Docket No. SA-534
Exhibit No. 2-CJ

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Washington, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF WING WONG, CITY OF SAN BRUNO, CA (JANUARY 3, 2011)

(53 Pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Investigation of:

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY *

SEPTEMBER 9, 2010 ACCIDENT SAN BRUNO, CALIFORNIA

Interview of: WING WONG

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

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

Monday, January 3, 2011

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

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Investigator-in-Charge

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1 INTERVIEW

- 2 MR. CHHATRE: On the record.
- Good afternoon, everyone. Today is Monday, January 3,
- 4 2011. We are currently in Burlingame, California in the San
- 5 Francisco Airport Marriott.
- 6 We are meeting in regards to the Investigation of
- 7 Pipeline Rupture in San Bruno, California, that occurred on
- 8 September 9, 2010. The NTSB Accident Number for this
- 9 investigation is DCA-10-MP-008. My name is Ravi Chhatre. I'm
- 10 with National Transportation Safety Board and I'm the investigator
- 11 in charge of this accident.
- I would like to start by notifying everyone present in
- 13 this room that we are recording this interview for transcription
- 14 at a later date. All parties will have a chance to review the
- 15 transcripts when they are completed.
- Also, I would like to inform Mr. Wong that you are
- 17 permitted to have one other person present with you during the
- 18 interviews. This is a person of your choice; your supervisor,
- 19 your family member, friend, and if you choose, nobody at all.
- 20 Please state for the record your full name, spelling of
- 21 your name, contact information such as phone, e-mail address, and
- 22 postal mailing address and whom you have chosen to be present with
- 23 you during your interview.
- 24 MR. WONG: My name is Wing Wong. I'm the associate
- 25 engineer for City of San Bruno. And my phone number is -----

- 1 ---. My e-mail address is wwong, that's -----,
- 2 G-O-V.
- 3 MR. CHHATRE: And whom have you selected to be --
- 4 MR. WONG: I have selected Britt -- sorry.
- 5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She can --
- 6 MS. STROTTMAN: Strottman.
- 7 MR. WONG: Strottman, next to me to be a represent -- to
- 8 be my representative.
- 9 MR. CHHATRE: Now I would like to go around the room,
- 10 have each person introduce themselves. Please state your name,
- 11 spelling, your title and organization that you represent, business
- 12 e-mail and phone number. Start with the City, again.
- MR. CALDWELL: Geoff Caldwell, City of San Bruno. My
- 14 name's spelled G-E-O-F-F C-A-L-D-W-E-L-L. The rest is on my card
- 15 that I presented to you.
- 16 MR. DAUBIN: Brian Daubin, Pacific Gas and Electric
- 17 Company. All of my particulars are on the card presented.
- 18 MR. FASSETT: Bob Fassett, PG&E. I'm a PG&E/NTSB party
- 19 representative. And everything else is on my card.
- MS. JACKSON: Connie Jackson, City of San Bruno. I will
- 21 give you my card. C-O-N-N-I-E J-A-C-K-S-O-N. And party
- 22 representative for the City of San Bruno.
- 23 MS. FABRY: Klara Fabry, San Bruno. All of the
- 24 information is on the card that I --
- 25 MR. SHORI: Sunil Shori, California Public Utilities

- 1 Commission. All my information is on the card, which I will
- 2 provide to you.
- 3 MR. KATCHMAR: Peter Katchmar, U.S. DOT. And I
- 4 presented a card, as well.
- 5 MR. GUNTHER: Karl Gunther, NTSB.
- 6 karl.qunther@ntsb.gov. Phone (202) 314-6478.
- 7 MS. MAZZANTI: Debbie Mazzanti and I have the
- 8 information on the card I gave you.
- 9 MR. SPERRY: Joshua Sperry, the senior representative
- 10 for Engineers and Scientists of California, Local 20. My
- 11 information's on the card.
- 12 MR. NICHOLSON: Matthew Nicholson, M-A-T-T-H-E-W
- 13 N-I-C-H-O-L-S-O-N. matthew.nicholson@ntsb.gov.
- 14 MR. CHHATRE: Ravindra Chhatre, R-A-V-I-N-D-R-A
- 15 C-H-H-A-T-R-E. I'm not National Transportation Safety Board,
- 16 Washington, D.C. Phone number (202) 314-6644. E-mail,
- 17 ravindra.chhatre@ntsb.gov.
- 18 MR. NARVELL: Rick Narvell, "N" like in Nancy,
- 19 A-R-V-E-L-L. I'm a performance investigator with the NTSB out of
- 20 Washington, D.C. Telephone is area code (202) 314-6422. E-mail
- 21 is "N" like in Nancy, arvelr@ntsb.gov.
- 22 MS. STROTTMAN: Britt Strottman, senior counsel, Meyers
- 23 Nave, and counsel for the City of San Bruno. It's B-R-I-T-T
- S-T-R-O-T-T-M-A-N.
- MR. CHHATRE: Okay, let's begin with Karl.

- 1 INTERVIEW OF WING WONG
- 2 BY MR. GUNTHER:
- Q. Okay, Mr. Wong, could I get your job title and
- 4 affiliation?
- 5 A. My job title is associate engineer. And I'm also
- 6 currently the acting-city engineer for the City of San Bruno.
- 7 Q. Okay. And also were you the project manager for the
- 8 2008 sewer improvement project?
- 9 A. That's correct. I was the project manager for the 2008
- 10 sewer improvement project.
- 11 O. Could you discuss your formal education?
- 12 A. My undergrad degree, I have a Bachelor of Science in
- 13 Chemical Engineering. I have a Master of Science in Civil
- 14 Engineering. And I'm also a registered civil engineer in the
- 15 State of California.
- 16 Q. Okay. Could you describe what you did in 2008, just
- 17 start from the beginning on the sewer improvement project, what
- 18 you observed and you know, what tasks you did?
- 19 A. Can you tell me the specific period of time on the
- 20 project that you would like me to --
- 21 O. Yeah, what --
- 22 A. -- discuss?
- 23 Q. -- we're interested in is the intersection between Earl
- 24 Avenue & Glenview Drive, so whatever, in that particular time,
- 25 that particular part of the project was done.

- 1 A. For that section of pipeline I had discussion with the
- 2 sewer division staff regarding the need for replacement of the
- 3 existing sewer. And after that we prepare -- City staff prepare a
- 4 drawing showing the location, the elevations of the manholes, the
- 5 rim elevation, just the -- at the ground, the invert elevation,
- 6 which is at the bottom of pipe. And with that information I
- 7 provide it to the contractor for the (indiscernible) contract,
- 8 which is D'Arcy & Harty Construction.
- 9 Q. Um-hum.
- 10 A. D'Arcy & Harty Construction, the Company provided me
- 11 with a cost proposal. And with that proposal I prepared a staff
- 12 report, sent it to the City Manager for review and the item --
- 13 agenda item was brought up at the Council meeting where the City
- 14 Council approve the award of that change order to D'Arcy & Harty.
- 15 And after that the -- I supervise the mobilization of
- 16 the contractor onto that site. They began work for the
- 17 replacement of the sewer line, the manholes and connection of the
- 18 sewer laterals. And during the administration, the management of
- 19 the contract, I process the payment, prepared the paperwork for
- 20 contract closeout, which include, you know, punch list item. That
- 21 punch list is actually a list of items -- outstanding item that we
- 22 require contractor to finish prior to final acceptance of the
- 23 project.
- 24 And when we -- when the City is satisfied with the work
- 25 and accepted the project, we prepare a notice of completion which

- 1 we file with the County of San Mateo. And upon 35 days after the
- 2 filing of the notice of completion we release the 10 percent with
- 3 retention of the payment to the contractor.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. So that's basically my role.
- 6 O. Did you observe any of the actions that were going on,
- 7 you know, where they crossed the 30-inch gas line?
- 8 A. As I can recall on that particular day the -- prior to
- 9 that, the work actually taking place, the USA, which is the
- 10 underground services alert, was contacted by the contractor and in
- 11 which the utilities company must go out there and they use this
- 12 temporary marking paint and they mark the location of the
- 13 underground utilities.
- 14 So based on these marking, the contractor perform a
- 15 process call potholing, which is to physically expose the pipe
- 16 that was underground. And in this case it was the gas pipeline.
- 17 And around the pipe the potholing work was done by hand and not by
- 18 mechanical -- like a backhoe machine or --
- 19 So on that particular day I recall I was contacted by
- 20 D'Arcy & Harty indicating that yes, the potholing is complete,
- 21 they have exposed the profile, confirmed the location of the pipe.
- 22 And they have also contacted PG&E to go out there to get their
- 23 approval for the go ahead of the pipe replacement process.
- 24 So when I went out there I can see that the profile was
- 25 of the pipe with the dirt intact around the pipe, was in the

- 1 ground. And we were waiting for PG&E representative to arrive.
- 2 And that is their -- since the gas line belongs to PG&E we do not
- 3 proceed anywhere in the vicinity of the pipe, in particular
- 4 especially a gas -- high pressured gas line of this size --
- 5 Q. Right.
- 6 A. -- without a PG&E representative present.
- 7 So when the PG&E representative arrived on site and he
- 8 looked at it and gave the okay, the process began and I left to go
- 9 back to the office. And that's my recollection of that event of
- 10 that particular day.
- 11 Q. And was the digging done on both sides of the pipe, or
- 12 just one side or?
- 13 A. As I -- far as I can recall it was done on both sides of
- 14 the pipe.
- 15 MR. GUNTHER: Okay. No more questions for right now.
- MR. CHHATRE: Okay. Let's begin with the City.
- 17 MR. CALDWELL: Yeah, Geoff Caldwell, City of San Bruno.
- 18 BY MR. CALDWELL:
- 19 O. Did you see the other -- any other pits that were dug at
- 20 the time besides the holes on either side of the transmission
- 21 line?
- 22 A. Yes. There were one at the manhole location, which
- 23 the -- which the -- would be the receiving pit of a pipeline, the
- 24 new pipe to be pulled. So there was one pit to the East side of
- 25 the PG&E pipeline. That is where the manhole is located there was

- 1 the pit.
- Q. Okay. And did you see any shoring in place at either?
- 3 A. I cannot recall that. Yeah.
- Q. Had they completed that pit, did you know, the one at
- 5 the manhole? Was it done or was still something that they were
- 6 excavating at the time before you left?
- 7 A. The excavation was there but the manhole was not there.
- 8 That's how I can recall.
- 9 MR. CALDWELL: Okay, thank you. Nothing else right now.
- 10 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.
- MR. DAUBIN: No questions for me.
- MR. FASSETT: Bob Fassett, PG&E.
- BY MR. FASSETT:
- 14 Q. You mentioned that -- I was a little confused. You said
- on day of potholing you were called to say that the potholing of
- 16 the pipe for the profile was completed and you were waiting for a
- 17 PG&E representative to arrive and you weren't going to proceed
- 18 without PG&E representative. Does that mean you exposed the PG&E
- 19 transmission main and there wasn't a PG&E representative there
- 20 when you exposed it?
- 21 A. When I went out to the site there the pipe was exposed.
- 22 But whether the PG&E representative on -- was on site while
- 23 they're exposing that pipe I do not know.
- Q. Okay. I'm going to go back and ask you what that call
- 25 was for then because I'm a little confused. I wrote down that on

- 1 the day of the potholing you were called to say that the potholing
- 2 for the profile was completed and they were waiting for a PG&E
- 3 representative to arrive.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. So what did they do? What does that mean, "Pothole for
- 6 profiling was completed"?
- 7 A. That --
- 8 Q. Profiling of what?
- 9 A. The profiling is the shape of the pipe was exposed.
- 10 Q. And they were waiting for PG&E to come out?
- 11 A. To give the go ahead to pull the pipe.
- 12 Q. So they exposed the pipe without PG&E present?
- 13 A. I am not sure about that. I -- as I mentioned, I was
- 14 not there when they are digging around the pipe.
- 15 Q. So the men -- or the excavations that you saw, that was
- 16 of the top of the exposed transmission pipe and the top of the
- 17 sewer pipe?
- 18 A. The excavation that I saw was the top of the gas -- was
- 19 the -- was the top and side of the trans -- gas transmission line.
- Q. And did the potholing and the fold back occur on the
- 21 same day?
- 22 A. I cannot be 100 percent sure about that.
- Q. Do you have a record of when you received that phone
- 24 call and what was said?
- 25 A. No, I did not keep a record of what was said on that

- 1 phone call. I -- as far as I can remember is that it was ready
- 2 for -- to go out there and take a look.
- 3 O. But you are aware that PG&E needs to be there for the
- 4 purpose of exposing the pipe?
- 5 A. (No audible response.)
- 6 O. That's a question. Are you aware that PG&E needs to be
- 7 there for the purpose of exposing the pipe?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. We notice there are several surveying monuments on Earl
- 10 Avenue. Do you know that -- when and under what circumstances
- 11 were these monuments installed in Earl? What's the purpose of
- 12 them?
- 13 A. Is there a specific one that you are talking about at
- 14 the -- on Earl or which monument are you talking about?
- 15 Q. There appears to be survey monuments that are used there
- 16 to measure the fill or the movement associated with the fill of
- 17 Earl. I don't know the specific locations of them. Is that what
- 18 they're used for or are they used for something else?
- 19 MS. STROTTMAN: I'm sorry, can I ask you what the time
- 20 period is, too? You mean now?
- MR. FASSETT: Yes.
- MS. STROTTMAN: Okay.
- BY MR. FASSETT:
- 24 O. Now.
- 25 A. Now? Well, there was a monument on top of -- at the

- 1 intersection of Claremont & Glenview but it's no longer there
- 2 because of the destruction. So right now I do not know of any
- 3 survey monument near that vicinity. So that's why I didn't know
- 4 which particular one you're talking about.
- 5 Q. No worry. What department within the City of San Bruno
- 6 would have surveyed those monuments?
- 7 A. Again?
- 8 MS. STROTTMAN: He didn't hear that, sir.
- 9 BY MR. FASSETT:
- 10 Q. What department within the City of San Bruno would have
- 11 surveyed those monuments?
- 12 A. We -- the City of San Bruno does not have a survey team
- 13 on staff and we would hire a contractor or consultant,
- 14 professional services consultant to perform the surveying work.
- 15 Q. So were -- well, okay. So were you monitoring the fill
- 16 settlement beneath Earl Avenue and the vertical movement of Earl
- 17 Avenue?
- 18 A. I am not aware of that work being done.
- 19 O. Are you aware of how many times the concrete sidewalk
- 20 was patched and when was the sidewalk last patched for either Earl
- 21 or Glenview?
- 22 A. I do not know.
- Q. And so you wouldn't -- you wouldn't know what triggered
- 24 the patching of the uneven concrete sidewalk then; is that
- 25 correct?

- 1 A. I wasn't aware that there was an uneven sidewalk.
- Q. Were there any complaints by local residents about the
- 3 pavement or record -- or records of isolated pavement patching
- 4 work done along Earl and/or Glenview?
- 5 MS. STROTTMAN: I'm sorry, can you clarify the time
- 6 period?
- 7 BY MR. FASSETT:
- 8 Q. Any time before September 9, 2010.
- 9 A. If there's any I'm not aware of.
- 10 Q. Does the City require geotechnical reports to be
- 11 submitted to the City as part of the building permit application
- 12 or for any public work?
- 13 A. Can you repeat that?
- 14 Q. Sure. Does the City require geotechnical reports to be
- 15 submitted to the City as part of the building permit application
- 16 or for any public works project?
- 17 A. As far as the building permit, I think the person that
- 18 should answer that question will -- should be somebody from the
- 19 City's building department, not the public works department that
- 20 I'm in.
- Q. For building. What about for public works projects?
- 22 A. Public works project are conducted in general by the
- 23 City and when City carryout a construction project that requires
- 24 excavation most time the -- a geotechnical report is complete
- 25 prior to the project.

- 1 Q. So was there a geotechnical report for the Earl Avenue
- 2 sewer project which required excavation around the gas
- 3 transmission main?
- 4 A. Not that I'm aware of.
- 5 Q. Post-Loma Prieta earthquake inspection; did the City
- 6 receive service interruption of water or sewer following the
- 7 October '89 earthquake?
- 8 A. I'm sorry?
- 9 Q. Following the -- or did the City receive service
- 10 interruptions of water or sewer following the 19 -- the October
- 11 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake?
- 12 A. I do no knowledge that information [sic].
- 13 Q. Do you know if the City performed its own post-
- 14 earthquake inspections of that system?
- 15 A. I do not know. That was prior to my employment with the
- 16 City of San Bruno.
- MR. FASSETT: All right, why don't we go on. I think
- 18 I'm done but I think I might have another sheet in here, too.
- MS. JACKSON: No questions.
- MS. FABRY: Klara Fabry. One -- a few follow-up
- 21 question.
- BY MS. FABRY:
- Q. If you can recall being -- you said that when you went
- 24 to the site they were waiting for the PG&E inspector to come to
- 25 the site; you had any discussion that was the same -- any other

- 1 inspector was before that time on the site?
- 2 A. No, I cannot recall discussing whether a inspector was
- 3 previously on site. But I was told that they have been in
- 4 communication.
- 5 Q. If you can also be a little bit more specific if you
- 6 can, when you got to the site how -- what is your recollection
- 7 about the -- where exactly the pothole location was, was to relate
- 8 to the pipeline location?
- 9 A. Should I draw it or --
- 10 Q. I think would be great. You have a flipchart.
- 11 A. So, again, this is my recollection of something that
- 12 happened over two years ago.
- MR. CHHATRE: You can use different color if you want.
- MR. WONG: Oh.
- 15 (Pause.)
- MR. WONG: So basically there was an excavation pit
- 17 showing a section of the gas pipeline over the sanitary sewer
- 18 line -- over the existing sanitary sewer line. And the new
- 19 pipe -- new sanitary sewer pipe would be installed at the exact
- 20 location of the existing sanitary sewer pipe.
- MS. FABRY: Okay. Thank you.
- 22 MR. SHORI: Sunil Shori with the California PUC.
- BY MR. SHORI:
- Q. Going back to your drawing, can you maybe approximate
- 25 the dimensions on what the openings were, Mr. Wong?

- 1 A. I can only approximate. The gas pipe is 30-inch
- 2 diameter, so for a section to be square around it, it will be --
- 3 my estimation will be 8 feet by 8 feet square.
- 4 Q. And how deep?
- 5 A. The -- again, this is -- will be approximation, the
- 6 depth would be to the top of the sanitary sewer pipe.
- 7 Q. So when you were there -- you did visit the site? You
- 8 visited the site, right, while that --
- 9 A. While the square --
- 10 Q. -- excavation was in place?
- 11 A. -- was open. Yes.
- 12 Q. And you could see the top of the sanitary sewer line?
- 13 A. I could see the bottom of the gas pipe exposed.
- 14 O. Could you see the sewer line?
- 15 A. I cannot remember. But there was, as far as I can
- 16 remember, there was clearance between the bottom of the gas pipe
- 17 and the soil below or the top of the pipe below.
- 18 Q. How would you know that if you couldn't see it?
- 19 A. No, I mean, I can see a clearance --
- 20 O. Uh-huh.
- 21 A. -- of the -- of the bottom of the pipe to what's below.
- 22 An air gap.
- 23 Q. Okay. So you --
- 24 A. So the gap whether below is soil or pipe I cannot be
- 25 sure about that.

- 1 Q. But there was a gap? An air gap below the gas pipe?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 O. Okay. What's your involvement on USA notifications in
- 4 terms of when you have -- I would imagine you contract out a lot
- 5 of the work that the City does?
- 6 A. I have very little involvement regarding responding to
- 7 USA requests.
- 8 O. Um-hum.
- 9 A. Basically they -- our maintenance yard receive the
- 10 request and that dispatch people from our water department, our
- 11 storm department, storm drain department, our sewer department and
- 12 also public works to go out there and mark the location. My
- 13 participation's very limited.
- 14 O. Let me rephrase the questions.
- 15 A. Um-hum.
- 16 Q. I didn't mean -- I didn't mean for you or the City's
- 17 marking the facilities. I guess what I was trying to get at is in
- 18 terms of when you contract out the work or in this case let's just
- 19 talk about this particular work on this contract, what would be
- 20 your involvement in confirming whether or not the contractor
- 21 called USA and whatever information or discussions took place
- 22 between that contractor and anybody that supposedly was notified
- 23 as part of that ticket?
- A. That's very simple because when you go out to a site you
- 25 can see paint all over the pavement. And there's a limit of USA

- 1 pointing the direction, they enclose the limit of the request.
- 2 And for example, water's -- water lines are mark in blue, you
- 3 know, sewer lines are mark in green. So they are all of a
- 4 different color.
- 5 O. Right.
- 6 A. So when you're out the site you see all these mark, you
- 7 know that and USA has been come -- completed.
- 8 Q. In this particular case as far as whether or not USA was
- 9 called and whatever discussions took place between your contractor
- 10 and, again, anybody -- any subsurface facility owner's notified as
- 11 part of that ticket, did you have any discussions with your
- 12 contractor in terms of who they had talked to or who they hadn't
- 13 talked to when you were there for your visit?
- 14 A. No. I do not recall having a conversation with the
- 15 contractor regarding who have they contacted, who has visited and
- 16 mark the site, no.
- Q. What other -- what was the size of the excavation on the
- 18 West side of that pit? So that's the second excavation. Do you
- 19 recall the depth of the -- excuse me, the dimensions of that
- 20 opening?
- 21 A. It's -- as far as I can recall the two -- the two
- 22 dimensions are similar, except the one where the circle is. This
- 23 one is a little larger because that is to accommodate a manhole
- 24 with the circumference, inside diameter of 48 inches. So in order
- 25 for to accommodate with the concrete thickness, just

- 1 the -- that outside diameter of the manhole, it's about 6 feet.
- 2 So it has to be at least 10 feet by 10 feet of an excavation.
- 3 O. So at the time that you visited had anything been
- 4 replaced? Or what was the -- where were they in the scope of
- 5 their job when you visited?
- 6 A. Their -- they have not put the replacement pipe in
- 7 place, and therefore the final man -- the manhole has not been
- 8 installed. That is at this location. So they would have to put
- 9 the machinery in here, put the pipe in place and then put --
- 10 install the manhole afterwards.
- 11 Q. Did you have any discussions with them during visit in
- 12 terms of what procedure they intended to follow in terms of
- 13 running that line through?
- 14 A. What procedure?
- 15 Q. Yes, what construction procedure. What they -- where
- 16 they intended to burst? Where they didn't burst? What --
- 17 basically what -- did you have any discussions about the procedure
- 18 that they would be using going forward from that point on?
- 19 A. The procedure that will be going -- that they have been
- 20 using as part of the Rolling Wood Phase II project of pipe
- 21 bursting is to first take those section high density polyethylene
- 22 pipes and by butt fused by heat above ground. And after that they
- 23 have an insertion that -- which is an excavation and also a
- 24 receiving pit for receiving the pipe. Then they insert a rigid
- 25 rod from one end -- from the -- from the receiving pit back to the

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- 1 insertion pit. And on the -- at the insertion pit they tie a
- 2 steel cable into and pull it back to the receiving pit.
- 3 So at the receiving pit then they setup a power winch
- 4 and put a pressure of high torque on the cable and that gives the
- 5 cooling force pulling the cable forward. And at the insertion pit
- 6 they will take that section of fused polyethylene pipe, attach it
- 7 to a bursting head that has a pneumatic hammer inside the head.
- 8 And so together with the pulling and the pneumatic hammer pushing
- 9 they drive that new section of pipe towards the receiving pit.
- 10 Q. Had you use the -- you seen them use that procedure
- 11 anywhere else on the Rolling Wood project?
- 12 A. At another location?
- 13 Q. Yes.
- 14 A Yes. I have.
- 15 Q. Did any of those locations cross any other subsurface
- 16 facility? Kind of like what, you know, what's taking place here
- 17 where your sewer that's being replaced crosses at PG&E gas line;
- 18 did you have any other locations where you saw that being utilized
- 19 where it crossed another facility?
- 20 A. Certainly will be small sewer laterals from each homes
- 21 that they will have to cross. But as far as major utility lines
- 22 similar to this high pressure gas pipeline, I do not recall any.
- MR. SHORI: Thank you.
- MR. CHHATRE: Peter?
- MR. KATCHMAR: No questions.

- 1 MR. GUNTHER: No questions.
- MS. MAZZANTI: No questions.
- 3 MR. SPERRY: No questions.
- 4 MR. NICHOLSON: I've got a couple of questions. This is
- 5 Matt Nicholson, NTSB.
- 6 BY MR. NICHOLSON:
- 7 Q. I'm still confused by this timeline. All I've heard so
- 8 far is that you were out at the pipe when they first excavated the
- 9 natural gas line. What subsequent visits were made to the site
- 10 after that?
- 11 A. I have -- I did not made a subsequent visit but I did
- 12 receive information from our inspector that the job was complete
- 13 and that PG&E representative was on site and approve of the
- 14 installation. That's what I -- my participation in that.
- 15 Q. So when you do the punch list have they back towed the
- 16 trench at that point or are the trenches still open?
- 17 A. No, the punch list is for a certain substantial portion
- 18 of the project. Let's say at the very -- let's -- if we take for
- 19 example the sewer -- old sewer replacement, that portion of the
- 20 work, when everything is completed the City would do an inspection
- 21 and whatever correction that needs to be done that would be the
- 22 punch list.
- Q. And I'm only speaking of that section there at Earl and
- 24 Glenview.
- 25 A. Yes.

- Q. And I guess I'm trying to figure out when you're doing
- 2 your walk through to make sure -- to inspect it for acceptance and
- 3 build this punch list, can you still -- are the trenches
- 4 backfilled? Can you see the new sewer line and the potholes and
- 5 the receiving and the insertion --
- 6 A. No. By the time we prepare the punch list the pit has
- 7 been backfilled.
- 8 0. Okay.
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. All right, so it's fully sealed when you're doing your
- 11 walkthrough? Your punch list?
- 12 A. For punch list, yes.
- Q. Is -- you kind of hit on this but I'll ask, so does PG&E
- 14 have to sign off somewhere on this punch list as part of your
- 15 acceptance?
- 16 A. Not in general. The punch list was prepared by the City
- 17 and it's in -- it's not something that has signature block,
- 18 anything. It's a list of item correction that we provide to the
- 19 contractor and give them a certain time limit to correct these
- 20 items.
- 21 Q. Does PG&E have input on the punch list in this case?
- 22 A. We did not receive a request from PG&E to participate or
- 23 provide items of concern to be included in the punch list.
- Q. Okay. And for final acceptance, which is after the
- 25 punch list items are completed, is there a place for PG&E in this

- 1 case to signoff of that work?
- 2 A. For this particular contract there was no signature
- 3 block in like the final acceptance of the project for PG&E, yeah.
- 4 Q. Only by yourself?
- 5 A. That's correct.
- 6 O. So I quess if you're only visit was before the sewer
- 7 line was exposed and the line was pulled -- the new line was
- 8 pulled and you weren't aware of where they might have been using
- 9 static bursting versus dynamic bursting or -- you didn't see any
- 10 of that?
- 11 A. The process they have been using for the Rolling Wood
- 12 Phase II project and by this contractor has been the pneumatic
- 13 assisted bursting, which is not the static bursting. Static
- 14 bursting is simply just with a pulling force and that was not used
- 15 in this contract. That process.
- 16 Q. Even in areas around sensitive utilities like a high
- 17 pressure gas line?
- 18 A. I do not see the advantage of having a static bursting
- 19 versus a dynamic or pneumatic assisted bursting in -- near a
- 20 utility gas -- I mean utility line.
- Q. And there's no requirement by the City that they use one
- 22 method over the other?
- 23 A. There's no requirement by the City of them using one
- 24 over the other. In -- I mean we have previous project that has
- 25 used -- contractor has selected to use the static bursting method.

- 1 So we have seen both.
- 2 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay, I think that's all I have.
- 3 MR. CHHATRE: Ravindra Chhatre, NTSB.
- 4 BY MR. CHHATRE:
- 5 Q. On this -- on the earthquake -- question, were you
- 6 working for the City when Loma Prieta earthquake happened?
- 7 A. I started with the City of San Bruno in 2000 and the
- 8 Loma Prieta earthquake, I believe, was 1989, so that was quite
- 9 some time before my employment with the City of San Bruno.
- 10 O. Were you in California at that time? In the --
- 11 A. I was in California in the Bay Area at that time.
- 12 Q. Do you remember which fault was involved in Loma Prieta
- 13 earthquake not as a geologist but reading newspapers?
- 14 A. Which fault line?
- 15 Q. Yes.
- 16 A. I do not recall.
- Q. Was there any significant damage to the streets here in
- 18 San Bruno area after the Loma Prieta? Was there any discussion or
- 19 are you aware after the fact, when you joined after the
- 20 earthquake, are you aware of any repair work was done after that
- 21 earthquake?
- A. By the City of San Bruno?
- Q. Correct.
- A. That I have no knowledge of. Yeah.
- 25 Q. Now, if there's a ground movement in the City of San

- 1 Bruno and not (indiscernible) but we got no ground movement, will
- 2 the City know that this particular location, the homeowners are
- 3 complaining about the ground movement, sheet rock or sheet --
- 4 moving or clearing up? Will the City know anything about the
- 5 ground movement in the area by residents complaining to City?
- 6 MS. STROTTMAN: I'm sorry, what time period is this?
- 7 BY MR. CHHATRE:
- 8 O. This will be going back maybe few years before the
- 9 September accident. You can do the time frame since you joined.
- 10 A. You mean will the City have record of a resident --
- 11 Q. Will City --
- 12 A. -- complain --
- 13 Q. -- will City will know [sic] that some residents have a
- 14 soil movement problem? Will they be complaining to you or to the
- 15 insurance company for that?
- 16 A. It would depend on whether they complain to the City or
- 17 complain to the insurance company. If they did complain to the
- 18 City then the City would be aware of such event.
- 19 O. And do you recall any such event during your tenure with
- 20 the City?
- 21 A. That there was ground movement in the Glenview area?
- 22 O. While you -- in the Glenview area in particular, in the
- 23 vicinity also? (Indiscernible).
- A. I cannot recall of any.
- 25 Q. What about the street damage due to soil movement?

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- 1 Again, looking at the rupture location at the epicenter and going
- 2 about a mile circle, were there any repair work that City did
- 3 during your tenure because of the soil movement that your streets
- 4 sank or needed repair?
- 5 A. I'm not aware of soil -- street being -- that street
- 6 being repayed or sidewalk -- sidewalk --
- 7 MR. CHHATRE: If somebody (indiscernible).
- 8 MR. CALDWELL: I have a follow-up question.
- 9 MR. GUNTHER: Yes.
- 10 MR. CALDWELL: Geoff Caldwell, City of San Bruno.
- 11 BY MR. CALDWELL:
- 12 Q. So about the static and the pneumatic bursting --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 O. -- Mr. Wong; would it be safe to state that if the
- 15 contractor Hartly [sic] decides to do static pull when he got
- 16 close to the pipe, would it be safe to say that he might not just
- 17 have told you that and he did that anyway as a safety precaution?
- 18 A. The -- what do you mean by "As a safety precaution"?
- 19 O. Just because he's near a 30-inch gas main and maybe he
- 20 decided just to pull it through rather than to use a pneumatic
- 21 portion or mechanism of that tool going underneath that pipe?
- 22 MR. CHHATRE: Please go off the record for a second.
- 23 (Off the record.)
- 24 (On the record.)
- MR. CHHATRE: Back on the record.

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- 1 MR. CALDWELL: So then we'll bypass that question.
- 2 BY MR. CALDWELL:
- 3 O. The other question I have and I believe that Matthew was
- 4 getting to this but it wasn't clear to me, when PG&E
- 5 representative at the site of Earl sewer dig there, that -- when
- 6 that -- when you were told that PG&E okayed it and they want to
- 7 backfill it, did PG&E signoff on anything? Physically signoff on
- 8 anything? Was anything presented to the contractor saying, "Hey,
- 9 you got a green light, go ahead, we okay this "that was presented
- 10 to the City eventually?
- 11 A. There was nothing presented to the City later in
- 12 writing. No.
- 13 Q. Was something presented at that time when that PG&E
- 14 inspector was there?
- 15 A. I am not aware of that.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. It could have. Yeah.
- MR. CALDWELL: Okay, thank you.
- 19 MR. CHHATRE: (Indiscernible).
- MR. DAUBIN: Brian Daubin, PG&E.
- 21 BY MR. DAUBIN:
- 22 O. Mr. Wong, were you present when the work, just for
- 23 clarity, were you present at the time the work was being done
- 24 under the gas main? Meaning during the pipe bursting or even the
- 25 pullback of the gas main or excuse me, the HTPE pipe under the gas

- 1 main; were you there present for that?
- 2 A. I was not there.
- Q. Okay. And can you talk to us a little bit about the
- 4 requirements of your job position as far as as-built
- 5 documentation? So the drawings that are created were -- well,
- 6 first of all, were there specific plan and profile drawings
- 7 created for this project?
- 8 A. There were not profile drawings but there were plan
- 9 drawings.
- 10 Q. Okay. So there was plan drawings only?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And is that different than the remainder of the Rolling
- 13 Wood sewer project?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. Okay.
- 16 A. That's because in a pipe bursting project the pipe is
- 17 essentially be pulled in the same profile. So profile drawing may
- 18 not be necessary.
- 19 O. Okay. With the exception of a 4-inch expansion;
- 20 correct?
- 21 A. I believe the 4-inch expansion is two on each side.
- 22 O. Two on each side, correct.
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And so was there on the plan drawings that you
- 25 referenced, was there any as-builting [sic] of plan documentation?

- 1 Was there any redlining? Was there any signoff of documentation
- 2 that you were responsible for?
- 3 A. There was no drawing that I'm responsible for.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. But my recollection was that the project was completed
- 6 according to the plan.
- 7 Q. Original plan, okay. And were there -- did a
- 8 professional engineer review the plan drawings that were produced
- 9 for this project?
- 10 A. Yes. That was me.
- 11 Q. Okay. And did you sign off on those plan drawings and
- 12 were they created by -- so that's one question. The second
- 13 question is were those -- were those drawings created by the City
- of San Bruno or were they created by D'Arcy & Harty?
- 15 A. That drawing was created by City of San Bruno.
- 16 Q. Okay. And then the -- it was our understanding from Mr.
- 17 Harty that the contract allowed for either trenching or pipe
- 18 bursting and in that -- I would like to understand was there any
- 19 conversation over which technique would be utilized or which would
- 20 be the best to be utilized in the situation on Earl Avenue &
- 21 Glenview Drive?
- 22 A. The contract allow for pipe bursting or open trench only
- 23 for the Rolling Wood Phase II project.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. Which is from -- on different part of town, Susan Drive.

- 1 Q. Correct.
- 2 A. So as far as was for this particular section of the
- 3 contract, was just as a change order to the Phase II contract,
- 4 this was agreed upon as a pipe bursting contract with a particular
- 5 price, unit price per foot.
- 6 O. Okay, thank you for that clarity. So just to be
- 7 ultimately clear here, the change order itself did not give the
- 8 contractor the opportunity to do open trench, it was written up as
- 9 pipe bursting right from the get go?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Okay, thank you. And then did you ever have an occasion
- 12 to visually inspect or visually observe the winch equipment that
- 13 was utilized to pull back the pipe?
- 14 A. What do you mean by "Observe"?
- 15 Q. Did you visually see that winch equipment in use at
- 16 the -- at the Glenview and Earl intersection?
- 17 A. I have.
- 18 O. You did?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Okay. And so was it -- which excavation pit would it
- 21 have been in? Did you see it set up?
- 22 A. I cannot be sure about which direction the pipe was
- 23 pull. Where the pits -- there were two pits. The pits here --
- 24 O. Um-hum.
- 25 A. -- and here.

- 1 Q. Okay.
- 2 A. But whether the pipe was pulled this way or the pipe was
- 3 pulled that way I cannot be sure.
- Q. Okay. Do you recall which pit that equipment was in at
- 5 the time that you observed it?
- 6 A. Well, there is equipment on both pit. One is the
- 7 compressor driving the pneumatic hammer.
- 8 O. Correct.
- 9 A. That's always from the insertion pit.
- 10 Q. correct.
- 11 A. And then the winch at the receiving -- near the
- 12 receiving pit. Whether it was in the pit or above ground -- so
- 13 the equipment are on opposite end of the section being pulled.
- 14 O. Okay.
- 15 A. Yeah.
- Q. And so you -- you stated just a few seconds ago that you
- 17 saw that in operation; do you recall in which pit those pieces of
- 18 equipment were in?
- 19 A. I have to clarify what I said there. I observe the
- 20 operation of the winch but not during the pull of this section.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. I observe the winch during other portion --
- Q. Gotcha.
- A. -- of the project.
- MR. DAUBIN: Thank you.

- 1 MR. FASSETT: Bob Fassett, PG&E, follow-up.
- BY MR. FASSETT:
- 3 O. Earlier when Matt was asking you about the review, do
- 4 you -- do you have the review of the bursting method, whether it's
- 5 static or dynamic assist, do you have reviewed outside of the City
- 6 by other critical utilities and I believe your comment was that
- 7 you do not see the advantage of having either static or dynamic
- 8 bursting method reviewed by operators of critical facilities; is
- 9 that accurate?
- 10 A. That's not the exact word I said.
- 11 O. Is that an accurate statement? Or what the exact words?
- 12 A. The accurate statement as far as my opinion of whether a
- 13 static pipe bursting method versus a pneumatic assisted bursting
- 14 method, which one would be advantageous over -- I mean, for a
- 15 situation that is near a utility I do not see the advantage.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. That's what my statement was.
- 18 Q. So did you have PG&E engineering review your drawings
- 19 for Earl Avenue that called for the use of pipe bursting only; was
- 20 that reviewed by PG&E engineering department?
- 21 A. PG&E was contacted prior to the pipe bursting operation
- 22 and PG&E did not request to review the method or the drawings or
- 23 the operation.
- Q. Just to clarify because we've heard other things. PG&E
- 25 was specifically called to review this Earl Avenue change order

- 1 and the design for Earl Avenue; is that what you're saying?
- 2 MS. STROTTMAN: I -- I mean, I don't think -- you're
- 3 putting --
- 4 BY MR. FASSETT:
- 5 Q. Earl Avenue is a change order.
- 6 MS. STROTTMAN: Yes.
- 7 BY MR. FASSETT:
- 8 Q. It was not the Rolling Wood Phase II project --
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. That's my understanding.
- 11 MS. STROTTMAN: Can you just maybe --
- 12 BY MR. FASSETT:
- 13 Q. There was a change order to that project so I'm asking
- 14 for this change order --
- 15 A. Yes.
- MS. STROTTMAN: Can we go off the record?
- MR. CHHATRE: Yeah, can we go off the record for a
- 18 second?
- 19 (Off the record.)
- 20 (On the record.)
- MR. CHHATRE: Back on the record.
- BY MR. FASSETT:
- Q. I am not asking questions about what was performed in
- 24 the field, what observations were there. I'm asking the question
- 25 that in his capacity as the engineer that approved the design of

- 1 the Earl Avenue project, that approved the change order for the
- 2 Earl Avenue project, that approved the method used for the pipe
- 3 bursting, as an engineer I am asking did you call PG&E
- 4 engineering, inform of what you were going to do, what method you
- 5 were going to use that would be crossing underneath the gas
- 6 transmission main? That's my question.
- 7 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay, should we go back on the record?
- 8 MR. CHHATRE: We already are back on the record.
- 9 MR. FASSETT: We are.
- MS. STROTTMAN: Yeah, we're back on the record.
- MR. CHHATRE: We already are back on the record.
- 12 THE WITNESS: I do not recall making that phone call.
- 13 (Pause.)
- 14 BY MR. FASSETT:
- 15 Q. You mentioned the work on Earl Avenue was done under a
- 16 change order. I believe you said it was a change order to the
- 17 Rolling Wood Phase II project; is that correct?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 O. Did the change order require that the contractor follow
- 20 the specifications of the original contract?
- 21 A. That is a requirement of a change order unless
- 22 specifically indicate otherwise.
- Q. Was it specifically indicated otherwise?
- A. No, it was not.
- 25 Q. Regarding activities performed before pipe bursting

- 1 operation, were site, soil and ground water conditions
- 2 investigated?
- 3 A. The City did not do the soil or ground water. The
- 4 contractor may have but that's not -- I cannot recall whether
- 5 there was -- whether they did it for this particular project.
- 6 O. This was prior to the operation is what I'm asking with
- 7 the City.
- 8 A. Yeah.
- 9 Q. What documentation was prepared for this project?
- 10 A. For the Rolling Wood Phase II project --
- 11 Q. For the Earl --
- 12 A. -- for the change order?
- 13 Q. -- Avenue project; what documentation was prepared for
- 14 that project?
- 15 A. The documentation that was prepared was a plan drawing
- 16 showing the distance, the rim and invert of the -- each manhole
- 17 and the overall length of pipe with the street.
- 18 Q. Were there any other utilities shown on that drawing?
- 19 A. That was prior to USA and therefore no utility was shown
- 20 on the drawing.
- Q. But USA can't be used for the purpose of design jobs, so
- 22 you did no prospecting on your own to determine where the
- 23 utilities were?
- A. For that particular contract the potholing was not
- 25 performed prior to the preparation of the plan drawing.

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- 1 (Pause.)
- Q. Just to clarify; you did approve the use of a pneumatic
- 3 pipe bursting?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. That was your approval?
- 6 A. Yes, I did.
- 7 Q. And what -- what are your qualifications to approve that
- 8 method? What do you go through to say yeah, this will work?
- 9 A. As --
- MS. STROTTMAN: You mean, I'm sorry, for this project?
- 11 BY MR. FASSETT:
- 12 Q. For this project, what's your selection criteria to
- 13 determine that the pneumatic pipe bursting would be the tool you
- 14 want to use and not cause any damage to any other utilities?
- 15 A. Based on my observation of previous static pipe bursting
- 16 and previous observation of a pneumatic bursting process.
- 17 Q. Do you have a written selection criteria that you use to
- 18 determine what the appropriate tool or replacement methodology
- 19 would be for a sewer project? Is that a written criteria or
- 20 that's just based on your experience?
- 21 A. A written criteria for what?
- 22 O. Do you have a written selection criteria that you use, a
- 23 procedure that you use to determine what's the most effective and
- 24 appropriate replacement methodology for a sewer? Or is that just
- 25 based on your experience?

- 1 A. That's based on my experience. Plus the recommendation
- 2 from the City's consultant. So just to go on the record.
- 3 Q. I wasn't aware that there was a City consultant involved
- 4 in this. Who is the City consultant?
- 5 A. The City consultant that prepared the plans and
- 6 specification for the Rolling Wood Phase II project, the
- 7 consultant is Kennedy/Jenks.
- 8 MR. NICHOLSON: Can you spell that for the record,
- 9 please?
- THE WITNESS: Kennedy, K-E-N-N-E-D-Y, slash, Jenks,
- 11 J-E-N-K-S.
- MR. NICHOLSON: Thank you.
- MR. FASSETT: Those are my questions, thank you.
- MS. FABRY: Klara Fabry.
- 15 BY MS. FABRY:
- 16 Q. If you can describe the scope of Rolling Wood Phase II
- 17 sewer project?
- 18 A. Okay, the Rolling Wood Phase II project when it was
- 19 first developed was to replace about 3,000 linear foot of sewer
- 20 main by open cut -- by a combination of open cut and pipe bursting
- 21 method along Susan Drive, West of Skyline Boulevard.
- 22 O. Was -- in the specification for this project what was
- 23 included about USA and potholing and work around utilities?
- 24 A. In this project and also as in any of the City's
- 25 construction project, the contractor is required to notify USA

- 1 prior to any excavation.
- MS. FABRY: No more questions.
- 3 MR. SHORI: Sunil. Just one follow-up.
- 4 BY MR. SHORI:
- 5 O. Were you aware of any requirement that PG&E had placed
- 6 on your contractor to reinforce or install 2 x 4's above or
- 7 between your -- between the sewer line and PG&E's gas line? Were
- 8 you aware of any kind of a requirement to install --
- 9 A. I am not aware of any -- of that type requirement like 2
- 10 x 4's or wood between. No, I cannot recall any conversation
- 11 regarding that.
- 12 Q. Do you yourself have any photographs or anything that
- 13 you took of the excavation locations while on your trip there or
- 14 at any time?
- 15 A. I recall seeing one picture of the excavation pit. Not
- 16 from the top but from a -- from a side view.
- 17 MR. SHORI: I have nothing, thank you.
- MR. KATCHMAR: No more.
- 19 BY MS. MAZZANTI: No questions.
- 20 MR. NICHOLSON: I've got a couple questions. This is
- 21 Matt Nicholson, NTSB.
- BY MR. NICHOLSON:
- Q. Who owns and maintains the specifications for sewer line
- 24 replacement that would have been included in the contract for the
- 25 Earl Avenue change order? The master specs, who those --

- 1 A. What do you mean by "own"?
- Q. Who -- who is responsible for updating and writing the
- 3 specifications that would go out on a job like this?
- 4 A. For each project the City -- in general the City will
- 5 first go through a request for proposal process to get a
- 6 consultant -- consultant/engineering firm with a professional
- 7 service contract on board and have them design the project. And
- 8 in that case they prepare the contract specification and the
- 9 drawings for the City.
- 10 Q. Okay. And in this case it was Kennedy/Jenks for this
- 11 project? The Rolling Wood --
- 12 A. The Rolling Wood Phase II project, yes.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. But for the Earl section, the drawings, it was a change
- 15 order that was not anticipated at the betginning when we
- 16 prepare --
- 17 Q. Right.
- 18 A. -- the contract. So this -- the plan drawing for the
- 19 Earl section was prepare by City staff.
- 20 Q. And the specifications then for that change order would
- 21 have not been issued by the City, they would have been --
- 22 A. They would have been based on the same specification
- 23 that was used for the main contract.
- Q. Okay. And this consulting firm then, Kennedy/Jenks, are
- 25 they an MEP or an A&E? Are they mechanical?

- 1 A. They are A&E.
- Q. They're an A&E firm?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. Specialize in waste water, drinking -- portable water.
- 6 0. Okay.
- 7 A. Yeah.
- 8 Q. They have that expertise.
- 9 MR. NICHOLSON: That's all, thank you.
- 10 MR. CHHATRE: Ravi Chhatre.
- 11 Q. Can you spell out what "A&E" stands for, for the court
- 12 reporter?
- 13 A. A&E, architect and engineer.
- 14 Q. I'll just catch up with where I left. Do you recall the
- 15 day when you were at the scene when the work was being done at
- 16 Earl and Glenview, do you remember the day? Which day was that?
- 17 Do you remember the time?
- 18 A. As far as I can recall it's a weekday. It was not the
- 19 first thing in the morning. So it's sometime around midday.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. When you were there do you see any PG&E vehicle in the
- 23 area?
- 24 A. I -- when I got there I did not see any, but while I was
- 25 there there was a vehicle arrive from --

- 1 Q. I'm sorry, can you repeat that?
- 2 A. While I was there on site a PG&E vehicle arrived.
- 3 O. Arrived?
- 4 A. Yeah.
- Q. When you went there there were no vehicle?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.
- 8 MR. FASSETT: This is Bob Fassett.
- 9 BY MR. FASSETT:
- 10 Q. And what was that PG&E vehicle; was that the person that
- 11 comes and marks and locate? Was that a gas service representative
- 12 that was working on a local service? Did you have any
- 13 identification of who was in that vehicle and what they were there
- 14 for?
- 15 A. The truck has the word "PG&E" written on it and the
- 16 person that came out, as far as I can recall, was wearing a
- 17 uniform. And he identify himself as PG&E representative.
- 18 Q. For the mark and locate standby? I ask because the
- 19 people we send out don't wear uniforms if they're going out for
- 20 mark and locate. The people that go to address customer services
- 21 do wear uniforms because they have to identify themselves to the
- 22 public.
- 23 A. I don't recall questioning him whether he was there to
- 24 mark the location.
- 25 Q. Okay.

- 1 A. Or to authorize the operation.
- Q. So to be clear, you saw a PG&E vehicle, you didn't know
- 3 what the person in the vehicle was there to do; you saw a PG&E
- 4 vehicle?
- 5 MS. STROTTMAN: I -- once again, I --
- 6 MR. FASSETT: I'm just trying to clarify the statement.
- 7 MS. STROTTMAN: I'm protecting the witness and we --
- 8 once again, we don't have a court reporter and you are just
- 9 misstating what he -- what the witness had stated and I just ask a
- 10 question instead of restating his testimony.
- MR. FASSETT: Okay.
- MR. DAUBIN: How about I ask a question?
- MR. FASSETT: Why don't you ask a question.
- 14 BY MR. DAUBIN:
- 15 Q. So --
- 16 MR. FASSETT: Brian Daubin, PG&E.
- 17 MR. DAUBIN: Brian Daubin.
- 18 BY MR. DAUBIN:
- 19 Q. So the PG&E you saw arrive on site during the time that
- 20 you were there was in a uniform?
- 21 A. I cannot be 100 percent sure.
- 22 O. Okay.
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And so during that --
- 25 A. But the car --

- 1 Q. I'm sorry?
- 2 A. I'm sure the truck was written PG&E on it.
- 3 O. Understood. And so during that time was there -- did
- 4 the PG&E -- the individual from PG&E who was in that vehicle talk
- 5 to anyone of the crew members that were associated with the Earl
- 6 and Glenview project?
- 7 A. Yes. I -- as far as I can recall the contractor
- 8 explained to the PG&E representative of what was being proposed
- 9 and what procedure has been taken and seek the approval or
- 10 authority to proceed.
- 11 Q. Proceed with what part?
- 12 A. With --
- 13 Q. The excavation? With the pulling of the pipe through
- 14 the excavation?
- 15 A. On that --
- Q. Which part?
- 17 A. -- particular day that I was there the excavation was
- 18 complete.
- 19 O. Okay.
- 20 A. And the authority seeking was to proceed with the pipe
- 21 bursting operation.
- 22 O. Okay. And you were there for that conversation?
- 23 A. As far as I can recall, yes. Everybody was on -- in a
- 24 discussion. Not a formal meeting but a discussion.
- 25 Q. And so who were the name of the individuals that may

- 1 have taken part in that conversation?
- 2 A. It will be John Harty of D'Arcy & Harty.
- Q. Okay.
- 4 A. It will be the PG&E representative. And a foreman of
- 5 D'Arcy & Harty.
- 6 O. D'Arcy & Harty. And then after the conversation took
- 7 place what did the PG&E employee do?
- 8 A. I -- as far as I can recall the PG&E representative gave
- 9 the go ahead and D'Arcy & Harty start setting up the equipment and
- 10 I left.
- 11 Q. Okay. And when you left was the PG&E employee still
- 12 there?
- 13 A. We might have left at the same time. Yeah.
- 14 O. Okay.
- 15 A. But he could have -- yeah, I'm not sure.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 Q. One last clarification on the Rolling Wood project. You
- 19 had earlier that for -- or excuse me, the change order project,
- 20 you did not create profile drawings and --
- 21 A. That's correct.
- 22 Q. And you had stated that's because it was a pipe bursting
- 23 so it followed the same length of pipe; is that correct?
- A. It followed the same path of the pipe.
- 25 Q. Same path of the pipe, thank you. And so on the Rolling

- 1 Wood project, which was also pipe bursting in sections, why were
- 2 there profile drawings created for that?
- 3 A. That was because a side portion of that work was open
- 4 cut.
- 5 Q. Okay. And so were the profile drawings created just for
- 6 the open cut sections or was it created for the entire length of
- 7 the project?
- 8 A. The profile drawing was created for the entire length of
- 9 the project.
- 10 Q. Okay.
- 11 A. For that particular portion of the work the -- there was
- 12 an option given to the contractor to do either by pipe bursting or
- 13 by open cut and therefore profile is necessary to give them the
- 14 option.
- 15 Q. Okay.
- MR. DAUBIN: Thank you.
- 17 MR. CHHATRE: Any more follow-up questions?
- 18 (No response.)
- 19 MR. CHHATRE: Okay, this Ravi from NTSB. I have no more
- 20 question. But I will officially like to request PG&E to have Mr.
- 21 Steven -- Steven G. Poulo, P-O-U-L-O, Gas, Mechanic, Transmission
- 22 and Regulation, Area 1, San Mateo County, 275 Lustier Road, San
- 23 Carlos, California; if you can schedule this individual for
- 24 interview, except Thurs, any day at 7:00. There is a slot open
- 25 right now. We can start early so that we won't disturb any of our

- 1 (indiscernible).
- 2 MR. GUNTHER: All right.
- 3 MR. FASSETT: So any day except Thursday?
- 4 MR. CHHATRE: Any day except Thursday. We've Thursday,
- 5 I believe, the contractors is coming in.
- 6 MS. FABRY: Excuse me -- final confirmation.
- 7 MR. CHHATRE: Yeah, with that -- you have a questions?
- 8 MR. NARVELL: Yeah, just a few.
- 9 BY MR. NARVELL:
- 10 Q. We're not going to speculate, Mr. Wong, but I -- I want
- 11 to go back to your earlier --
- 12 MR. NARVELL: Rick Narvell, sorry. Excuse me.
- 13 BY MR. NARVELL:
- 14 O. You said when you arrived down at this -- at the Earl
- 15 Street project, we'll call it, that there was already exposure
- 16 there from the pipe; correct?
- 17 A. That's correct.
- 18 Q. Okay. Very simple question; do you have any idea who
- 19 did that excavation? I don't want assumptions, I just -- I'm
- 20 asking do you know who did that; yes or no?
- 21 A. I know the contractor did, which is D'Arcy & Harty.
- 22 O. How do you know that?
- 23 A. Because they told me.
- Q. Okay. I had not heard that until just now and that was
- 25 earlier when you first arrived here today. So just to kind of

- 1 reiterate here (indiscernible) Mr. Harty, the contractor, informed
- 2 you that they had in fact dug around the vicinity of the gas
- 3 transmission pipe; is that accurate?
- 4 A. That's how I recall it. That they have exposed the --
- 5 they pinpoint the location of the pipe.
- 6 O. However that was done --
- 7 A. Yeah.
- 8 O. -- whether it was -- I don't care how it was done.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. That's what you recollection is --
- 11 A. Is that they have -- he has informed me that they have
- 12 completed that process.
- 13 Q. And that would have been when you arrived there midday
- 14 time frame?
- 15 A. Cannot be sure but it could be in the morning that they
- 16 expose the pipe and in the afternoon to pull the pipe.
- Q. No, no, that's okay.
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. When you arrived there, I believe you said earlier you
- 20 said somewhere around midday?
- 21 A. Midday.
- 22 Q. And at some point from -- upon your arrival apparently
- 23 Mr. Harty informed you that they had in fact exposed that pipe
- 24 area; correct?
- 25 A. When I arrive on the site I can see that the pipe was

1 exposed. 2 Q. Right. 3 Α. Yes. 4 Q. Okay. And then again, I don't want -- last time. 5 Α. Okay. 6 He informed you that in fact that they -- his crew had O. 7 done that? 8 That's correct. Α. 9 MR. NARVELL: Thank you. That's all the questions I 10 have. 11 THE WITNESS: Okay. 12 MR. CHHATRE: Anybody else any follow-up questions? 13 (No response.) MR. CHHATRE: Mr. Wong, thank you so much for your time. 14 15 We appreciate your help. 16 MR. GUNTHER: Thank you. 17 MS. STROTTMAN: Thank you. 18 MR. WONG: Thank you very much. 19 (Whereupon, the interview in the above-entitled matter 20 was concluded.) 2.1 22 23

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25

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: Wing Wong

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA-10-MP-008

PLACE: Burlingame, California

DATE: January 3, 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.

Elaine LaRosee Transcriber

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