

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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ALABAMA GAS CORPORATION (ALAGASCO) \*

NATURAL GAS RELEASE WITH IGNITION \* Docket No.: DCA-14-MP-001

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA \*

DECEMBER 17, 2013 \*

\*

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: DENISE MABRY

Law Firm of Cory, Watson,  
 Crowder & Garris  
 Birmingham, Alabama

Thursday,  
 July 17, 2014

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: MATTHEW NICHOLSON  
 Investigator-in-Charge

## APPEARANCES:

MATTHEW NICHOLSON, Investigator-in-Charge  
National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, D.C. 20594

RAVI CHHATRE, Accident Investigator  
Pipeline Division  
National Transportation Safety Board

NANCY McATEE, Fire and Explosion Specialist  
National Transportation Safety Board

KEITH BLACKWOOD, Pipeline Safety Investigator  
Alabama Public Service Commission

BOB GARDNER, Director, Quality Assurance and Compliance  
Alabama Gas Corporation (Alagasco)  
(Party Representative)

LEILA WATSON, Esq.  
RICK DiGIORGIO, Attorney  
MITCH ALLEN, Esq.  
(Representatives on behalf of Ms. Mabry)

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1 I N T E R V I E W

## I N T E R V I E W

MR. NICHOLSON: Good afternoon. Today is Thursday, July 17th. My name is Matthew Nicholson. I am an investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board in Washington, D.C. We are at the --

MR. DiGIORGIO: Offices.

MR. NICHOLSON: Of?

MR. DiGIORGIO: Cory, Watson, Crowder and DeGaris in Birmingham, Alabama.

MR. NICHOLSON: Thank you.

For the interview of Denise Mabry. This is Case Number DCA-14-MP-001. This interview is being recorded and may be transcribed at a later date. A copy of the transcript will be provided to the interviewee for review prior to being entered in the public docket.

To start, I'd like to go around the room, have each person state their name with spelling, and your title and agency or organization you are representing. I will start and we'll proceed to my right.

My name is Matthew Nicholson, M-a-t-t-h-e-w,  
N-i-c-h-o-l-s-o-n. I am an investigator with the NTSB.

MR. CHHATRE: Ravi Chhatre. That's R-a-v-i,  
C-h-h-a-t-r-e. I am pipeline accident investigator at National  
Transportation and Safety Board.

MS. McATEE: Nancy McAtee, N-a-n-c-y, M-c-A-t-e-e. I'm

1 a fire and explosion specialist with the National Transportation  
2 Safety Board.

3 MR. ALLEN: I'm Mitch Allen. I'm one of the attorneys  
4 representing Ms. Mabry here today.

5 MR. BLACKWOOD: Keith Blackwood, K-e-i-t-h,  
6 B-l-a-c-k-w-o-o-d, Pipeline Safety Investigator, Alabama Public  
7 Service Commission.

8 MR. GARDNER: Bob Gardner, Director of Quality Assurance  
9 and Compliance for Alagasco, and last name spelling G-a-r-d-n-e-r.  
10 And I'm also the party representative for Alagasco.

11 MR. DiGIORGIO: I'm Rick DiGiorgio, one of the attorneys  
12 representing Ms. Mabry. The last name is spelled D-i, capital  
13 G-i-o-r-g-i-o.

14 MS. MABRY: I'm Denise Mabry, the mother of one of the  
15 victims, the victim that was killed.

16 MR. NICHOLSON: Thank you.

17 MS. WATSON: My name is Leila Watson. I'm one of the  
18 lawyers for the Mabry family. My first name is L-e-i-l-a.

19 MR. NICHOLSON: Excellent. Thank you.

20 And Denise, could we get the spelling of your name,  
21 please, on the record?

22 MS. MABRY: Mabry?

23 MR. NICHOLSON: Sure.

24 MS. MABRY: M-a-b-r-y.

25 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay.

1 MS. MABRY: And Denise, D-e-n-i-s-e.

2 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay. Thank you so much.

3 INTERVIEW OF DENISE MABRY

4 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

5 Q. Okay, Denise. I thought we'd just start with some  
6 background information, if we could. Just to confirm, can you  
7 confirm on the record for us your address and unit number where  
8 you lived in Marks Village?

9 A. Oh, man.

10 Q. Or just the unit number if you can remember that.

11 A. The unit number is Unit 80.

12 Q. Okay. Thank you.

13 A. I don't know our new address right offhand.

14 Q. I understand. And that's okay. We'll make  
15 (indiscernible) for that. Unit 80 is perfectly fine.

16 Can you tell us when you moved in to the Marks Village  
17 complex?

18 A. I can't tell you the exact month or day, but it -- I had  
19 been there about a year, or a year or two.

20 Q. Okay. But you had been there about a year.

21 A. About a year or two.

22 Q. Okay. And was Unit 80 your primary residence?

23 A. That's where I moved to. I used to live in East Lake  
24 (ph.).

25 Q. Okay. East Lake?

1           A.    That was my address there at East Lake.  I used to live  
2 in East Lake.

3           Q.    Okay.

4           A.    But I moved at my daughter's house.

5           Q.    Okay.  For that year.

6           A.    Yes.

7           Q.    So you -- okay.  You spent all your time at your  
8 daughter's --

9           A.    Yes.

10          Q.    -- place --

11          A.    Right.

12          Q.    -- for that year.

13          A.    I did.

14          Q.    Excellent.  Okay.

15                And you did state that, just to confirm, you are the  
16 mother of the deceased.

17          A.    Tarniece Mabry, deceased daughter.

18          Q.    Okay.  Thank you.

19                And, Denise, the other thing next I'd like you to do  
20 I've got some layouts of the apartment.

21          A.    Um-hum.

22          Q.    And just to the best of your ability, if you can recall  
23 where, where people were staying in your apartment at the time --

24          A.    Um-hum.

25          Q.    -- and maybe where the beds were located and maybe some

1 of the larger furniture pieces. Could you help us --

2 A. I could do that.

3 Q. -- draw that on there? So just to orient you, this is  
4 the first floor and this will be the second floor. And we've got  
5 to -- I'll help you get your bearings here. This is yours.

6 A. This downstairs?

7 Q. This is downstairs. That's correct.

8 A. Okay. This --

9 MS. WATSON: Here's your back door.

10 MS. MABRY: Okay. This is the door.

11 MS. WATSON: Um-hum.

12 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

13 Q. Okay. And would you call that your back door?

14 A. Um-hum.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Um-hum.

17 Q. Can you tell me, is this the door people would have used  
18 most commonly?

19 A. Coming in the back door, yes.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Okay. Did you want me to draw door on there?

22 Q. Certainly. Yes, please.

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. Yeah. Any appliances?

25 A. This is the door.



1 Q. Uh-huh.

2 A. That's the bathroom.

3 Q. Actually, the bathroom's right here, Denise. We have  
4 it --

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. -- already drawn in there.

7 A. Okay. And this is the bathroom.

8 MS. WATSON: Well, can I -- we've done this.

9 MS. MABRY: The kids --

10 MS. WATSON: So let me orient her a little bit.

11 MR. NICHOLSON: Absolutely, please. Yes.

12 MS. WATSON: Okay. This is the -- these are the walls.

13 MS. MABRY: I'm trying to think. Okay.

14 MS. WATSON: See, this dark line is the walls.

15 MS. MABRY: [Indiscernible] to the bathroom. Do all  
16 right?

17 MS. WATSON: I know. Theirs is a little better than the  
18 one I used.

19 MS. MABRY: Okay.

20 MS. WATSON: And wherever you see these light lines,  
21 these --

22 MS. MABRY: That's the window.

23 MS. WATSON: These are windows.

24 MR. CHHATRE: Yes.

25 MS. MABRY: Okay. And that's the same.

1 MS. WATSON: And then so here's the kitchen walls.  
2 Right?  
3 MS. MABRY: Okay.  
4 MS. WATSON: And this is the living room walls. There's  
5 the living room window and the living room door --  
6 MS. MABRY: Okay.  
7 MS. WATSON: -- and the stairs.  
8 MS. MABRY: All right.  
9 MS. WATSON: And then --  
10 MS. MABRY: We have a sofa here.  
11 MS. WATSON: Okay.  
12 BY MR. NICHOLSON:  
13 Q. Excellent.  
14 A. The heater, the sofa here.  
15 Q. Okay.  
16 A. This is the hallway --  
17 Q. Yeah.  
18 A. -- to her room.  
19 MS. WATSON: That's her room.  
20 MS. MABRY: Her room.  
21 BY MR. NICHOLSON:  
22 Q. Oh, okay. Can we write --  
23 A. And over here --  
24 Q. -- is that Tarniece?  
25 A. -- you have a little banister that she had her stereo

1 on.

2 Q. Okay.

3 MR. CHHATRE: Can you write that down?

4 MS. WATSON: Pardon?

5 MR. CHHATRE: Can you write that down?

6 MR. NICHOLSON: You could just put a S for sofa if you'd

7 like.

8 MR. CHHATRE: Sofa, stereo and so forth.

9 MS. MABRY: Oh, okay. So put here --

10 MS. WATSON: They want you to label them like that.

11 MS. MABRY: Okay.

12 MS. WATSON: Stereo.

13 MS. MABRY: Stereo.

14 MR. NICHOLSON: That's a table.

15 MS. WATSON: Okay.

16 MS. MABRY: This is the steps.

17 MS. WATSON: Uh-huh. Well, before you go upstairs,

18 now --

19 MS. MABRY: Her room?

20 MS. WATSON: Her room. Do you remember where her bed

21 was? That's what they're --

22 MS. MABRY: Okay.

23 MS. WATSON: -- wanting to know.

24 MS. MABRY: Her room. Her bed. Her bed area, bed here.

25 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

1 Q. Okay. And which way -- where is the --  
2 A. And dresser.  
3 Q. Where is the head of that bed? Where is the --  
4 A. The head of the bed --  
5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where the pillow is.  
6 MS. MABRY: -- was here. It's a pillow.  
7 BY MR. NICHOLSON:  
8 Q. Okay. Okay. Thank you.  
9 A. They're here. TV.  
10 Q. Okay.  
11 A. And a door.  
12 Q. All right.  
13 A. Her closet.  
14 Q. Uh-huh.  
15 A. Clothes.  
16 MS. WATSON: Um-hum.  
17 BY MR. NICHOLSON:  
18 Q. Okay.  
19 A. Okay. Coming out was the heater.  
20 Q. Yeah.  
21 MS. WATSON: Let's go back to the --  
22 MS. MABRY: The sofa.  
23 MS. WATSON: Yeah. And then --  
24 BY MR. NICHOLSON:  
25 Q. And there's a dryer?

1           A.    Okay.  This is the bathroom.

2                   MS. WATSON:  There it is.

3                   MS. MABRY:  This is the washer.  This is the dryer.

4                   BY MR. NICHOLSON:

5           Q.    Okay.

6           A.    This is a table here, a little table here.

7           Q.    Okay.

8           A.    And she kept a washer -- washing powder and stuff on.

9   The closet here --

10          Q.    Okay.

11          A.    -- in the hall.  Linen.  Kitchen linen.

12          Q.    Um-hum, um-hum.  Sure.

13          A.    And come out.  That's the sink, the oven and microwave.

14          Q.    Okay.

15          A.    That's over here on this side.

16                   MS. WATSON:  The microwave over there, yeah.

17                   MS. MABRY:  Microwave.  Microwave here.

18                   BY MR. NICHOLSON:

19          Q.    Okay.

20          A.    The table.  That's the table there.

21          Q.    That's a table.  Okay.

22          A.    Right over here, you come out.

23                   MS. WATSON:  You had a refrigerator.

24                   MS. MABRY:  Oh, there's the refrigerator.

25                   MS. WATSON:  And a deep freeze.

1 MS. MABRY: And that's the hot water.

2 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

3 Q. So was there a refrigerator and a deep freeze together?

4 A. A deep freezer here.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Yeah. I'm trying to put a number over here.

7 Q. I understand. The best you can do is all we're asking.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. Okay. And that was your --

10 A. A deep freezer.

11 Q. -- refrigerator here.

12 A. Refrigerator.

13 Q. Something like that. Okay.

14 A. A closet as you come out.

15 MS. WATSON: Um-hum.

16 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Closet. A sofa.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Table in the middle.

21 Q. Okay. Okay.

22 A. The -- a banister, a big banister --

23 MR. CHHATRE: The banister. That is the --

24 MS. MABRY: -- that you had to --

25 MR. CHHATRE: Yeah.

1 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

2 Q. A what?

3 A. The washer -- I mean, you had the, the stereo on.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. On that, the right side was the sofa.

6 Q. Yeah.

7 A. Then you go up the steps.

8 Q. Okay. Terrific.

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. Thanks.

11 And I'm just going to label this as --

12 A. I'm trying to remember.

13 Q. You're doing great.

14 A. Oh, sorry.

15 Q. You are doing great.

16 And this was a closet, you said a linen --

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. It's built in. I think I saw --

19 A. You have built-in linen closet, a wooden built-in linen

20 closet.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. I'm trying to remember everything.

23 Q. And were there any other -- were there fans? Did you

24 have any, like, portable fans or anything?

25 A. Um-um.

1 Q. No?

2 A. I think she had one in her room.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. I'm not sure.

5 Q. Okay. That was fine.

6 A. Could have been the one in her room. I think she had

7 just a little box fan.

8 Q. Uh-huh.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Okay. What about a little space heaters or anything to

11 heat?

12 A. I'm the only one had the space heater.

13 Q. Oh, you had one. Okay. Okay. And you're -- so we'll

14 go upstairs. Should we go upstairs now?

15 A. Okay. Okay.

16 Q. Okay. There we go.

17 A. Do you want me to --

18 Q. There's the upstairs now.

19 MS. WATSON: So again, Denise --

20 MS. MABRY: -- wrong.

21 MR. NICHOLSON: I understand.

22 MS. WATSON: -- the, the dark -- these are the walls.

23 MS. MABRY: Okay.

24 MS. WATSON: Okay? So you're coming up the stairs.

25 MS. MABRY: Okay.



1 MS. WATSON: Here's the bathroom. And then --

2 MS. MABRY: This is a closet.

3 MS. WATSON: Right. And then here's a bedroom.

4 MS. MABRY: Bathroom.

5 MS. WATSON: Um-hum.

6 MS. MABRY: You come out, it's Corey room.

7 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

8 Q. Can we write that on there? That's Corey's room?

9 MS. WATSON: Corey.

10 MS. MABRY: Corey.

11 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

12 Q. Excellent.

13 A. Corey, C-o-r --

14 MS. WATSON: E-y.

15 MS. MABRY: -- e-y. That's Corey room. How is Corey  
16 room? I think he had the dresser. That's the dresser.

17 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. I'm trying to -- I think Corey is the one that had  
20 the -- what you call the air-conditioner.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A window, a window air-  
22 conditioner?

23 MS. MABRY: That was his air-condition in the room.

24 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

25 Q. In the window?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. He had it there. I'm trying to figure out where his bed  
4 was. I think this was his bed -- his dresser. And then right  
5 here on the side his, his, his window was the big bed. He had a  
6 bed. This was his bed.

7 Q. Okay. And where would his pillows have been on that  
8 bed?

9 A. This is his closet.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. It's so hard to remember.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Which way was his pillows on his  
13 bed; do you remember which end of the bed?

14 MS. MABRY: At the head.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right. Do you know --

16 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- know --

18 MS. MABRY: Head of the bed.

19 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

20 Q. There we go. Okay.

21 A. Here, at the foot here, is his closet. This is the  
22 door. You walked in the door. And over here in the corner, I  
23 think he had the only dresser with the TV.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. He changed that room around so much. Okay. And you

1    come out and it was the hall. Right here was Antuan's studio.  
2    Now, Antuan, I can remember he was good. He had all kind of  
3    appliances. This is Antuan.

4           Q.    Okay.

5           A.    He had laptop, organ.

6           Q.    An organ. Okay.

7           A.    And right here in the closet he had the -- this is just  
8    a closet.

9           Q.    Okay.

10          A.    He had a chair. His chair was right here. This was his  
11   chair.

12          Q.    Okay.

13          A.    And that's about all in that room.

14          Q.    Okay.

15          A.    Then you come out. It was Antuan. Antuan. That was  
16   his bedroom. He has a big bed.

17          Q.    Okay.

18          A.    A window, a bigger bed. A big bed, a dresser. I'm  
19   trying -- this is where his dresser --

20          Q.    Okay.

21          A.    -- his closet and a door.

22          Q.    Okay.

23          A.    Across from him was my room. My own room has the  
24   window, the closet, the bed. This is my pillows.

25          Q.    Okay.

1           A.    My bed.  At the foot of my bed this was the, the  
2 dresser.  I had a dresser here.

3           Q.    Okay.

4           A.    Over here was my little table.  Over here was my tall  
5 dresser and my TV.

6           Q.    Um-hum.  Okay.

7           A.    And that's about all.

8           Q.    Okay.  Terrific.  Can you just -- can I get the pillows  
9 on Antuan's bed?  Do you remember where his head would be and his  
10 feet would be?

11          A.    Antuan bed was here.  His pillows was here.

12          Q.    Okay.

13          A.    If I'm not mistaken.  I may have the bed turned the  
14 wrong way.

15          Q.    That's all right.  Just your -- whatever you remember  
16 is --

17          A.    Well, I think --

18          Q.    -- you can go with.

19          A.    -- this is where his bed was, over against the wall.

20          Q.    Okay.

21          A.    The wall.  Every time you walk in there, you walk right  
22 into the bed.

23          Q.    Okay.

24          A.    And I think that's the way it was.

25          Q.    Okay.  Terrific.

1           A.    I hope that I've got it right.

2           Q.    All right. Did you say -- you said he had an air-  
3 conditioning unit. And did you say you had a little space heater  
4 in your room?

5           A.    I had a little space heater.

6           Q.    Okay.

7           A.    My little space heater I use to sit it here at the foot  
8 of the bed or on the (indiscernible).

9           Q.    Okay. Excellent.

10          A.    It would usually be there or I'll put it at the foot of  
11 the bed. Right. Because I have a plug there and a plug here.

12          Q.    Okay. Two plugs in the --

13          A.    And this plug didn't work. Something was wrong with  
14 this plug. I couldn't use that plug. I would have to use the  
15 other one on doing things.

16          Q.    Was this the only plug in the whole apartment that  
17 didn't work, do you know?

18          A.    That's the only one in my room that didn't work.

19          Q.    Okay.

20          A.    I don't know about any of others.

21          Q.    The others worked.

22                   Were there any wall switches that did not work in your  
23 apartment?

24          A.    This one right here.

25          Q.    That's an -- was that an outlet or a wall switch?

1           A.    A wall switch.

2           Q.    Oh, a switch.  Oh, okay.

3           A.    Oh, an out -- a outlet.  I'm sorry.

4           Q.    Oh, okay.  That's --

5           A.    I'm sorry.

6           Q.    -- that's an outlet.

7           A.    My mistake, an outlet.

8           Q.    Okay.  Okay.  Terrific.  Okay, Denise.  So those are

9           wonderful.  So I'll take these.  I'm going to put your name on

10          them, and we'll use these for the rest of our conversation.

11                Okay.  And then I'm going to mark on here.  You said --

12          if you go back to the first floor, I believe --

13          A.    Okay.

14          Q.    -- you indicated the north door was where people most --

15          A.    Came in.

16          Q.    -- came in and left.  Okay.

17          A.    The back door.

18          Q.    The kids, the kids used this door, too?  The --

19          A.    Yeah.

20          Q.    Okay.  Let me make a note of that.  Excellent.

21                Thanks so much, Denise.  Okay.  Ravi's going to ask some

22          questions now.

23          A.    Um-hum.

24          Q.    Okay?

25                BY MR. CHHATRE:

1           Q.    Ms. Mabry, can you tell me how you are related to all of  
2 the people in there in the house; what is the relationship?

3           A.    I am the grandmother.

4           Q.    Okay.

5           A.    My daughter that lived there, Tarniece Mabry.

6           Q.    Um-hum.

7           A.    Antuan Mabry, Corey Sanders (ph.), and Dewayne Mabry  
8 (ph.).

9           Q.    Okay. So they are your grandchildren.

10          A.    Pardon?

11          Q.    They are your grandchildren?

12          A.    That's my granddaughter.

13          Q.    Okay.

14          A.    And my, my grandson. And I got a granddaughter named  
15 Brittany Mabry. But she wasn't living in the house.

16          Q.    Okay.

17                MS. WATSON: She had three grandsons --

18                MS. MABRY: That's it.

19                MS. WATSON: -- one granddaughter.

20                MS. MABRY: I'm trying here.

21                BY MR. CHHATRE:

22          Q.    Okay. But can you --

23          A.    I mean, I'm a little light hearing.

24          Q.    Oh, that's okay.

25          A.    Okay.

1 Q. Can you repeat that one more time for me?

2 A. Okay. My daughter that lived there named Tarniece  
3 Mabry.

4 Q. Right.

5 A. And her son Antuan.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Corey and Dewayne Mabry.

8 Q. Okay. And who else lived there?

9 A. And her, her fiancé, whose name was Daryl.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. And myself, Denise.

12 Q. Okay. Now, can you tell us, the accident happened on  
13 really early morning on Tuesday?

14 A. Hmm?

15 Q. Accident happened on early morning on Tuesday.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you tell me, did you smell any gas odor in the house  
18 on Monday?

19 A. I can't say.

20 Q. Okay. Did you go out of the house that day, Monday?

21 A. I'm quite sure I did.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. During the day, yes, I'm quite sure I did.

24 Q. And did you smell any gas odor outside the house --

25 A. That particular --



1 Q. -- that day?

2 A. -- day, I can't say, no.

3 Q. Okay. Do you recall in the last one year you have  
4 stayed in there, do you recall smelling gas odor inside the house?

5 A. Yes. I remember mentioning to my daughter one day that  
6 I was outside -- I went outside. And I used to sit on the back  
7 step. And I told her that does smell like gas out here. I  
8 remember telling her that.

9 Q. Okay. And when was that roughly, six months ago, three  
10 months ago?

11 A. I couldn't tell you what day it was --

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. or how long it had been.

14 Q. Okay. But was it inside --

15 A. But I --

16 Q. -- the house or outside the house?

17 A. No, it was outside --

18 Q. Outside the house.

19 A. -- that I smelled it.

20 Q. Do you recall which side of the house it was outside?

21 A. I was on the back.

22 Q. Back side.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay.

25 MS. WATSON: We called the -- you call it the north

1 side, we call it the back.

2 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. That's fine.

3 MS. MABRY: Yes.

4 MR. CHHATRE: I will note here back and north.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The kitchen door is the one  
6 you're talking about.

7 MR. CHHATRE: Kitchen door.

8 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah. That's sounds good.

9 MR. CHHATRE: Yeah.

10 MS. WATSON: Okay.

11 BY MR. CHHATRE:

12 Q. On Monday night, do you recall what time you guys ate?

13 A. No, I can't.

14 Q. Okay. Do you recall eating at home at all on Monday?

15 A. I'm quite sure I did eat --

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. -- something.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. And if it's -- well, cooking, I don't know.

20 Q. Okay. Do you recall on Monday using oven or cooking  
21 range or microwave?

22 A. The microwave, yes.

23 Q. Okay, but no range?

24 A. No.

25 Q. No range. Okay.

1           So do you recall what time you went to bed?

2           A.    It had to have been around 10:00, 9:30 somewhat, 9:00.

3           Q.    Okay.

4           A.    Because that's just my usual time.

5           Q.    Okay.  And was everybody in the house when you went to  
6  bed?

7           A.    My grandkids, Corey -- I know Corey and Val.  And Val  
8  was there.

9           Q.    Okay.

10          A.    And I don't think Antuan was there at the time that --  
11  or while I was up.  He wasn't there.  I know that much.

12          Q.    Who wasn't there?

13          A.    Antuan.

14          Q.    Antuan wasn't there.  Okay.

15          MS. WATSON:  And she calls her daughter -- her  
16  daughter's full name is Tarniece LaVal Mabry.

17          MS. MABRY:  Um-hum.

18          MS. WATSON:  Sometimes she calls her Val.

19          MS. MABRY:  Val, V-a-l.

20          MR. CHHATRE:  Oh, Val.  Okay.

21          MS. MABRY:  Yeah.

22          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  V-a-l.

23          MR. CHHATRE:  V-a-l?

24          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  For short.

25          BY MR. CHHATRE:

1 Q. Okay. Did you wake up at night at all that night?

2 A. I don't remember waking up.

3 Q. Okay. And do you recall your grandchildren or your  
4 daughter complaining about gas odor anytime when you stayed in the  
5 house for a year?

6 A. I don't remember her mentioning about another resident  
7 or another person speaking to her about smelling gas also. But I  
8 do remember my daughter telling me she smelled gas in the house.

9 Q. In the house.

10 A. Yes, she did.

11 Q. And do you recall, when was that?

12 A. I can't, I can't recall the time.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. Or what day it was.

15 Q. Do you recall what she did after she said --

16 A. I can't recall that either.

17 Q. Okay. Did your daughter or your grandchildren or your  
18 daughter's fiancé, or anybody, told you what to do if you smell  
19 gas?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Okay. Do you know what to do if you smell gas?

22 A. To report it. But I did report it to my daughter.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. That was her residence, I did report it to her.

25 Q. Okay. So when you went to bed that night, do you recall

1 the explosion, anything about the explosion?

2 A. Only thing I remember is waking up when I heard -- the  
3 explosion woke me up. The only thing that I remember of that  
4 explosion is being -- when I heard my son, my grandson. I don't  
5 know if he woke me up or was I awakened already. But I remember  
6 him calling my name. He said, Mimi, Mimi. And when I looked up,  
7 it was my grandson and he was pulling my -- pulling me from a  
8 bunch of bricks.

9 Q. Okay. And do you recall who was calling your name?

10 A. Yes. And his name Corey Sanders.

11 Q. Okay. And do you remember what happened after he woke  
12 you up?

13 A. He was pulling on me. And then after that, I started  
14 getting myself out of there. I started crawling out. Then I  
15 heard another voice calling out, and it was Antuan. He was  
16 calling from the other -- he was calling from right behind me.  
17 And then I remember, you know, he said, Where's mama? And Corey  
18 said, I don't know. He said I'm looking for her. He said -- he  
19 kept calling his mama name. And I kept calling Val, my daughter.  
20 I call her Val. Kept calling her name, but we had no response.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. And so after I got up I started talking, trying --  
23 hollering, I was screaming and hollering for my daughter and my  
24 grandson, because everybody ripping running and looking for her.

25 Q. Okay.

1           A.    That's all I remember.

2           Q.    Okay. And thank you so much for helping us. That's all  
3 I have. I appreciate your time.

4                   MS. McATEE: Just a couple of questions. This is Nancy  
5 McAtee, NTSB.

6                   BY MS. McATEE:

7           Q.    While you didn't use the stove that night, had you used  
8 it previously in the year that you lived there?

9           A.    Well, yes.

10          Q.    Did you have any problems with it?

11          A.    No. I didn't have no problems with it. Sometimes the  
12 (indiscernible) wasn't -- didn't come on but --

13          Q.    Okay. But usually it worked fine.

14          A.    Yes.

15          Q.    Were you using the heater in the living room that night?

16          A.    I don't mess with her heater.

17          Q.    You don't mess with that?

18          A.    Are you talking about the, the --

19          Q.    The one downstairs.

20          A.    -- property's heater?

21          Q.    Yeah.

22          A.    Oh, no. I never mess with that.

23          Q.    Had anyone else -- do you remember if anyone else had  
24 turned it on?

25          A.    That particular day, no, I don't know anything about

1 that.

2 Q. Do you remember what the weather was like? Was it cold?  
3 Was it --

4 A. During what? When?

5 Q. Just before the accident. The day before the accident,  
6 was it cold?

7 A. I couldn't recall.

8 Q. You don't remember? That's okay. Let me see.  
9 I think that's all I have for the moment.

10 MR. BLACKWOOD: This is Keith Blackwood with the PSC.

11 BY MR. BLACKWOOD:

12 Q. Did anybody ever teach you about how to use the  
13 appliances or what to do if you have a problem with them and who  
14 to report to?

15 A. What appliances? A microwave or --

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. -- or stove?

18 Q. Or the stove, the hot water heater.

19 A. The only thing that you would call the Housing Authority  
20 if you have any type of problems with any appliances.

21 Q. Okay. And was there any other alternative heat sources  
22 ever used in the apartment other than the heater downstairs and  
23 your space heater in your room?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Okay. Thank you.

1           A.    Okay.

2           MR. NICHOLSON:  Bob.

3           MR. GARDNER:  Thank you.

4           BY MR. GARDNER:

5           Q.    First of all, thank you for your time today.

6           A.    Um-hum.

7           Q.    I do have a question.  Do you know if you ever, or your  
8 daughter, ever received any information from the Housing Authority  
9 about what to do if a gas leak was suspected?

10          A.    I couldn't answer that.  I couldn't answer that.

11          Q.    Do you know if the Housing Authority ever came while you  
12 were there, into the home, to investigate a possible gas leak  
13 inside the residence?

14          A.    While I was there, I didn't ever see them come in and  
15 ask that

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

17          A.    Okay.

18          BY MR. NICHOLSON:

19          Q.    Okay.  Guess it's back to me, Denise, okay.  I've got  
20 just a couple of questions for you about the restrooms in the  
21 house.  Were there any problems with either the upstairs or  
22 downstairs restrooms?

23          A.    Not with the upstairs.  The downstairs we had a problem  
24 with the toilet.

25          Q.    Problem.  What was -- can you tell me what the --



1           A.    Backup.

2           Q.    It would backup?

3           A.    Um-hum.

4           Q.    And when, about, was that problem? Was it recent? Was  
5 it about the time of the accident?

6           A.    Way before the accident.

7           Q.    Oh, way before. Okay.

8           A.    It was about several months before the accident. It  
9 kept backing up.

10          Q.    Okay.

11          A.    And causing big floods.

12          Q.    Big floods?

13          A.    Um-hum.

14          Q.    In, in the bathroom there.

15          A.    Yeah, downstairs.

16          Q.    Okay.

17          A.    Um-hum.

18          Q.    And who was notified about that? Did --

19          A.    The Housing Authority.

20          Q.    Okay. And did they --

21          A.    The property.

22          Q.    -- fix it?

23          A.    Yes. They came out there twice.

24          Q.    Came out twice?

25          A.    Yeah.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Yeah, probably twice.

3 Q. And do you know what they did to fix it?

4 A. Only thing I can describe what they did, well, they took  
5 the toilet off.

6 Q. Okay. Okay.

7 A. And they dug outside.

8 Q. Oh, they did dig outside.

9 A. They did, yeah.

10 Q. Okay. You don't know what they did when they dug  
11 outside?

12 A. I didn't go out there. They dug there.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. But through my bedroom window upstairs, you can see  
15 where they dug holes in the ground.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. They actually dug holes in the ground.

18 Q. To get down to the sewer.

19 A. Down, yeah.

20 Q. Okay. Good. Okay. And did that correct the problem  
21 there? Did that --

22 A. I mean, it kept doing it but --

23 Q. Oh, even after that?

24 A. After they did that, yes. It caused something --  
25 another flood, a second flood.

1 Q. Oh, okay. And so they came out a second time.  
2 A. It didn't do any good.  
3 Q. Still.  
4 A. Because it over flooded still.  
5 Q. Still, still was flooding.  
6 A. Yes.  
7 Q. Okay.  
8 A. My daughter had to put down clothes, some towels and  
9 stuff to catch water.  
10 Q. Okay.  
11 A. Because every time you flush the toilet the water will  
12 just flow into there.  
13 Q. Oh, no. Okay. But no issues with the upstairs  
14 bathroom?  
15 A. No.  
16 Q. That worked fine?  
17 A. We didn't have a problem; she didn't.  
18 Q. Okay. You said you went to bed at 9:30, roughly?  
19 A. Between 9:00 and 9:30 --  
20 Q. Okay.  
21 A. -- 10 o'clock.  
22 Q. Because that's --  
23 A. That's when I lay down.  
24 Q. -- your normal time?  
25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Do you remember who was still awake and who had gone to  
2 bed?

3 A. I couldn't say.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. But I know I left them downstairs. And that was when  
6 you see -- you know, I still just stay upstairs, but I came  
7 downstairs sometimes, you know, be at the kitchen table or on the  
8 back step --

9 Q. Uh-huh.

10 A. -- sitting down.

11 Q. You say you did come down?

12 A. I did come downstairs.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. I remember that.

15 Q. And at that time, was, was the family awake?

16 A. No. They Val and Daryl was in in the bedroom.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. But they call (indiscernible).

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. But somebody was in the kitchen. I don't know if it was  
21 Daryl or Val getting something out the refrigerator or there was  
22 somebody at the sink.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. But when I went down there and got me something to  
25 drink.

1 Q. Okay. And do you know what time that was?

2 A. No. It had to be sometime after 8:00 or 7:30 or  
3 something like that.

4 Q. 7:30 or something. Okay. And then you went back  
5 upstairs and --

6 A. Um-hum.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. I went back to bed.

9 Q. Terrific.

10 A. I was watching television. That --

11 Q. Sure.

12 A. -- I remember.

13 Q. Okay. The -- you had a little space heater in your  
14 room, right?

15 A. Yes, I do.

16 Q. And is -- well, that's because you get cold in the  
17 winter?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. And that little -- the heater downstairs was -- it had  
21 just been pulled to heat up there because I kept my door closed at  
22 all times.

23 Q. Oh, okay. And that's kind of what I was wondering. We,  
24 we saw the heater downstairs, but there's no like, there's no duct  
25 work or anything. Now, we saw there was a little hole in the

1 floor in the hallway.

2 A. Um-hum.

3 Q. So is that the only place heat could get up to?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And just in your experience, was it -- in the winters,  
6 was the upstairs colder than the downstairs or --

7 A. Yes, it was.

8 Q. Okay. Okay. That makes sense. And in the summers, we  
9 noticed it's a, it's a very solid building. Did it get pretty hot  
10 in there? Did you have to open a --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. And so would you open the windows? How would you  
13 get --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- to stay cool?

16 A. Window open.

17 Q. Windows open.

18 A. Sometimes we had fans.

19 Q. Okay. Good.

20 Okay. That's all I have.

21 MR. NICHOLSON: Ravi, do you have anything else?

22 MR. CHHATRE: Yes. I have a couple of questions.

23 BY MR. CHHATRE:

24 Q. Do you recall any work being done on the water line in  
25 the yard?

1 A. Pardon me. What?

2 Q. The water --

3 MS. WATSON: Do you recall whether any work was done on  
4 the water line in the yard?

5 MS. MABRY: I'm thinking that's what they were working  
6 on the -- I, I don't know.

7 BY MR. CHHATRE:

8 Q. Okay. That's fine.

9 A. I don't know, whatever they was working on the duct or  
10 fountain in there.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Because they had a Roto-Rooter or --

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. -- what you call it?

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. A snake?

17 Q. Yeah, okay. Right.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. Okay. Okay.

20 A. And they kept talking about the vines from the tree.

21 MR. NICHOLSON: The root --

22 MS. MABRY: The roots from the tree.

23 MR. NICHOLSON: -- roots from the tree? Sure.

24 BY MR. CHHATRE:

25 Q. Okay. Okay. Now, did you talk to any -- anybody else,

1     like the people in the back unit, 79 and any other neighbors?

2           A.     Have I talked to them?   Concerning what?

3           Q.     About gas odor?

4           A.     Oh, not I.

5           Q.     Okay.

6           A.     I didn't know too many -- I didn't know the --

7           Q.     Okay.

8           A.     -- the people over there.

9           Q.     And that's all I have.   Again, thank you so much for  
10   coming down to help us.

11          A.     Okay.

12                   BY MS. MCATEE:

13          Q.     Just a couple more questions.

14          A.     Okay.

15          Q.     Other than the work that they did when the toilet was  
16   backing up --

17          A.     Um-hum.

18          Q.     -- do you remember if they did any other work outside,  
19   anything that would-- the dug up the ground?

20          A.     No.   I know they worked across the street.

21          Q.     Okay, but nothing in your yard?

22          A.     Besides the twice -- the times --

23          Q.     Besides the twice, yeah.

24          A.     No.

25          Q.     Okay.   Because you said it was cold, did you ever use



1 the oven to help heat the house?

2 A. Have been.

3 Q. Did you do it the night before the accident?

4 A. I don't remember about that.

5 Q. You don't remember.

6 Did you use it in addition to the heater? Did you run  
7 both of them?

8 A. I don't remember her -- I don't, you know, know, doing  
9 it.

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

11 A. Okay.

12 MR. NICHOLSON: Keith?

13 MR. BLACKWOOD: I have one more question.

14 BY MR. BLACKWOOD:

15 Q. Did anybody in the house smoke?

16 A. My daughter smoked and her boyfriend smoke. I didn't  
17 smoke. I don't smoke.

18 Q. Okay. Thank you.

19 MR. NICHOLSON: Bob?

20 MR. GARDNER: I don't have anything else. Thank you.

21 MS. MABRY: Thank you.

22 MR. NICHOLSON: Ravi?

23 MR. CHHATRE: No.

24 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay. So --

25 MS. WATSON: The only thing I wanted to add, the very

1 first question you asked her about how long she'd lived there.

2 MR. NICHOLSON: Yes.

3 MS. WATSON: I don't -- I think it was longer than a

4 year.

5 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay.

6 MS. MABRY: It may have been two years.

7 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay.

8 MS. MABRY: I'm, I'm looking at the Christmases.

9 MR. NICHOLSON: Oh, that's a good way to do.

10 MS. MABRY: It makes it two years.

11 MS. WATSON: Okay.

12 MS. MABRY: Two, maybe three. Two-and-a-half years.

13 I'm going to go with that.

14 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. Two to three years.

15 MS. MABRY: I'm not going to go no farther.

16 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. That is fine.

17 MS. WATSON: I think that's probably more correct.

18 MS. MABRY: I can't get more right.

19 MR. NICHOLSON: Probably more correct. So two, two

20 years.

21 BY MR. CHHATRE:

22 Q. Do you, do you recall how long your daughter stayed in

23 Unit 80?

24 A. I'm going to say four, maybe five years.

25 Q. Four to five years. Okay. Thank you so much for that

1 correction.

2 A. Okay.

3 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay. If we have no further questions,  
4 I suppose we'll end the interview.

5 Anything else you want to clarify or --

6 MS. WATSON: No. I was just looking back. That was,  
7 that was the only thing I made a remark about. No, that's it.

8 You did good.

9 MS. MABRY: Um-hum.

10 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay. We'll go off the record at this  
11 point.

12 MR. CHHATRE: Thank you.

13 MR. NICHOLSON: Off the record.

14 Thanks, Denise.

15 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           ALABAMA GAS CORPORATION (ALAGASCO)  
                                  NATURAL GAS RELEASE WITH IGNITION  
                                  BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA  
                                  DECEMBER 17, 2013  
                                  Interview of Denise Mabry

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-14-MP-001

PLACE:                    Birmingham, Alabama

DATE:                     July 17, 2014

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.

---

Judith Moore  
Transcriber

DEUISE  
MERRY  
7.17.14

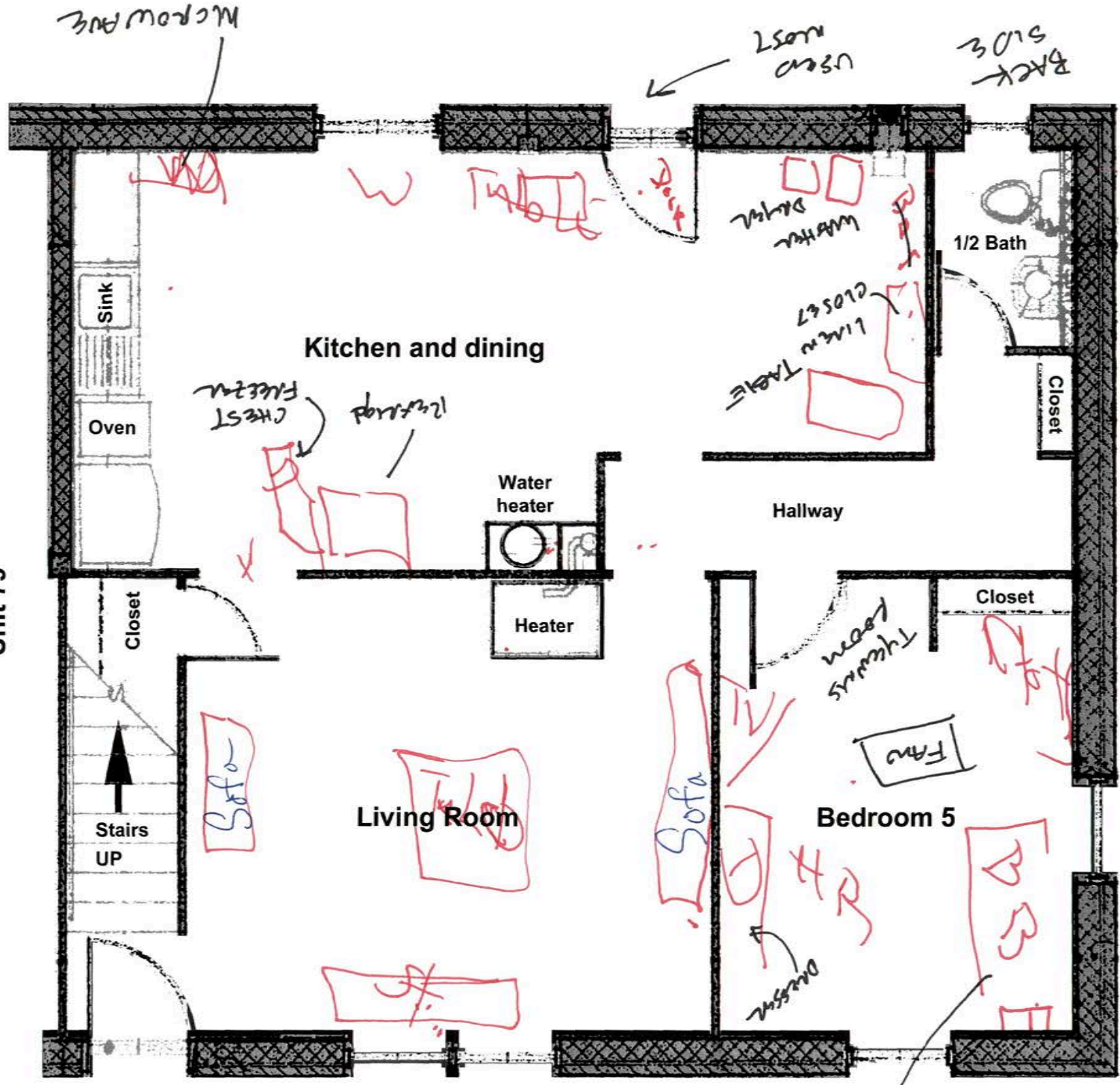
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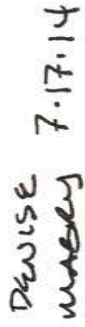
BACK  
SLOPE



Unit 79  
↑



UNIT 80 FIRST FLOOR PLAN



Denise  
Mansley