A. Yes. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. So about this particular well, you recall that the
14 pressure held within that 10%?

15 A. Yes. And that's all we were conducting is just the flow line
16 test. No other lines being tested at all.

17 Q. Okay. Do you recall seeing a line that supposedly was found
18 at the foundation of the --

19 A. I did not recall seeing the line.

20 Q. You don't recall seeing that. Were there any modification to
21 that particular well was discussed while you were there?

22 A. No.

23 Q. And what is the role -- while you are doing this, what is the
24 role of Anadarko people who were there as a team to help you? You
25 said there were several people from Anadarko with you.

1 A. What is the rule?

2 Q. No. What are the roles? What they were doing?

3 A. What is their role? They're just, you know, we're all, you
4 know, in there together as a team. You know? One guy would go to
5 the separator and conduct that. And another guy would go to the
6 well head. You know? I mean, because obviously there's, you
7 know, a big traveling distance between there for one guy to walk
8 back and forth. You know?

9 Q. Right.

10 A. You know, one guy would be here and one guy would be at the
11 well head and we would just, you know, communicate back and forth,
12 you know, on the pressures and, you know, if there was a drop or
13 if there was an increase of pressure or of some sort, then we
14 would simply, you know, try to figure that out and write a work
15 order for it to be further investigated as far as what was going
16 on with it.

17 Q. And who was the person in charge of that whole operation?

18 A. He --

19 Q. Do you remember his name or her name?

20 A. He no longer works with Anadarko. He was the foreman on the
21 -- during the time. But there was different leads out there.

22 So --

23 Q. Okay. But he was -- he was an Anadarko employee?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Okay. And typically how long it took you to go through this

1 particular well?

2 A. Particular -- for this particular well or --

3 Q. With this well if you remember. If not, just give me a
4 typical time.

5 A. From the time that we started to the time we finished it was
6 probably maybe an hour and a half.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. And that was through the whole facility.

9 Q. Okay. And this -- is this typical for most wells or
10 sometimes it takes longer, sometimes takes less?

11 A. Sometimes -- it's pretty typical.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. I mean, if you have to replace something it, you know,
14 nothing goes perfect every time. You know what I mean? There's
15 always something that you have to replace or fix or change out.
16 So --

17 Q. Okay. But nothing to be done and just the pressure test and
18 the whole --

19 A. Yes. Yes.

20 Q. That was all hour and a half.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And was there some kind of a requirement for the crew to do
23 so many wells per day or --

24 A. No.

25 Q. No requirement on that?

1 A. No.

2 Q. And do you have any estimate how many wells you did for
3 Anadarko in the swap? Like in tens, hundreds?

4 A. Probably hundreds.

5 Q. Anything you want to add that you think I should know in the
6 swap? You are more familiar with it than I am.

7 A. No.

8 Q. So tell me that -- if I didn't ask you something that I
9 should know.

10 A. No. That's pretty much it.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. About the swap.

13 Q. Okay. I guess I have no more questions.

14 MR. AJIBOYE: So, this is Gbenga from PHMSA. You said you had
15 about five years' experience in your field?

16 A. Um-hum.

17 Q. Can you elaborate more on that please? On your -- a typical
18 involvement in the oil field.

19 A. I started out with well testing. And after they would frack,
20 we would flow back, you know, the wells to the, you know, that
21 particular well. And then I started -- I did that for a year.
22 And then I went into regulatory for about a year and a half. And
23 then, currently doing air quality and emissions. So --

24 Q. Can you recall the date that this swap happened or date in a
25 month?

- 1 A. I couldn't tell you. It was probably three years ago when --
- 2 Q. Can you tell if it's 2014, 15, 16?
- 3 A. Maybe 2013.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. Late 2014, maybe or early 2014.
- 6 Q. And before the swap, did you -- I know you guys got the well
- 7 from Noble.
- 8 A. Um-hum.
- 9 Q. Was there any kind of orientation about the facility from
- 10 Noble before it comes Anadarko to do this?
- 11 A. Not that particular facility. But, you know, we had, you
- 12 know, different facilities that we, you know, got trained on.
- 13 This is what we had to do. This is what needed to be, you know,
- 14 like a template of a facility that, you know, with all the
- 15 signage, you know, the labeling, everything that's -- was up for
- 16 Anadarko -- what they wanted. But as far as that particular
- 17 facility, there was no orientation or briefing on what we needed
- 18 to do.
- 19 Q. So typically -- correct me if I'm wrong. Typically, there's
- 20 going to be a swap.
- 21 A. Um-hum.
- 22 Q. So you guys don't get a talk party from the original owner or
- 23 any kind of orientation about the facility?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. So everything -- all the training you got about that was from

1 Anadarko?

2 A. Um-hum. Yes. That's -- I mean, for example, that's like me
3 taking this wrapper off and saying here, put your logo on it.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. That's what it is. You know, there was no -- you don't
6 nothing about this bottle of water, where it came from at all.
7 That's basically what we're put up against.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. You know? So, it's taking this off and putting your own, you
10 know, everything on it from -- to be Anadarko's.

11 Q. Okay. And during the swap, did you guys take any kind of
12 picture documentation?

13 A. Did we do what?

14 Q. Picture documentation?

15 A. No.

16 Q. No pictures?

17 A. No pictures.

18 Q. And you've gone through this facility, right? As of the time
19 of sway, if you can remember, there are some configuration we seen
20 on this picture -- I'm talking about this, the first picture on
21 the well head. You see all this little configuration?

22 A. Um-hum.

23 Q. Is this something that caught your attention at the time of
24 the swap or --

25 A. No. Because there was -- during the swap there was, you

1 know, all this -- all this stainless tubing, you know, was
2 probably not there because it was probably copper tubing.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. And during that time, you know, things got switched out from
5 copper tubing to stainless tubing.

6 Q. Okay. Now, there are -- we have some risers over here.

7 A. Um-hum.

8 Q. We have these two inch and one inch riser.

9 A. Um-hum.

10 Q. Did that catch your attention?

11 A. No.

12 Q. During the swap?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you recollect -- do you have any recollection of anything?

15 A. No.

16 Q. If there was any kind of riser here, say during the swap,
17 would that have been anything of concern to you during the swap?

18 A. No. Because we're particularly focused on the well head and
19 doing the pressure test with the flow line. You know, all these
20 other components to the -- you know, from the separators to the
21 well heads that, you know, weren't involved with the well head
22 that we were doing our pressure testing, wasn't our involvement.

23 Q. So which means you wouldn't have really cared. Right? If
24 there was anything with any facility you are taking over that, of
25 course, this would be part of.

1 A. Right.

2 Q. So you wouldn't have cared if probably there was trailer here
3 during the swap. Would you have cared if it has nothing to do
4 with operation?

5 A. If there was a trailer there?

6 Q. Just -- I'm just putting some --

7 A. Yeah. It's not that I didn't care. It just that it didn't
8 have -- I mean, yeah. If there was a trailer there, yeah.
9 Certain, I mean, have the trailer obviously be moved. You know?
10 Being that close. But, you know, that -- this area wasn't, you
11 know, our involvement with pressure testing the flow line.

12 Q. Okay. And can you tell us anything that would have been
13 present during the swap that would have given you any kind of
14 concern? That you would have probably asked a few questions
15 about?

16 A. Yeah. If there was a flow line leak during that pressure
17 test because that was our involvement was to pressure test the
18 well head and make sure that the components to the well head
19 weren't leaking.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Whether it was shut in or active. Because our involvement
22 was to pressure test the well head, make sure that flow line had
23 not leaks in it.

24 Q. Okay. That would be --

25 A. I mean, whether it was another flow line that was -- just

1 something else or something. But that particular flow line to
2 that well head to the separator, that's what we were conducting
3 our pressure test.

4 Q. Okay.

5 MR. CHHATRE: That is the end of my questions.

6 BY MR. LEONARD:

7 Q. Mike Leonard, COGCC. And I may have missed it. But you said
8 when you were testing, you opened the orbit valve and then you
9 opened the ground valve, put the gauge in the at the separator.
10 Correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. How'd you open the latch valve?

13 A. The latch valve?

14 Q. The motor valve.

15 A. That's when we had closed it up here so there wasn't no
16 pressure going back through. So we would close it over here and
17 then it would obviously not be sending pressure to the motor
18 valve.

19 Q. You closed it on the casing?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Casing side -- so that the motor valve would open?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Okay. The return line's pretty -- 1-inch return lines, are
24 they pretty common in the field?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Okay. Are most -- and most is probably the wrong word, but
2 have you seen quite a few that were plumbed the way this one was -
3 - with using the one inch return line with the stainless?

4 A. Yeah. It was pretty common.

5 Q. It was pretty common? Okay. Thank you.

6 A. It was -- it was -- I'm sorry. It was mostly common with
7 the, you know, during the swap with Noble to Anadarko.

8 Q. One other question. Was -- do you recall -- did you change
9 the copper to stainless?

10 A. I did not. No.

11 Q. That was another group prior to you being there?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. I mean, we had involvement changing in inside the separator
15 house. But we never went out to the well head to do the swapping
16 of the stainless.

17 Q. Okay.

18 BY MR. LEPORE:

19 Q. Matt Lepore, also with COGCC. Was it within the scope of
20 your work during the inspections on the swap, to pressure test the
21 return lines?

22 A. No.

23 Q. So in this case, even -- you saw it was plumbed to the well
24 head in some way.

25 A. Um-hum.

1 Q. That just wasn't part of the scope of your duties?

2 A. Right.

3 Q. Okay. You were inspecting these locations after the swap had
4 taken place?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And the signage that you reference that you were looking at
7 at that time was it Anadarko's signage or --

8 A. No.

9 Q. It was still Noble's signage?

10 A. It was Nobles. Yes.

11 Q. So tell me about -- what was your responsibility with respect
12 to the Noble signage?

13 A. So the signage on Noble's, you know, we took off all their,
14 you know, stickers and all their, you know, templates of their
15 signage that was on the tanks. We would spray paint the old, you
16 know, 300 barrel signs. And we'd put new templates up there and
17 spray paint those and put new, you know, Anadarko signage up there
18 and stickers. You know? All the labeling was to Anadarko's
19 standings and procedures.

20 Q. So part of your job was transitioning the signage from Noble
21 to Anadarko?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Okay. Thank you. You mentioned that you did not take
24 pictures. Was that a directive by Anadarko or someone else to not
25 take pictures or just not part of the protocol?

- 1 A. Just not part of our protocol.
- 2 Q. No one directed you not to take pictures?
- 3 A. Yeah. No one -- I mean, it was -- you know, no one said
4 anything about it.
- 5 Q. Okay. But as a matter of course, you did not carry a camera,
6 did not take pictures, did not document the work in photographs?
- 7 A. Correct. Correct. Yes.
- 8 Q. Okay. Your employer at that time was who?
- 9 A. Select Energy Services.
- 10 Q. Thank you. Do you know what year -- have you worked for any
11 other oil and gas service companies besides Select Energy?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Do you know what year you started at Select Energy?
- 14 A. 2012.
- 15 Q. And I know that the other gentleman asked you, but I want to
16 just see if I can jog your memory again with respect to this swap
17 between Anadarko and Noble and your inspections. Do you have a
18 best estimate of what year that was?
- 19 A. It was probably, you know, in between 2013 and 2014.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. That was on this particular facility.
- 22 Q. What season of the year was it?
- 23 A. Probably early Spring to early Summer.
- 24 Q. So not the dead of Winter?
- 25 A. No.

1 Q. Weather was --

2 A. Nice.

3 Q. Warmer.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Did the scope of your work include in any way pressure
6 testing any abandoned lines?

7 A. No.

8 Q. So I want to show you this picture. I don't know if you have
9 it. You have it? Okay. So let me see if there's -- actually I
10 want to use this one. So you haven't marked on that one. So if
11 you would again write your name and the date on that one.

12 A. On this one here?

13 Q. On this one, yeah.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. Okay. So I'm going to represent to you that it is my
16 understanding that this is a photograph of the Coors V-6, J --
17 sorry. Coors V-6, 14, J, I, taken on April 18, 2017. And in this
18 picture I want to point out to you to the left, a riser coming up
19 out of the ground that I -- appears to me to be a two inch riser
20 that is not plumbed to the well. Do you agree with that
21 characterization?

22 A. I do agree with that.

23 Q. Okay. And the scope of your work during the swap for
24 Anadarko, did it involve in any way a test of that kind of riser
25 coming up out of the ground that was not plumbed to the well?

1 A. No.

2 Q. To the right of that in this photograph --

3 MR. AJIBOYE: Excuse me. This is Ajiboye. Do you want to
4 circle that and maybe write down for the reference?

5 MR. LEPORE: So you want to circle it and write down
6 abandoned line?

7 MR. AJIBOYE: Abandoned -- whatever the two inch --

8 MR. LEPORE: Abandoned two inch line? Okay.

9 BY MR. LEPORE:

10 Q. Okay. And then to the right in the photograph, there's
11 another riser coming up out of the ground. I would describe that
12 as perhaps a one inch riser. And it appears to me that riser is
13 plumbed to the well head. Would you agree with that
14 characterization?

15 A. Yes sir.

16 Q. And so let's circle that and call it 1-inch riser. And I
17 think I've asked you before, but since we have the picture I'll
18 ask you again. Was it within the scope of the duties of your job
19 in the swap to pressure test a line like that?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Mr. Casias, was there a standard procedure provided to you in
22 the event that a pressure test failed? Was there a standard
23 procedure for what you would do in the instance of a pressure test
24 failure?

25 A. Yes.

1 MR. LEPORE: Can I ask David if we have a copy of that?

2 MR. McBRIDE: Can you ask him what that procedure was first?

3 MR. CASIAS: The procedure -- if a particular well failed on
4 a pressure test within that 10%, you know, pressure, you know, we
5 would call our supervisor, let him know and then we would
6 indicate, you know, everything that happened, you know, what the
7 pressure was, the time, the date, location. And we would send in
8 a work order for that.

9 BY MR. LEPORE:

10 Q. And that's what the standard procedure laid out?

11 A. That -- yeah. That's what we would --

12 Q. So your work was done after you sent in the work order?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Another crew came in and did whatever happened then?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You referenced earlier a foreman for Anadarko who was sort of
17 over -- in charge of the whole program that you were part of. Is
18 that correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And I think you were asked, but I'll ask you again if you can
21 recall his name?

22 A. Lee Sergeant (ph.). And he's no longer with Anadarko.

23 Q. Do you know where he works now? It is a him?

24 A. I believe he retired.

25 Q. Okay.

1 MR. CHHATRE: How do you spell the Lee?

2 MR. CASIAS: L-E-E.

3 MR. CHHATRE: And the last name, common spelling?

4 MR. CASIAS: Correct on the Sergeant. It's S-E-R -- I'm not
5 completely.

6 BY MR. LEPORE:

7 Q. Do I understand correctly that when you -- I'll try it again.
8 Do I understand correctly that when Anadarko acquired wells from
9 Noble, Anadarko, Noble's standard configuration included copper
10 piping to connect flow lines to the well head?

11 A. Yes. They had copper flow or copper lines throughout the
12 separator and the well heads.

13 Q. Okay. So control line is the right term for those?

14 A. Yeah. It would just be the same as the stainless tubing.

15 Q. Okay. And it was Anadarko's decision to swap out the copper
16 and replace it with stainless steel?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And was that within the scope of your work?

19 A. Not during that time.

20 Q. Was it the scope of your work at a later time?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So you did inspections as like kind of a step one?

23 A. Um-hum.

24 Q. And at some other later time, Select Energy was hired to
25 switch the copper control lines or plumbing lines to stainless

1 steel lines?

2 A. Correct. We -- yes. We did that, still involving the
3 regulatory. But we had no involvement with the well heads. It
4 was just the separators. So another crew had come out and done
5 all the well heads with all their automation and everything.

6 Q. Great. Thank you. To your knowledge, at the time that the
7 work of swapping out stainless for copper, copper for stainless --
8 at the time that work was done, were there any pressure tests done
9 at that time?

10 A. On the copper tubing?

11 Q. On the stainless steel. So you take off copper, you put in
12 stainless -- in any part of that process, was there a pressure
13 test involved?

14 A. Yes. I'm pretty sure that they're -- because in the
15 separators -- because I'm -- don't get me wrong, on the well heads
16 we had no involvement. I had no involvement on the well heads.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. But as far as the separators, we had involvement with
19 changing out the copper tubing to stainless tubing. And we did
20 have to conduct pressure testing on those -- make sure there was
21 no leaks after we finished the job.

22 Q. Thank you. Do you know whether Select Services, if I'm
23 saying the name right -- Select Energy Services? Did they do the
24 well head site or was it a different company that swapped?

25 A. Select Energy did not do that.

1 Q. Select Energy did not do the swap out on the --

2 A. It was -- on the well heads.

3 Q. On the well heads.

4 A. As far I know it was -- Anadarko probably had somebody else
5 come out and do it. You know? Because there's a lot of
6 automation connected to the wells. So we didn't have no
7 involvement with that.

8 Q. Just tell me what you mean by automation.

9 A. Automation is, you know, control -- what controls, you know,
10 from the well head to the separators. It's all in a control box
11 that we, you know, we can get alerts on how much fluid's in a tank
12 and what the well head's doing, basically.

13 MR. LEONARD: Mike Leonard. I just have one follow up question.
14 When you're talking about the automation and I know you didn't
15 change it. Did they change the automation boxes? Did Noble have
16 a different type of automation set up?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Was it a manual or was it true automation that went back to a
19 -- or do you remember?

20 A. I'm not 100% sure if it was a manual. But I know when
21 Anadarko came in and when they did, you know, after the swap, they
22 put their sensors and all their stuff, you know, because it was
23 theirs. They put all their stuff on that well to be theirs. So
24 everything that was Noble's, it was taken off.

25 Q. So is it fair to say that at the time that you pressure

1 tested that well head, this could have been plumbed with copper?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you remember if it was?

4 A. Yes. It did have copper.

5 Q. It did have copper at the time you plumbed the well?

6 A. We had to write down if there was stainless tubing, copper
7 tubing in our check sheet.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. And I'm sure that check sheet has that information on there.

10 Q. Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. LEPORE: That's all I have for now.

12 MR. CHHATRE: Write down your question and when your time
13 comes, please.

14 BY MR. PRUNK:

15 Q. Doug Prunk for Firestone. You said that it took about an
16 hour and a half. That was for that well battery to do --

17 A. That was from start to finish.

18 Q. Or just on this, each particular well took an hour and a half
19 well bed or each --

20 A. Facility.

21 Q. Facility?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. From start to finish. From the time I pulled in --

25 Q. Yeah. Okay.

1 A. Because, I mean, there could have been -- I don't know if
2 there's four or five different wells pertain to this facility and
3 each one 15-minute tests. If something went wrong or found
4 something else and -- but start to finish was roughly an hour and
5 a half.

6 Q. Okay. Thank you. In that time you said that your protocol
7 was if you found certain errors that were beyond your scope of
8 repair, you would write that up?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You said that you dealt with hundreds of wells in this
11 process. Just how often did you have to do forward work orders?

12 A. On flow lines? None. I mean, there'd be ball valves, you
13 know, the Balons that might've been washed out. But as are as --

14 Q. But you were able to repair those --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. On site and not have to turn it over to Anadarko?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. But as far as flow lines, I have not seen a cracked flow line
20 at all.

21 Q. Okay. So in that photo that Mr. Lapore was talking to you
22 about which we circled this flow line, did you see this type of
23 configuration often with an abandoned line and then a return line
24 that was still connected?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Is that a common --

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Do you know -- I mean, what is the difference between -- do
4 you know that that's an active line or not an active line?

5 A. I do not know if that was an active line or not. This
6 particular riser with the 1-inch, probably went to an ECD unit
7 which is a flare unit to burn off gas.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. But as far as what that line is, I have no recollection of
10 what that's for or where that goes.

11 Q. Even -- not even on this well in particular.

12 A. Right.

13 Q. But just in general you would have no idea.

14 A. Right.

15 Q. So in your industry, what do you think is considered like an
16 abandoned line or not? How do you know if it's abandoned or not?

17 A. It's either taped or flagged.

18 Q. Okay.

19 MR. PRUNK: I think that's all I have. Thank you.

20 BY MR. PUC CETTI:

21 Q. Dave Puccetti, Frederick Firestone Fire. Mr. Casias, thank
22 you for taking the time to answer my questions. Just got a couple
23 of them. When you were doing your testing, how many wells would
24 you test a day, on average?

25 A. Like I said, this particular facility probably has maybe four

1 or five wells. So it depends on something would happen, we would
2 probably do anywhere from three to four facilities a day.

3 Q. Three and four a day? Okay.

4 A. But that, I mean, that's facilities. That could range from
5 one well to eight or more.

6 Q. Sure. Okay. Thank you. So we've already talked about the
7 drawing that Mr. Lapore pointed out. Again, in your knowledge and
8 experience in the time -- in the five years that you've been
9 spending in oil and gas, what is the overall operations of those
10 return lines? Of these two return lines you're seeing here, what
11 base knowledge do you have on those? I think you described a
12 little bit of it.

13 A. I know this one would probably -- you know, the one inch
14 riser would probably go to a flare unit.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. To burn off gas.

17 Q. Okay. And would that flare unit be located up at the tank
18 battery up near Sherwin Williams?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Is that where that flare would be?

21 A. Yeah. Yeah.

22 Q. Are -- when you do your labeling, when it went from Noble to
23 Anadarko, was it external labeling on the sight or was there
24 actual valve labeling? Or how would you label? I'm not really --
25 I don't have a lot of gas knowledge in labeling. We see a lot of

1 signage outside.

2 A. Um-hum.

3 Q. And who the -- and you may have answered part of this. Is
4 there any internal labeling that you do?

5 A. No. None within the well head at all.

6 Q. Okay. Okay.

7 A. Mostly it was at the tank battery with the lease signs.

8 Q. Okay. Great. Okay. On this particular well, did you have
9 any -- so when you're doing testing, you have to know either that
10 the well is operating or shut in, correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. How many times in your knowledge of -- with this particular
13 well, was the well shut in?

14 A. Was this particular -- to answer your question, was this well
15 head shut in during the time? Is that what you're asking?

16 Q. Again, at the time -- how many times -- you probably visited
17 this -- how many times -- how many years were you at this
18 particular site? Start there.

19 A. That was maybe twice.

20 Q. Twice? Were there -- was it shut in both times or was it
21 full operation?

22 A. I can't remember if that particular well was shut in or --

23 Q. Okay. Would that be documented on your log sheet?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And as far as rotation, how often would this well be tested?
3 Is it on a rotation or is it as a -- again, would you receive the
4 assignment from your supervisor to go test it or are you on a
5 route that you do a --

6 A. During this -- during the changeover, when we did every --
7 all the, you know, changeover from changing the whole facility
8 over and pressure testing that particular well, that was done
9 once.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. After that, I have no idea.

12 Q. So you weren't on a rotation?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. No.

16 Q. All right. Now I have one last question, it came from
17 (indiscernible) for me from COGCC. So we're talking about
18 automation and manual operations. We understand that this well
19 could be left either in an automation configuration or a manual
20 configuration. Is that correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. When you got done testing was it ever left in a manual or was
23 it always in automation?

24 A. When I got -- when I did the testing, however -- if, you
25 know, as an example, if it was shut in I would leave that site

1 exactly how it was when I got there.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. But as far as being left in the manual or an automated
4 situation, I -- that was out of my control.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. I don't know.

7 Q. So you had them leave it the way it was configured when you
8 first started?

9 A. Yes. Yes.

10 Q. So would that have been documented in your check sheets if it
11 was in either an automated or manual?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And it'd be in there too because we'd have to, you know,
15 obviously conduct a pressure test, we'd have to contact the
16 foreman, let him know what we're doing and the operator for that
17 particular route, what we're doing.

18 Q. Would it -- is either position a normal operation? So, is it
19 -- would it be normally left in automation or normally left in
20 manual?

21 A. Yes. If it was --

22 Q. So both of those would be considered normal configuration of
23 that well?

24 A. If it was in automated -- if it was left in automation for
25 manual or -- yeah. I was -- just depends on how the operator ran

1 that particular facility.

2 Q. So would Anadarko be the one that would dictate the position
3 of the well based on what's being delivered and the product
4 delivery? Or what -- who would make the decision to either leave
5 automated or in manual?

6 A. The operator and foreman for Anadarko.

7 Q. So that would be Anadarko?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Okay. And you wouldn't set that configuration?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Who would set the configuration?

12 A. The operator.

13 Q. But, okay. So Anadarko would actually have somebody come.
14 Would your company, Select, come out and set that well up for
15 operation?

16 A. No.

17 Q. All right. Thank you.

18 A. Um-hum.

19 BY MR. McBRIDE:

20 Q. David McBride. Thanks Ray. I appreciate you being here. I
21 want to go and just kind of tap your brain maybe for some names
22 of, you know, one of the names that I think came up in the records
23 that I looked at was Mike Hansen. Does that name ring a bell?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Yeah. What was Mike's role? Do you remember?

- 1 A. He was the same as what I was doing.
- 2 Q. He was the same as what you were doing?
- 3 A. Yeah.
- 4 Q. Did you and he work together on some of these?
- 5 A. Yeah. Yeah.
- 6 Q. Okay. Does -- was he an employee? He was an Anadarko
7 employee?
- 8 A. He was with Select Energy Services.
- 9 Q. He was with Select Energy too?
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. Okay. Do you happen to know where he is? Because I was
12 trying to --
- 13 A. He is no longer working for Select Energy.
- 14 Q. Yeah. I was trying to track him down. And you mentioned Lee
15 Sergeant was an Anadarko employee. He retired?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Okay. Do you remember who the foreman was that you would
18 call?
- 19 A. Derek Ehrens.
- 20 Q. I'm sorry?
- 21 A. Derek Ehrens.
- 22 MR. LEONARD: Sorry. Couldn't hear down here.
- 23 MR. CASIAS: Derek Ehrens, he was the foreman for this
24 procedure.
- 25 BY MR. McBRIDE:

1 Q. Is that E-H-R-E-N-S?

2 A. Ehrens?

3 Q. Yeah.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Okay. And the route operator, do you remember who that was
6 at the time?

7 A. I don't remember who the route operator was.

8 Q. Anybody else on the crew that you were working with that you
9 can recall?

10 A. No. Because I know you said Mike Hansen.

11 Q. Yeah.

12 A. But, yeah.

13 Q. Okay. Like, C.J. Rigdon (ph.) does that, Dustin Warner?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Justin Schneider?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. Would it surprise you if you learned that the
18 inspection document was dated December, 2013?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Is that, because, I mean, you know, we are trying to pin this
21 down.

22 A. Right.

23 Q. And I know you're not real clear about it. But, would that
24 be consistent? I know you mentioned Spring but --

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. But the record we had actually had December, 2013. Were you,
2 is it plausible that that's accurate?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. That that's the time period that you were there?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. You wouldn't have any reason to question that or anything?

7 A. No. No.

8 Q. Okay. And then that is of record.

9 A. I mean, there was no snow out there. So --

10 Q. Okay. That's what I was trying to --

11 A. Like I said, it was --

12 MR. LEONARD: We know it can be nice in December.

13 BY MR. McBRIDE:

14 Q. No. I'm just trying to -- I'm just trying to pin down too,
15 were you out there just that one time or did you make a follow up
16 visit or did you --

17 A. Just the one time.

18 Q. Just the one time?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. So you weren't involved with actually setting up the
21 automation? That was the different crew?

22 A. No. No.

23 Q. And the Select group was, if I understand, was just involved
24 with automation for the tank battery. Correct?

25 A. Not the automation. Just the procedure for the changeover.

1 Yes.

2 Q. For the changeover?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Okay. Okay.

5 A. We had no involvement with automation on the well heads at,
6 whatsoever.

7 Q. Okay.

8 MR. McBRIDE: I think that's all I've got. Thank you.

9 BY MR. CHHATRE:

10 Q. Let me ask you a couple of quick follow up questions. Ravi
11 Chhatre, NTSB. You mentioned earlier that pressure test. What is
12 the pressure medium you guys used for pressure testing?

13 A. What do you mean?

14 Q. Well what's in the pipe that you are testing? Is it the
15 product from the well? Or you use compressed nitrogen air?

16 A. No. No. We were just pressure testing what the well had on
17 it currently to the separator. And that's what we were conducting
18 our pressure test on.

19 Q. So where the product was coming out of the well.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Is you are using it.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. For the pressure medium. Okay.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What would that be? What is that
25 pressure? Is it --

1 MR. CASIAS: It could range from 50 PSI to 1200 PSI. So
2 whatever that particular well had, that's what we conducted our
3 pressure test with.

4 BY MR. CHHATRE:

5 Q. Now, the contract with your company, was it whatever that
6 month you were charging, was it per well or was it like per day or
7 do you know anything about that? How many you are supposed to be
8 doing per day or --

9 A. No. It wasn't no set number on what we had to get done.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. And you mentioned something about the abandoned line that are
13 flagged or taped or something.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. This particular well, do you remember seeing any tape or flag
16 on the abandoned line?

17 A. No.

18 Q. So the line that was circled as abandoned in one of the
19 pictures, had no tape, no flag for you to tell it's abandoned?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Do you then make a note of that that line without any
22 markings? Do you remember on your sheet that you are supposed to
23 prepare?

24 A. No.

25 Q. So what happens in the wells that you are looking if you see

1 pipes like that? Are you supposed to report to somebody or it's
2 just not part of your job?

3 A. It wasn't part of our job. I know they had other crews
4 coming out doing other things with modifications. But I wasn't
5 involved with any of that. So --

6 Q. So with all these wells that you are looking at, do you see
7 any that actually had the flag or taped on them, the abandoned
8 lines?

9 A. Um-hum.

10 Q. Does that (indiscernible) in your mind as to why some lines
11 are marked and some lines are not from the same company?

12 A. It probably comes down to whoever's doing it. Whoever's
13 marking them out is either not doing it correctly or, you know,
14 falls into complacency I guess. You know?

15 Q. Sure. Now you mentioned location of the tank battery. Do
16 you remember how far it was from this particular well?

17 A. I don't remember exactly how far it was, but --

18 Q. And what else was there with the tank battery? Was there any
19 -- was there an active well at that location also?

20 A. Yeah. There was active wells.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Because I know there's obviously -- there's more than one
23 well connected to that battery.

24 Q. Okay. Did you know how often this particular well operated
25 at the time of the swap?

1 A. No.

2 Q. That's not part of --

3 A. I didn't have no involvement in how often it was running and
4 the last time it was running and how much it produced. I have no
5 idea.

6 Q. And did you, for any reason, visited the same well either
7 before the swap or after the swap?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. So you were only there at one time?

10 A. During that procedure, yes.

11 Q. And did you visit this well again sometime later?

12 A. To do an inspection for air quality emissions on the actual
13 facility.

14 Q. And how often you did that?

15 A. If it's a one-time facility, once a year.

16 Q. So it is part of your contract to come once a year and do the
17 air quality monitoring?

18 A. Yeah. If we, you know, there's certain facilities that are
19 done quarterly, annually, monthly.

20 Q. Okay. And what is it that you did with the air quality
21 monitoring at this facility or any other facility? Typically,
22 what is done?

23 A. When I go out with the flare camera, what do I check?

24 Q. Yeah.

25 A. I check to make sure there's no venting with the thief

1 hatches to the tank. Everything for the ECD is, you know, all the
2 components that are at the -- on facility is -- there's no venting
3 from there. And if there is --

4 Q. And as part of the job, do you need to know what the state
5 regulations are?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You are familiar with the state regulations?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. They are given to you by your company or Anadarko
10 or --

11 A. Anadarko.

12 Q. Okay. And this particular well, do you remember if it ever
13 failed to meet those regulations?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Never failed?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Now do you recall in 2013, whatever the time the swap was, we
18 there any housing development at that -- near that location?

19 A. There was -- on the well?

20 Q. Well, I mean, there's a housing development. The house blew
21 up.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Now do you remember any housing development at that time when
24 you are there at the well swap to check?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Were there any homes being built? Was there any work being
2 done?

3 A. There was -- no. Not that I can recall that there was houses
4 being built that were that close to the well. No.

5 Q. It was abandoned land?

6 A. Yes. It was just an open field.

7 Q. Okay. So you don't remember seeing any homes?

8 A. Well, I mean, the older homes that were already there. But
9 not one that was that close to the well head.

10 Q. Okay. Now since the accident, did you guys have any
11 discussion with your crew -- hey, the house blew up near this well
12 or something like that?

13 A. Have any discussions about it?

14 Q. Since the accident, did you have any discussions within your
15 colleagues at your company or your crew was there or --

16 A. No.

17 Q. So did you even know that house blew up near the well?

18 A. Yes. Yes.

19 Q. How did you know that?

20 A. Because I was close with the family.

21 Q. Oh, okay.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Oh, you were?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Was there any discussion within your company that this is one

1 of the wells that we inspected, after accident?

2 A. Yes. Yes.

3 Q. Can you elaborate me what --

4 A. I mean, just basically from what the news was telling us.

5 But there was no further discussion on what was actually going on.

6 Q. So nothing from your company that --

7 A. No.

8 Q. Went and revisited what we did or something like that?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Did you hear from Anadarko after the accident?

11 A. No.

12 MR. CHHATRE: That's all I have. Thank you so much.

13 BY MR. AJIBOYE:

14 Q. Yeah. The one follow up question I have is there's a lot of
15 mentioning of plumb with copper as at of the time of swap. Right?

16 A. Um-hum.

17 Q. Can you explain that to me? This I don't understand what
18 plumbing with copper means.

19 A. All the stainless tubing that is on it now --

20 Q. All this one's going from the Y-H to the line. Is that what
21 you're talking about? The automation?

22 A. Yeah. The -- no. All this stainless tubing that's on here
23 now?

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. It was all, at one point, copper tubing.

1 Q. So would they have had any pressure impact with the line you
2 are testing?

3 A. No.

4 Q. So the presence of those tubings, it wouldn't have affected
5 any kind of your section of pressure testing?

6 A. No. No. The copper tubing at the time wouldn't affect any
7 of our pressure testing.

8 Q. So then we'll clarify. So this is stainless steel. Right?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Was there at the time of the swap except it was in copper?

11 A. Yes. It was copper tubing at the time of when I was there.

12 Q. Okay. That's the only clarification I have.

13 BY MR. LEONARD:

14 Q. Mike Leonard. I have two follow up questions. And I know it
15 was a long time ago, a lot of wells. Do you remember, was that
16 the way that well was plumbed with the stainless or the copper?
17 Do you remember if it was plumbed out to the 1-inch or not?

18 A. It had -- there was no stainless tubing on the well.

19 Q. But it had copper on it.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Was the copper tubing in the same plumbing configuration? Do
22 you remember?

23 A. I don't remember exactly if it was the exact same.

24 Q. Okay. That's fine. And you said that abandoned lines are
25 marked or flagged. Can you describe how they're marked or flagged

1 for us?

2 A. They're either painted a certain color or they've got a
3 yellow, flexible -- I don't know.

4 Q. The Carsonite?

5 A. Yes. That shows --

6 Q. The line markers?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And do you know how long ago that started? Has that been
9 since you've been around or --

10 A. Yeah. Yeah.

11 Q. Okay. Okay. That's all I have. Thank you.

12 BY MR. PUCCETTI:

13 Q. I have one follow up question and it's back to the -- this is
14 Dave Puccetti for Firestone Fire. From the copper to stainless,
15 so when you guys were -- and you had been involved in some of the
16 swap out from copper to stainless. That included the fitting. So
17 you changed out the fittings and the valves?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So -- okay. On this particular that we're looking here on
20 the Coors well, so when we look at the valves that are in between,
21 just between the stainless, the fittings -- because the copper
22 fittings were brass to copper and that these are stainless to
23 stainless. So you had to swap out all the fittings. Were these
24 valves also changed out?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. So they -- and approximately, do you know on this
2 particular well when that was done?

3 A. I do not have any timeframe when that was done.

4 Q. Okay. So then, but you would have a work order that was
5 written that said that you had to go from copper to stainless and
6 what components were changed out. Is that correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. Thank you.

9 A. Yeah. When we did our check sheet, we'd have to, you know,
10 identify if there was copper tubing at the well head. That way
11 they were aware of it. That way they could bring what they need
12 to do to swap everything out.

13 Q. So when you were directed to do that, did you have a written
14 directive on what to change out with the stainless? The type of
15 size fittings and what the valve configuration was? Who made -- I
16 guess who gave you the -- did you have written instructions to
17 change out the lines?

18 A. Anadarko.

19 Q. Anadarko did? So, at Anadarko was that an engineer? Was it
20 an operator? So again, making sure that you were changing valve
21 for valve?

22 A. Um-hum.

23 Q. That came from the operator?

24 A. Not the operator, but from Anadarko.

25 Q. It came from Anadarko?

- 1 A. And the procedure, what we had to --
- 2 Q. You see where I'm getting here?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. If you swap those lines out, you have to have the same type
- 5 of control valves that are put back in and the same type of
- 6 fittings.
- 7 A. Yes. Because all these regulators here --
- 8 Q. Right.
- 9 A. All those got all swapped out.
- 10 Q. Okay. And that would all come -- and so you had a written
- 11 guideline on how to do that?
- 12 A. Um-hum.
- 13 Q. Then did you have to document that that was done? And then
- 14 what did you do with the old equipment?
- 15 A. With the old --
- 16 Q. With the copper and the valves.
- 17 A. The old copper tubing was put in the -- put away, trashed.
- 18 Q. Okay. So it was all documented from start to finish?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Okay. Okay. Thank you.
- 21 A. And with the well head I don't have any documentations from
- 22 that because I wasn't a part of that, but the separator, yes.
- 23 Q. Okay. Great. Thank you.
- 24 BY MR. McBRIDE:
- 25 Q. It's David McBride again. Ray, I just want to kind of follow

1 up with that. I mean, you don't have any personal knowledge
2 though about what happened with this well head or that procedure
3 with this well head though?

4 A. No.

5 Q. So I mean, you didn't document anything as far as the
6 equipment list, valve list, parts list, what was necessary to the
7 copper? Did you do any of that?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. So you don't have any personal knowledge about that?

10 A. No. I mean, with the separators we had to mark down how many
11 CR-67 regulators were, how many watts regulators there were inside
12 the separator house.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. That way we can bill for that, you know, particular
15 component.

16 Q. Yeah. When you all did the equipment changeover for the
17 separator?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. But, I'm sure there's the same thing for the well heads too.

21 Q. Okay. Okay. I had one other question to follow up. I
22 forgot. Oh yeah. Going back to the number of times you've been
23 out to the facility, when we say well and tank battery, sometimes
24 we use the terms interchangeably. So I just want to make sure I'm
25 clear. You've only been to the well that one time?

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF: HOUSE EXPLOSION IN FIRESTONE,
 COLORADO, APRIL 17, 2017
 Interview of Ray Casias

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA17FP005

PLACE: Longmont, Colorado

DATE: July 25, 2017

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.


Teresa C. Sumpter
Teresa Sumpter
Transcriber