

**Docket No. SA-534**

**Exhibit No. 2-CA**

**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD**

**Washington, D.C.**

INTERVIEW OF MARK ROBERTSON, PG&E  
(JAN-6-2011)

(15 Pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2010 ACCIDENT  
SAN BRUNO, CALIFORNIA

\* Docket No.: DCA-10-MP-008

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: MICHAEL ROBERTSON

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

Thursday,  
January 6, 2011

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to  
notice.

BEFORE: RAVINDRA M. CHHATRE  
Investigator-in-Charge

## APPEARANCES:

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PAT BERDGE, Esq.  
California Public Utility Commission

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1 And the person that's with me today is Pat Berdge, attorney for  
2 the California Public Utilities Commission.

3 MR. CHHATRE: Thank you for that. Let's go around the  
4 table and have each person introduce themselves. Please state  
5 your name, spelling, your title and the organization that you  
6 represent, business e-mails and phone numbers, starting with the  
7 City.

8 MR. CALDWELL: My name is Geoff Caldwell, City of San  
9 Bruno. My information is on the card provided.

10 MR. DAUBIN: Brian Daubin with PG&E. My information is  
11 on the card provided.

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

14 MS. JACKSON: Connie Jackson, City of San Bruno. My  
15 information is on the card.

16 MR. FABRY: Klara Fabry, City of San Bruno. Information  
17 is provided on the card.

18 MR. SHORI: Sunil Shori, California Public Utilities  
19 Commission. My information is on the card provided.

20 Mr. KATCHMAR: Peter Katchmar, United States Department  
21 of Transportation, Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety  
22 Administration, PHMSA, and my information is on the card provided.

23 MR. GUNTHER: Karl Gunther, NTSB. I'm the Operations  
24 Group Chair, karl.gunther@ntsb.gov. Phone (202) 314-6478.

25 MS. MAZZANTI: Debbie Mazzanti, International



1 Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1245. My information is  
2 on the card.

3 MR. SPERRY: Joshua Sperry, representing the Engineers  
4 and Scientists of California, Local 20, IFPTE. My information is  
5 on my card provided.

6 Mr. NICHOLSON: Matthew Nicholson, NTSB engineer,  
7 spelled Matthew, M-a-t-t-h-e-w, Nicholson, N-i-c-h-o-l-s-o-n.  
8 matthew.nicholson@ntsb.gov.

9 MR. CHHATRE: Ravindra Chhatre. I'm with National  
10 Transportation Safety Board. My e-mail is  
11 ravindra.chhatre@ntsb.gov. Phone number (202) 314-6644.

12 Mr. NARVELL: Rick Narvell, Human Performance  
13 Investigator Chair for the NTSB in Washington, D.C., (202) 314-  
14 6422, e-mail is narvelr@ntsb.gov.

15 MR. BERDGE: Patrick Berdge, Staff Counsel, CPUC, and  
16 the contact information is on the card provided.

17 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. With that, Karl, you want to go?

18 MR. GUNTHER: Karl Gunther, NTSB.

19 INTERVIEW OF MICHAEL ROBERTSON

20 BY MR. GUNTHER:

21 Q. Could I have your job title, please?

22 A. I'm the Program and Project Supervisor for Utility  
23 Safety and Reliability Branch, Gas Safety Section.

24 Q. And what are your duties?

25 A. My duties are pretty much I oversee all the staff

1 engineers, the senior engineers, couple of administrative staff.  
2 I review all the audit reports. I sometimes go with staff on some  
3 of their audits. I basically just review the work overall  
4 general.

5 Q. Okay. With the latest corrective action order, did you  
6 have a part in formulating that and the letter that was sent out?

7 A. No, I did not.

8 Q. Are you involved in the Integrity Management audits?

9 A. Not -- basically I reviewed the last Integrity  
10 Management audit, but I was not involved.

11 Q. Okay. And I guess this was asked, but how often do you  
12 do Integrity Management audits?

13 A. That's something we're looking at right now. We're  
14 developing our policy on that, but I would like to see at least a  
15 three-year and possibly even a two-year audit. And, of course, it  
16 depends on the size of the pipeline operator.

17 Q. Are you looking to include the new threat into your  
18 auditing system and what you're looking for?

19 A. I would imagine, yes, we would definitely look into  
20 that, yes.

21 MR. GUNTHER: And I'll go ahead and pass. City of San  
22 Bruno.

23 MR. CALDWELL: City of San Bruno, no questions at this  
24 time.

25 MR. DAUBIN: No questions.

1 MR. FASSETT: Bob Fassett, no questions.

2 MS. FABRY: No questions.

3 MR. SHORI: Sunil Shori, no questions.

4 MR. KATCHMAR: Peter Katchmar, U.S. DOT, no questions.

5 MR. GUNTHER: No questions.

6 MS. MAZZANTI: No questions.

7 MR. SPERRY: No questions.

8 MR. NICHOLSON: No questions at this time.

9 MR. CHHATRE: Ravindra Chhatre, NTSB.

10 BY MR. CHHATRE:

11 Q. For the record can you tell us how many staffing  
12 engineers or senior engineers do you have that you have delegated  
13 to pipeline gas -- natural gas pipelines?

14 A. It's changed a little bit over the last couple months,  
15 and I believe right now we have eight dedicated engineers. We  
16 have one senior engineer. We have one administrative staff.  
17 However, we have two engineers on loan from our electric section,  
18 as well, so --

19 Q. Do you oversee both electrical and natural gas or just  
20 natural gas?

21 A. Currently I just oversee gas, but about six months ago I  
22 did both.

23 Q. Now, is your staff dedicated as utility specialists,  
24 meaning the same person would go and do THE audits for the same  
25 utility or just kind of random?

1 A. I'm sorry, I didn't hear the first part of the question.

2 Q. When it comes to utility audits, do you have a staff  
3 dedicated for certain utility, meaning just -- anybody can go at  
4 random go audit utility?

5 A. Based on the size of a state and the utilities involved,  
6 basically Southern California does SoCal or Sempra and Northern  
7 California does PG&E. However, Southwest Gas is both North and  
8 South, so we both do the Southwest gas audits.

9 Q. All your staff located at headquarters in San Francisco  
10 or --

11 A. No. We have an LA office and a Sacramento office, as  
12 well.

13 Q. And you supervise all three of them?

14 A. All three offices. Yes, I do.

15 Q. The audit reports any direct reactions. Do they refer  
16 themselves or is there like a senior engineer does that?

17 A. The engineers will write up the audit reports and  
18 basically suggest or recommend corrective actions. Mostly they  
19 just basically cite the utility for their findings and then ask  
20 for a corrective response from the utility.

21 Q. In the past audits of PG&E, and let's just go back the  
22 last ten years, do it every three years, the audits take place for  
23 natural gas.

24 A. It depends on district or division.

25 Q. Okay. Do you recall any difficulties in PG&E's

1 recordkeeping or documentation keeping?

2 A. Okay. Now, I personally have not done a PG&E audit for  
3 maybe over ten years, okay. Do you want me to go back that far?

4 Q. I was not really asking whether you had done any -- I  
5 realize you wouldn't be doing any audits in your position.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. The audit reports would eventually go through you for  
8 review. Do you remember any record difficulties with PG&E audits?

9 A. Yes, on some of the current audits I have reviewed.

10 MR. CHHATRE: Other than that, I have no more questions.  
11 Any follow-up questions?

12 MS. FABRY: Klara Fabry.

13 BY MS. FABRY:

14 Q. On the available engineers, you were just a qualifying  
15 question -- you were assigning them to be responsible  
16 consistently for certain section of the system or you are  
17 selecting them based on how they are --

18 A. It's based on the geography of the state basically and  
19 where a staff is located. I mean, it's very difficult for a staff  
20 in LA to go do a PG&E audit up north, so it more has to do with  
21 just the convenience of where staff is located.

22 Q. The same person will go back for the next audit for  
23 that --

24 A. In some cases, yes, that has happened, but we always  
25 like to have a new engineer go along and learn the particulars of

1 that particular division or unit or whatever.

2 Q. This is not a principle of how you are setting up your  
3 office operation?

4 A. I'm not sure what you're asking. If you're asking that  
5 the same staff goes back and does another audit --

6 Q. They are responsible for certain -- on an ongoing basis,  
7 that they have higher knowledge about that part of the system than  
8 other engineers on your staff. You are dividing responsibility  
9 for certain geographical area and they are consistently going back  
10 to audit the same system, or not?

11 A. Basically it's the same pipeline operator, okay. SoCal  
12 staff, LA staff does Sempra and some Southwest Gas and Sempra  
13 includes San Diego Gas and Electric and So Cal Gas. Northern Cal  
14 staff basically focused on PG&E, okay. And it's not so much a  
15 responsibility, because we move the staff around from one audit to  
16 another. It's the geographical location.

17 BY MR. SHORI:

18 Q. Sunil Shori, PUC. I just had a real good clarification.  
19 I think you're looking to see if one particular district or  
20 territory or region is always the same individuals.

21 MS. FABRY: Yes, with consistency.

22 THE WITNESS: Well, that's why I said, it's the pipeline  
23 operator that's mostly consistent but not so much the division or  
24 the district.

25 BY MR. SHORI:

1           Q.    Staff maintained for us -- I think there was a time  
2 years and years ago for a very, very small operators, where we  
3 would assign a geographical area to people, simply because there  
4 was a lot of personnel interaction involved, but I don't think we  
5 do that anymore.

6           A.    Not to my knowledge, it hasn't been done.

7           MR. CHHATRE:   Any other follow-up questions?

8           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:   No.

9           MR. CHHATRE:   If not, thank you so much for coming.

10          THE WITNESS:   Great.

11          MR. CHHATRE:   I guess we talked to you much less than I  
12 kept you waiting outside.   Appreciate your time.   Off the record.

13                       (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 Michael Robertson

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-10-MP-008

PLACE:                    Burlingame, CA

DATE:                     January 6, 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.

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Sandra K. Ledford  
Transcriber