

Docket No. SA-534

Exhibit No. 2-BX

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Washington, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF RICARDO PENA, PG&E
(JAN-5-2011)

(16 Pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *
*
PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY *
SEPTEMBER 9, 2010 ACCIDENT *
SAN BRUNO, CALIFORNIA *
*

Docket No. DCA-10-MP-008

* * * * *

Interview of: RICARDO PENA

Marriott Hotel
San Francisco Airport
1800 Bayshore Highway
Burlingame, California 94010

Wednesday,
January 5, 2011

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to
Notice.

BEFORE: RAVINDRA CHHATRE
Investigator-in-Charge

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I N D E X

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1 . Phone number is 925- . And, I think I was supposed
2 to say I choose Dane here to be with me. I couldn't remember if
3 there was anything else, I apologize for that.

4 MR. CHHATRE: Thank you for that. Now, let's begin by
5 introducing ourselves. Please state your name, official contact
6 information, title, which company your represent, starting with
7 the City.

8 MR. CALDWELL: Geoff Caldwell, City of San Bruno, the
9 rest of my information's on the card provided.

10 MR. DAUBIN: Brian Daubin, PG&E, the rest of the
11 information's on the card provided.

12 MR. FASSETT: Bob Fassett, PG&E, information on the card
13 provided.

14 MS. JACKSON: Connie Jackson, City of San Bruno, my
15 information's on the card.

16 MS. FABRY: Klara Fabry, City of San Bruno, information
17 provided on the card.

18 MR. SHORI: Sunil Shori, California Public Utilities
19 Commission. Information's on the card provided.

20 MR. KATCHMAR: Peter Katchmar, United States Department
21 of Transportation, Pipeline Hazardous Material Safety
22 Administration, PHMSA.

23 MR. GUNTHER: Karl Gunther, NTSB Operations Group Chair,
24 the e-mail is karl.gunther@ntsb.gov. Phone 202-314-6478.

25 MS. MAZZANTI: Debbie Mazzanti, IBEW, Local 1245, the

1 rest is on the card.

2 MR. SPERRY: I'm Joshua Sperry with Engineers and
3 Scientists of California. ESC Local 20, IFPTE. My contact
4 information's been provided.

5 MR. NICHOLSON: Matthew Nicholson, NTSB engineer,
6 M-A-T-T-H-E-W, N-I-C-H-O-L-S-O-N, matthew.nicholson@ntsb.gov.

7 MR. CHHATRE: Ravindra Chhatre, National Transportation
8 Safety Board, e-mail is ravindra.chhatre@ntsb.gov, telephone 202-
9 314-6644.

10 MR. NARVELL: Rick Narvell, Human Performance
11 Investigator for the NTSB in Washington, D.C. Phone is 202-314-
12 6422 and e-mail is narvelr@ntsb.gov.

13 MR. JAQUES: Dane Jaques on behalf of the witness, and
14 my information has been provided already.

15 MR. CHHATRE: Before we begin, I just want to let
16 everyone to know that please keep your side conversations to a
17 minimum if possible, and as few as possible, Matt has some
18 concerns about not getting all the official conversations on the
19 recorders, and they're the most important part. I'm not saying
20 don't have a side conversation, but keep it to an absolute
21 minimum, if you would, please.

22 Do you want to start first, Karl, or --

23 MR. GUNTHER: Yeah, I'll go ahead and start.

24 INTERVIEW OF RICARDO PENA

25 BY MR. GUNTHER:

1 Q. Can you get me your title and your affiliation?

2 A. Gas system operator, Pacific Gas & Electric Company.

3 Q. And, what are your formal credentials?

4 A. Trained as a gas system operator.

5 Q. Do you have a, a high school diploma.

6 A. Oh, high school diploma, I'm sorry, yes.

7 Q. Yeah. Any graduate or?

8 A. No.

9 Q. No. What are your duties?

10 A. To manage, maintain and monitor the pressures and flows
11 inside the pipeline PG&E.

12 Q. Now do you work with the SCADA system?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Yes. And are you out of San Francisco?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. Did you work on the gas control investigation
17 document?

18 A. I worked on a portion of it.

19 Q. Okay. Could you describe what your portion covered
20 and --

21 A. Yes, it was the portion covering, I think it's about the
22 second session -- section, basically just recorded the timeline --
23 collected documents from each of the, the five guys on shift and
24 tried to create a timeline on like a word document in order to try
25 to keep things in order.

1 MR. GUNTHER: Okay. How about the City of San Bruno?

2 MR. CALDWELL: No questions.

3 MR. DAUBIN: No questions at this time.

4 MR. FASSETT: No questions.

5 MS. JACKSON: No questions.

6 MS. FABRY: No questions.

7 MR. SHORI: Mr. Pena, Sunil Shori, California PUC.

8 BY MR. SHORI:

9 Q. Where you involved with seeing some of the low low
10 alarms received from Milpitas on the lines feeding the peninsula?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Did you have yourself any discussions with anyone
13 down -- anyone at the Milpitas terminal prior to the incident?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Were you involved at all at seeing the pressures that
16 Sierra Vista cross-tie when they exceed the 375 psig?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Were you involved at all in decreasing pressure coming
19 into Milpitas terminal from EOS 7A, 7B or Sheridan Route (ph.)?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Do you recall having any discussions with anyone at gas
22 control in regard to decreasing pressures coming into Milpitas?

23 A. No.

24 MR. SHORI: I don't have any further questions. Thank
25 you.

1 MR. KATCHMAR: Peter Katchmar, USPUT, Pipeline Hazardous
2 Material Safety Administration.

3 BY MR. KATCHMAR:

4 Q. Where were you on September 9th, during the day?

5 A. During the day I was at home. At home. I was off work.

6 Q. You were off work that day?

7 A. Um-hum.

8 Q. Okay. Were you called in that evening?

9 A. I called in when I heard of the event and asked if they
10 needed assistance.

11 Q. What did they respond?

12 A. Yes. And so I proceeded to go in.

13 Q. And you went in to?

14 A. To San Francisco.

15 Q. San Francisco. To the control center?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What time did you arrive there?

18 A. I don't remember exactly. I'm going to -- I'll guess
19 and say between 8 and 8:30, but I don't know for sure.

20 Q. Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. KATCHMAR: No more questions for me.

22 MR. GUNTHER: I have no questions.

23 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

24 Q. The gas control investigation document -- does that
25 consist of just a timeline?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay, larger. Do you know if information request that
3 would be?

4 A. Umm. Bob?

5 MR. NICHOLSON: Bob, you're welcome to answer.

6 MR. FASSETT: I'm sorry, I was writing notes. What was
7 the question?

8 MR. NICHOLSON: Which information request contains this
9 document gas control investigation, is that which one?

10 MR. PENA: It's the abnormal report, I can tell you
11 that.

12 MR. NICHOLSON: Oh, okay.

13 MR. CALDWELL: It's being handed to him for the person
14 writing this down. From Sunil.

15 MR. DAUBIN: I don't recall offhand what the DR
16 request --

17 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay, I was going to write it.

18 MR. DAUBIN: -- number is.

19 MR. NICHOLSON: All right. And we do have a copy.

20 MR. CALDWELL: That was Brian Daubin who doesn't recall
21 what the DR number was for the person writing this down.

22 MR. NICHOLSON: That's all I really wanted to cover.

23 MR. CHHATRE: Ravi Chhatre, NTSB.

24 BY MR. CHHATRE:

25 Q. Upon your arrival whom did you talk to and what did you

1 do? (Indiscernible) recording.

2 A. Upon arrival I spoke to the operators on shift,
3 basically asking where do you want me, what do you need me to do?
4 And was then also directed to, and I don't remember the timeline,
5 if Andy Wenzel was there, our boss was there at the time or not.

6 Ultimately, I went to Andy and asked, how can I help,
7 what was I going to do, and that's where he assigned me to collect
8 the notes and put them into a timeline, as best I could.

9 Q. What else did you do that day? Besides compiling the
10 document.

11 A. That was it.

12 Q. And what time did you leave control center?

13 A. Again, it's a guess -- midnight?

14 Q. Okay. Do you recall the document that you worked on
15 that day for the -- in the product, somebody else (indiscernible).
16 Do you know that?

17 A. I don't know.

18 Q. Did you get to see the product before it -- from PG&E to
19 NTSB?

20 A. I probably did, but I couldn't recall for sure. As far
21 as the abnormal report? No, I didn't look at it. It's available
22 in the control room, but I did not look at it.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. So, you pretty much took the information from the

1 screens and just printed that, and that what happened?

2 A. They were handwritten, handwritten notes, from phone
3 calls coming in to the operations center.

4 Q. Can you really briefly tell me the process maybe or
5 maybe even the phone calls, how do you, I guess, merge all this
6 from all the people that (indiscernible).

7 A. And that's exactly what I was attempted to do. We're
8 instructed during an event to write the time the best you can, and
9 the name, and the return phone number. And I just tried to take
10 the times from each operator and put them into a chronological
11 order.

12 Q. Okay. And those times from the operator, they are the
13 estimates? Are they kind of a vehicle of some sort? Or?

14 A. I don't know. Since I didn't write them myself, I don't
15 know.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. I just wrote what I saw. I logged what I saw basically
18 on that document.

19 Q. I'm sorry, I did not --

20 A. I logged the times that I saw written down on the
21 document.

22 Q. And those written down comments they were given to you
23 by other operators?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. Did you ask them how did they get that?

1 A. No, I did not ask them, no.

2 Q. Did you get any information by yourself, looking at the
3 SCADA screens or verifying (indiscernible) or anything at all?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Were there any gaps in the times the information was
6 there; do you recall? Like anything more than two minutes.

7 A. I don't recall. Yeah.

8 Q. Do you -- were you involved in any other activity that
9 deals with the September 9th incident?

10 A. No.

11 MR. CHHATRE: That's all for me. No more questions.

12 Anybody have any follow up questions? If not, thank you
13 so much for coming. I appreciate your time.

14 MR. PENA: Thank you.

15 MR. CHHATRE: This concludes the interview. Off the
16 record.

17 (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: PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY
 SEPTEMBER 9, 2010 ACCIDENT
 SAN BRUNO, CALIFORNIA
 Interview of Ricardo Pena

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA-10-MP-008

PLACE: Burlingame, California

DATE: January 5, 2011

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been compared to
the recording accomplished at the hearing.

Leigh Dempsey
Transcriber