

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

* * * * *

Investigation of:

*
*

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

*

SEPTEMBER 9, 2010 ACCIDENT

*

Docket No.: DCA-10-MP-008

SAN BRUNO, CALIFORNIA

*

*

* * * * *

Telephonic Interview of: JOE JOAQUIM

NTSB Headquarters
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, S.W.
Washington, D.C.

Monday,
June 27, 2011

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RAVINDRA M. CHHATRE
Investigator-in-Charge

APPEARANCES:

RAVINDRA M. CHHATRE, Investigator-in-Charge
National Transportation Safety Board
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20594
202-314-6644
ravindra.chhatre@ntsb.gov

MATTHEW R. NICHOLSON, Accident Investigator
Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Investigations
National Transportation Safety Board
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20594
202-314-6468
matthew.nicholson@ntsb.gov

ROBERT HALL, Pipeline Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20594

SUNIL K. SHORI, Engineer
California Public Utilities Commission

PETER J. KATCHMAR, Accident Coordinator
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

CONNIE JACKSON, City Manager
City of San Bruno

DEBBIE MAZZANTI, Representative
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local 1245

BILL HAYES
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>I N D E X</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Telephonic Interview of Joe Joaquim:		
By Mr. Chhatre		5
By Mr. Nicholson		6
By Mr. Shori		8
By Mr. Katchmar		9
By Mr. Chhatre		10
By Mr. Nicholson		10
By Mr. Chhatre		11
By Mr. Katchmar		13
By Mr. Shori		13
By Ms. Jackson		17
By Mr. Shori		17
By Mr. Katchmar		18
By Mr. Shori		19
By Ms. Jackson		20
By Mr. Chhatre		21
By Mr. Shori		22
By Mr. Chhatre		22
By Mr. Nicholson		23
By Mr. Chhatre		24
By Ms. Mazzanti		24
By Mr. Shori		25

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>I N D E X</u> (Cont.)	<u>PAGE</u>
Interview of Joe Joaquim:		
By Mr. Chhatre		25
By Mr. Katchmar		26
By Mr. Chhatre		26
By Mr. Nicholson		30

1 MR. JOAQUIM: From '93 to 2005, I was a GC welder.

2 MR. NICHOLSON: Thank you.

3 BY MR. CHHATRE:

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. From 2005 through the present, pretty much the same
6 position, gas mechanic.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. In division.

9 Q. Okay. And as gas mechanic, what are your duties?

10 A. I pretty much work with the T and D crews, which can
11 entitle into welding on gas mains and repairing gas mains and
12 setting large commercial meter sets.

13 Q. Okay. Now, can you tell us what do you know about line
14 132 welds, seam weld?

15 A. I have -- I don't know if I ever worked on line 132.

16 Q. Okay. We were told that you know locations on line 132
17 where the welding may be incomplete, is the information that was
18 leaked to us.

19 A. That is not accurate.

20 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

21 Q. Why don't you clarify for us what you know or what was
22 said about the leaks?

23 A. I never said anything about a leak.

24 Q. Or pipeline repair?

25 A. Are you talking about what I said to Blacksmith?

1 Q. That's correct.

2 MR. JOAQUIM: What I talked about with them is, around
3 1992, I was an apprentice welder. I was on a tie-in in the San
4 Bruno area, which I believe to be on Skyline Boulevard. I
5 worked --

6 MS. JACKSON: You broke up. Could you repeat that last
7 few words, please?

8 MR. JOAQUIM: Yeah, I believe it was on Skyline
9 Boulevard. It was a pipeline replacement project, where we were
10 tying in a new section of 24-inch pipe to a 30-inch pipe. And on
11 that day it was my job to make the weld to tie in the two pieces
12 of pipe. So I made the weld and the weld was x-rayed. I waited
13 for the completion of the x-ray. The x-ray technician
14 (indiscernible) the weld was fine, but what the x-ray revealed,
15 because the film is a little larger than the weld --

16 MR. CHHATRE: Hey, Mr. Joaquim, you broke up. Can you
17 go back again about the tying up? I want to make a --

18 MR. JOAQUIM: About welding the two pieces of pipe
19 together?

20 MR. CHHATRE: Right.

21 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah, right about there.

22 MR. JOAQUIM: Okay, so it was my job to weld the new
23 pipe to old pipe, which was on a 30-inch piece of pipe. I made
24 the, I made the weld. I waited for the x-ray.

25 MR. CHHATRE: Um-hum.

1 MR. JOAQUIM: The x-ray person made the -- shot the x-
2 ray. We waited for the completion of that. And the x-ray
3 revealed a void, about a 1/8-inch void in the longitudinal seam
4 approximately 1 inch from my weld. And I was instructed to repair
5 it, which I did. And then the pipe was pressurized.

6 MR. SHORI: Ravi, can I ask one or two quick clarifying
7 questions before we go on?

8 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

9 BY MR. SHORI:

10 Q. This 24- to 30-inch tie-in, this is -- you said it was a
11 1992 project?

12 A. Approximately.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. It was a quite a long time ago. The only reason why I
15 remember it is because I was still an apprentice.

16 Q. Okay. So you were '92 as an apprentice, but you earlier
17 said you were -- it was '93 you were an apprentice?

18 A. That's when I --

19 Q. Just to clarify.

20 A. That's when I completed my apprenticeship.

21 Q. Okay. And this -- the tie-in that you're talking about
22 on Skyline, 24 to 30, I think there was maybe two projects. Was
23 this south of -- location as you know it?

24 A. I didn't hear the last part. I'm sorry.

25 Q. Was this tie-in that you're referring to, was this south

1 of the rupture location as you know it?

2 A. You know, I'm sorry, I'm not familiar where -- exactly
3 where the rupture is. And I don't -- you know, I haven't worked
4 there in 20 years so I couldn't tell you to be exact.

5 Q. Okay. Thank you.

6 MR. KATCHMAR: Identify yourself.

7 MR. CHHATRE: Yes, this is Ravi again with NTSB.

8 MR. KATCHMAR: So that was Sunil with the PUC?

9 MR. CHHATRE: Earlier, yes.

10 MR. SHORI: Yeah. Sorry about that. Sunil Shori with
11 the California PUC.

12 BY MR. SHORI:

13 Q. One more question. So the x-ray that you were referring
14 to, again, was just your girth weld x-ray, the tie-in x-ray, and
15 during that -- it was within that x-ray that you noticed the void
16 that you indicated?

17 A. I did not notice it. The x-ray technician noticed.

18 Q. I stand corrected. The x-ray technician.

19 A. That is correct.

20 Q. Okay.

21 BY MR. KATCHMAR:

22 Q. This is Peter. Joe, if -- I'm with PHMSA. If you did
23 the tie-in, how could you -- or, I guess, where was this void?
24 Inside, outside, what?

25 A. I had to grind into the seam to find the void. It

1 wasn't visual.

2 Q. Oh. Oh, it was inside the seam?

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. Okay. Okay.

5 BY MR. CHHATRE:

6 Q. Mr. Joaquim, this is Ravi, NTSB. This 24-inch to 30-
7 inch tie-in, do you know was it line 132 or any other line?

8 A. I do not know that, sir.

9 Q. Okay. And did you do the girth weld?

10 A. If you're talking about the weld from the new pipe to
11 old pipe, yes, I did that weld.

12 Q. Okay.

13 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

14 Q. So what was -- this is Matt Nicholson, NTSB. What was
15 the new pipe, the 24 or the 30?

16 A. The -- well, you -- when you tie-in two pieces of pipe,
17 you have a reducer.

18 Q. Um-hum.

19 A. And then you always use a new piece of 30-inch pipe. So
20 the weld was a 30-inch weld.

21 Q. So the crack then or the void was on the 24-inch piece?

22 A. No, it was on the old --

23 Q. Oh, old 30-inch.

24 A. -- 30-inch pipe.

25 Q. Okay.

1 MR. SHORI: Did you -- was this also on the girth
2 weld --

3 MR. CHHATRE: Who is this?

4 MR. SHORI: -- done on this -- I'm sorry. This is Sunil
5 Shori. On the girth welds on that transition piece, the 30/24-
6 inch reducer, did you do a backwelding on that as well?

7 MR. JOAQUIM: I don't know, sir. I wasn't -- I don't
8 recall any of that.

9 MR. SHORI: Okay.

10 BY MR. CHHATRE:

11 Q. Now, this void in the seam weld -- and you said it's
12 approximately 1/8-inch wide. Do you recall how far away it was
13 from the girth weld?

14 A. Approximately 1 inch from my weld.

15 Q. Okay. And is that as far as the x-ray went or the x-ray
16 went beyond that 1 inch?

17 A. I didn't understand the question.

18 Q. Well, you're seeing a void approximately an inch from
19 the girth weld, and my question is how far on either side of the
20 girth weld the x-ray film showed the seam?

21 A. To be specific, I couldn't you give specifics, but I
22 know that the film is approximately maybe 4 or 5 inches wide.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And that's purely speculative.

25 Q. Right. Okay.

1 MR. SHORI: Mr. Joaquim, this is Sunil Shori. You said
2 you were asked then to go ahead and repair that, and you ground
3 down and repaired it. Who were the folks that would have been
4 made aware of that when you found it, or who ordered you also then
5 to go ahead and do the repair on it?

6 MR. JOAQUIM: You know, I really don't recall that. I
7 was the closest person because my truck was still by the hole. It
8 was, I think, closer on -- the seam was on the side closest to my
9 truck, so I was instructed by someone, who I don't recall who, to
10 make the repair.

11 MR. CHHATRE:

12 Q. Do you recall how deep the void was from the outside
13 surface of the seam?

14 A. Not very deep. Not very deep. I remember grinding not
15 very much and finding the void.

16 Q. Okay. And you -- did the x-ray technician told you
17 there is a void or you are classifying it as a void?

18 A. To the best of my recollection, he put a mark on the
19 pipe where it was.

20 Q. Right. But, I mean, did he classify that as a void, a
21 crack, or what?

22 A. I don't know what he called it, sir.

23 Q. So then how do you come up with the term void? I mean,
24 I'm just trying to find out whether you are calling it void or the
25 technician was.

1 A. For the best -- to the best of my recollection and as
2 far as my welding terminology, I would have called it void.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. It was, you know, no metal in the area.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. In that one little area.

7 Q. Okay.

8 BY MR. KATCHMAR:

9 Q. This is Peter with PHMSA again. Joe, could you describe
10 the void for us?

11 A. It wasn't very big. We're not talking about a big flaw.
12 We're not talking about something that you would see with the
13 naked eye or that you could tell from the surface.

14 Q. Right. But, I mean, was it elongated, was it oval?

15 A. Oval about, like I said, about a 1/8-inch round and not
16 very deep. It was very -- just round.

17 Q. Was there any slag in it that you could tell?

18 A. Not to my recollection, no.

19 Q. Okay.

20 MR. CHHATRE: Do you remember --

21 BY MR. SHORI:

22 Q. This is Sunil Shori. Was that the only tie-in that you
23 did on that project or in that time frame of working in that area
24 of San Bruno?

25 A. To the best of my recollection, yes.

1 Q. And this is Sunil Shori again, just real quick. I'm
2 sorry. Earlier you said something about Blacksmith. Can we get
3 clarification on who -- what that is or what company or is that a
4 name of someone?

5 MR. HAYES: I can do that for, Sunil. This is Bill
6 Hayes (ph.).

7 MR. SHORI: Okay.

8 MR. HAYES: Blacksmith is a consultant firm that was
9 hired by the board of directors to do some work around
10 (indiscernible) around PG&E's management of the gas business and
11 what have you. They're not a technical outfit, if you will.
12 They've been in the field just learning more about how our
13 processes work, how work flows, interviewing people, doing ride-
14 alongs, which this was, I understand. Doing ride-alongs to learn
15 more about our work. And they're looking at organizational stuff.
16 They're looking at staffing stuff. You know, a lot of ancillary
17 pieces.

18 MR. SHORI: And so this is a current going process, not
19 something years back?

20 MR. HAYES: No, this started not too long -- I don't
21 remember the exact date -- after San Bruno. And then the board of
22 directors wanted to get some outside perspective about PG&E's
23 management of the gas business, if you will, and they hired this
24 company and they've been looking at a lot of different things.
25 They're not doing metallurgical work or that type of stuff.

1 MR. SHORI: No, I understand. Thank you, Bill.

2 MR. HAYES: Yeah.

3 MR. CHHATRE: Mr. Hayes, this is Ravi. Is this a legal
4 firm or what kind of outfit is this?

5 MR. HAYES: I think it's, I think it's working through a
6 legal organization as well as consulting people that they hired.
7 I think they're just managing it for us. I don't know. The board
8 of directors hired them directly. We don't have anything really
9 to do with it other than -- I mean, we being the people; they come
10 out and talk with us and interview us. And they'll be making some
11 recommendations later this year to the board. I don't know what
12 those are going to look like at this point.

13 MR. CHHATRE: Right. No, I just want to find out
14 whether it's a legal firm or some business consulting firm. So it
15 looks like it's a legal firm?

16 MR. HAYES: I think it's a combination thereof. I think
17 it has some legal folks, some business folks, and some consultants
18 that are familiar with the gas business.

19 MR. CHHATRE: So the folks, who were with Mr. Joaquim,
20 were they attorneys or were they business people or who were
21 those?

22 MR. HAYES: I don't know who was doing the ride-alongs
23 with Joe. I never --

24 MR. CHHATRE: Can you --

25 MR. HAYES: -- got their names. I just know they were

1 Blacksmith.

2 MR. CHHATRE: Can you find out for us, please?

3 MR. HAYES: Yeah, I can. Sure.

4 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

5 MR. NICHOLSON: Bill, this is Matt Nicholson. Are you
6 saying Blackstone or Blacksmith?

7 MR. HAYES: Blacksmith. I'm sorry, it's Blacksmith.

8 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay. And where are they out of?

9 MR. HAYES: I'll have to get that -- get you that as
10 well. Because I met with a number of them and they seem to be
11 folks from all over the place.

12 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

13 MR. HAYES: So --

14 MR. CHHATRE: On the same --

15 MR. HAYES: I have no information about Blacksmith.

16 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. On the same thought here, Bill, can
17 you find out where the x-ray is and can we get a copy of it?

18 MR. HAYES: I'm sorry, find out what?

19 MR. CHHATRE: Where that particular x-ray is that
20 Mr. Joaquim is talking about. Because we would like to look at
21 the x-ray and the x-ray technician's quantification of the defect.

22 MR. HALL: And the reader sheet. This is Robert Hall.

23 MR. HAYES: Yeah. Why don't you, if you don't mind, put
24 that in a data request to us and I'll get that on? Because I
25 don't have any idea. We haven't talked to -- you know, this was

1 kind of the entry into this here, so -- I mean, I'll start -- I'll
2 let our people know we need to start looking into this.

3 MR. CHHATRE: Right. I mean, if you want we can always
4 send an e-mail, but by the time I finish different meeting and get
5 back to it, it might be tomorrow, and I just want to give you a
6 heads up so you won't complain that there is not enough time.

7 MR. HAYES: Yeah. I mean, it's (indiscernible) --

8 MR. CHHATRE: I'm trying to give you a heads up. I'll
9 be happy to send you an e-mail request. That's not a problem.

10 MR. HAYES: Yeah. I was waiting for us to find out from
11 Joe -- I mean, you know, the area where we're looking, what we're
12 looking for, so -- okay.

13 MR. CHHATRE: So --

14 BY MS. JACKSON:

15 Q. Joe, this is Connie at City of San Bruno. Along the
16 lines of this conversation, I'd like to ask Mr. Joaquim who he
17 spoke to at Blacksmith.

18 A. I don't recall their names.

19 Q. Okay. Were you aware of their -- what their expertise
20 or what their background was?

21 A. (No audible response.)

22 BY MR. SHORI:

23 Q. Joe, this is Sunil Shori again with the California PUC.
24 Other than this one void or issue that you found during the work
25 that you were doing -- became aware of, let's say, during the work

1 you were doing on that, do you recall any other issues either
2 being brought up or discussed by you with anyone in regard to any
3 other items or longitudinal issues found on 30-inch pipe that was
4 also being either replaced or worked on on that project?

5 A. No, I do not.

6 BY MR. KATCHMAR:

7 Q. Joe, this is Peter Katchmar with PHMSA. Could you
8 extend that to your 3 years as an apprentice and 12 years as a
9 welder?

10 A. I don't understand the question. You mean --

11 Q. Well, (indiscernible) question. Have you seen any other
12 defects, long seam defects in your history as a welder?

13 A. No, I believe I have not.

14 Q. Thank you.

15 MR. HAYES: This is Bill Hayes. Can we get back a
16 little bit to this -- I got thinking about what you're asking here
17 in terms of x-ray and producing this film. I'm not sure where we
18 even look for this yet. I have no idea from Joe, your description
19 of where you might have been working and what you were doing. We
20 need to pin this down. I don't know how I would go find an x-ray
21 from maybe 20, 20-some years ago, but we don't know where. And
22 I'm not being critical, Joe. I'm just trying to figure out for
23 everybody's benefit on here when you ask for this x-ray and read
24 sheet, I'm not sure how to even look for this.

25 MR. SHORI: Well, there is a --

1 MR. HAYES: I'm looking for some help --

2 MR. SHORI: Well, there is a --

3 MR. HAYES: -- you know.

4 MR. SHORI: This is Sunil Shori with the California PUC.
5 There is a -- I mean, it's on the record in many places as far as
6 the 1992 project that was north and south of segment 180 to
7 replace portions of 132. So there's got to be a project number
8 here somewhere for 1992. Those sections were replaced.

9 MR. HAYES: But was this part of that or was this a tie-
10 in of a 24-inch?

11 MR. SHORI: Well, wouldn't the tie-in be part of -- a
12 part of those same job files?

13 MR. HAYES: I don't know. Replacement versus running
14 new pipe, I don't know.

15 BY MR. SHORI:

16 Q. Okay. Well, can we ask, Mr. Joaquim, was this a short
17 repair that you recall being done or was this a replacement of so
18 much length of pipe that this was a tie-in on?

19 A. I believe it was a section of pipe on -- probably a mile
20 or so of pipe, if I remember correctly. But it was a pretty large
21 section of pipe.

22 Q. And you were doing other joints, other girth joints on
23 that, so you -- this wasn't the only job you did on it; it just
24 wasn't the tie-in, you did other girth joints?

25 A. I have done -- yeah. In my career I've done a lot of

1 girth joints.

2 Q. Oh, no. I'm talking about on that particular project
3 back in '92 that we're talking about the tie-in on.

4 A. I was part of that project but not the whole time.

5 Q. Okay.

6 MR. HAYES: So, Joe, could this be on -- do you know
7 could it be on 132 or 109 or do we know?

8 MR. JOAQUIM: I do not know that.

9 MR. CHHATRE: Now, Mr. Joaquin --

10 MS. JACKSON: (Indiscernible).

11 MR. CHHATRE: Go ahead.

12 BY MS. JACKSON:

13 Q. I'd like to ask Mr. Joaquin to describe the area where
14 this work was occurring.

15 A. It's pretty -- I mean, I can't really remember. I don't
16 -- just the thing I remember it's not very well populated. There
17 wasn't many homes around there. That's about the only thing I
18 remember.

19 Q. Did you -- did I hear you say earlier that your
20 understanding was this was in the vicinity of Skyline Boulevard?
21 Maybe I --

22 A. That is correct. To my recollection, I kind of remember
23 the tie-in being called that.

24 Q. Was the work going under Skyline?

25 A. I don't know.

1 Q. Crossing Skyline or running lengthwise in Skyline?

2 A. I really couldn't answer that question.

3 BY MR. CHHATRE:

4 Q. Mr. Joaquim, this is Ravi, NTSB. On that particular
5 project, how many girth welds did you do?

6 A. I really couldn't tell you.

7 Q. Besides this 24/30-inch tie-in, that was the only one
8 you did or you did some additional ones?

9 A. I did some additional.

10 Q. And was each girth weld x-rayed?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. Okay. Now, I'm going back to the two gentlemen you
13 talked to. Can you tell me how this subject came up or what
14 questions they asked you?

15 A. I believe how the subject came up was we were talking
16 about -- you know, they asked me if I had been working on some of
17 the pipeline repair. And then they asked me about my background,
18 and I think I might have said something to the effect where, yeah,
19 I welded on a piece of pipe down in San Bruno area and I think it
20 was a 30-inch.

21 Q. Okay. And then what happened?

22 A. And then I basically said exactly what I told you.

23 Q. Okay. And were you guys told what the function of those
24 two people who were kind of following you guys or working with you
25 guys, what their function was by anybody in PG&E?

1 A. They told us that they were hired by the board to --
2 basically exactly what Mr. Hayes said.

3 MR. NICHOLSON: Which was what?

4 MR. JOAQUIM: Was that they were wanting to find out
5 what we thought about certain things about paperwork and jobs and
6 just trying to figure out processes.

7 BY MR. CHHATRE:

8 Q. Okay. So what kind of paperwork they were looking for?

9 A. They're not looking for paperwork; they're trying to
10 find out how to streamline our paperwork. If I had to guess.

11 Q. Okay. But --

12 BY MR. SHORI:

13 Q. Joe, this is Sunil Shori with the California PUC. Do
14 you recall -- again, I know this is a long time back, but from the
15 '92 project, the folks doing the x-rays on the girth welds and in
16 particular the one -- the technician that looked at the tie-in
17 weld, was this a PG&E employee or PG&E doing the x-ray -- x-raying
18 all those girths, or was this an outside company, or do you recall
19 that?

20 A. In my entire PG&E career, it's always been a contractor.

21 Q. Okay.

22 BY MR. CHHATRE:

23 Q. Do you recall the name of the contractor, by any chance?

24 A. No, I don't.

25 Q. Okay. During the conversation, do you recall if they

1 were local or came from outside the territory?

2 A. I don't know that.

3 Q. Okay. Now I'm still going back to the two gentlemen for
4 this consulting company. Do you recall any questions they asked
5 you?

6 A. They asked me many questions.

7 Q. Can you tell us what they're looking for? Can you
8 repeat --

9 A. Say that again?

10 Q. Can you recall any of the questions?

11 A. It was just generalized questions. I mean, they asked
12 me if I made the weld on the particular job that we were on that
13 day.

14 Q. Okay.

15 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

16 Q. Now, Joaquim -- this is Matt Nicholson, NTSB. Did I
17 hear you correct in saying that you don't remember who told you to
18 weld the long seam when the void was found?

19 A. That is correct.

20 Q. And was any paperwork filled out, any kind of "A" form,
21 "H" form, or other to identify that a defect was found?

22 A. I don't know that.

23 Q. You don't remember or you don't know?

24 A. I don't know.

25 Q. Would you normally fill out any kind of form to send

1 back to engineering or integrity when you do a repair?

2 A. As a GC welder, that would not be my responsibility.

3 Q. Okay. Whose responsibility would that be?

4 A. I don't know.

5 BY MR. CHHATRE:

6 Q. So there is no paperwork generated typically when you do
7 the weld repairs as to what needs to be done, what you are
8 repairing?

9 A. I don't know that answer.

10 Q. No, I'm not talking about that particular case. I'm
11 saying when you do the weld repairs on any other job, is there any
12 paperwork typically generated to document what you are repairing
13 or generally there is no documentation, somebody comes and tells
14 you to repair something and you do it?

15 A. I just basically -- I do what I'm told.

16 Q. So you haven't seen any paperwork during the repair
17 processes that you are involved with?

18 A. I don't see paperwork as a GC welder.

19 Q. Okay. But then who tells you to --

20 MS. MAZZANTI: Ravi, this is Debbie from IBEW. I have a
21 question.

22 BY MS. MAZZANTI:

23 Q. Would the paperwork, being at the time you were an
24 apprentice, would that -- again, you said that you were just doing
25 what you're told. So as an apprentice there's somebody who then

1 would be responsible for that part of it, but as an apprentice
2 that wouldn't necessarily be your responsibility, Joe?

3 A. That's correct.

4 BY MR. SHORI:

5 Q. This is Sunil Shori with the PUC. Based on that, do you
6 recall -- again, it's a long time, but who generally would have
7 been overseeing you as an apprentice on that? I'm not sure how
8 exactly that works. But on -- that individual, do you recall the
9 foreman on the job at that time?

10 A. It would have been the job -- it would have been the
11 foreman on the job.

12 Q. And you don't recall who that was?

13 A. No.

14 BY MR. CHHATRE:

15 Q. So typically it is the foreman who asks you to do any
16 weld repairs if any you do, or -- I'm still a little confused.
17 Who tells you to do some repairs on different jobs and how you
18 follow the instructions?

19 A. There's a foreman on the job.

20 Q. And so it's the foreman who tells you to do the repairs?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. Okay.

23 MR. CHHATRE: Anybody else have any questions? I'll go
24 PG&E, Mr. Hayes, do you have any questions?

25 MR. HAYES: No, I don't have any questions.

1 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. How about PHMSA, Peter?

2 MR. KATCHMAR: (Indiscernible).

3 MR. CHHATRE: Yeah, do you have any questions?

4 MR. KATCHMAR: Yeah, I just asked one.

5 MR. CHHATRE: We didn't get that and you broke up. We
6 didn't hear anything.

7 MR. KATCHMAR: Oh, I'm sorry. Can you hear me now?

8 MR. CHHATRE: No, you're breaking up.

9 MR. KATCHMAR: Let me take it off speaker. Hang on.
10 Can you hear me now?

11 MR. CHHATRE: A lot better.

12 BY MR. KATCHMAR:

13 Q. Joe, did they re-x-ray the repair?

14 A. I'm not sure about that, but that would be procedure.

15 Q. Okay. Nothing further.

16 MR. CHHATRE: Connie, does the city have any questions?

17 MS. JACKSON: No.

18 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. Sunil?

19 MR. SHORI: No, I don't have any questions at this time.

20 MR. CHHATRE: And I believe we have union. Do you have
21 any questions, Debbie?

22 MS. MAZZANTI: No, I don't. Thank you.

23 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

24 BY MR. CHHATRE:

25 Q. I have one question for Mr. Joaquim. How many seam weld

1 repairs have you done, do you recall, with your tenure at PG&E?

2 A. Like I previously stated, I believe that was the only
3 time.

4 Q. That's the only one. Okay. Now, have you heard anybody
5 doing any seam repairs? Your colleagues, coworkers?

6 A. I have no -- I have no idea about that.

7 Q. Okay. Now, who do you report to now?

8 A. Carleen Silva.

9 Q. Can you spell her name, please?

10 A. Carleen, C-a-r-l-e-e-n, and Silva, S-i-v -- S-i-l-v-a,
11 excuse me.

12 Q. Okay. And what do -- that will be Santa Rosa division
13 or?

14 A. What did you say?

15 Q. What division that will be?

16 A. I still didn't understand the question.

17 Q. Okay, your current -- where is -- where do you work
18 currently?

19 A. Oh, Santa Rosa Service Center.

20 Q. Santa Rosa Service Center. Okay.

21 MR. CHHATRE: Okay, anybody else have any questions?

22 Last go-around. Anybody have any questions?

23 MR. HAYES: So, Ravi, this is --

24 MS. JACKSON: No.

25 MR. HAYES: Ravi, this is Bill Hayes again. So I can

1 get you information on the Blacksmith group. That's no problem.
2 I am concerned about and (indiscernible) --

3 MR. CHHATRE: No, not the Blacksmith group particularly.
4 I mean, I need that information, but I also need to find out who
5 those people were. Were they attorneys or -- that is the
6 information I am asking for.

7 MR. HAYES: Yeah. Yeah, I understand.

8 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

9 MR. HAYES: The piece that I still need help with -- I'm
10 not understanding -- and, Sunil, with all respect, you know, the
11 projects we talked about, I'm not sure this was part of what. And
12 so I don't know the line, don't know the location, don't know the
13 job, don't know what the time was, you know, where. I don't know
14 how we find information, this x-ray you're talking about. That's
15 my only concern. I don't know where to even -- I mean, this is
16 like a needle in a haystack.

17 MR. CHHATRE: How --

18 MR. SHORI: Hold on. Can I (indiscernible). The survey
19 sheets or even the GIS overlays, we're talking about along Skyline
20 and it's San Bruno. So there's really not that much more left on
21 Skyline that's still the City of San Bruno. So, in essence, if
22 you looked at either 109 or 132 -- 101 doesn't go anywhere near,
23 so we're looking at 109 -- 109, -32. And if you looked at the GIS
24 layer for basically even 5 miles south of the rupture location,
25 wouldn't we -- wouldn't you be able to see 1992 projects, or based

1 on the dates of the installations of the last pipe that went in?
2 So, I mean, it will take a bit, but, I mean, is it really a needle
3 in a haystack?

4 MR. HALL: There can't be a whole lot of locations where
5 you tie a 24-inch into a 30-inch.

6 MR. HAYES: Okay. Well, we'll (indiscernible) --

7 MR. CHHATRE: Along the Skyline Boulevard. I mean, you
8 know.

9 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah, I suggest you go back and maybe
10 talk to your people and find out really how difficult this is.

11 MR. HAYES: Yeah. Let me do a little research with the
12 team to find out seriously how difficult it is and we'll get back
13 to you.

14 MR. CHHATRE: Yeah, we do not know how PG&E keeps
15 records, so we can't really help you. I mean --

16 MR. HAYES: Yeah.

17 MR. CHHATRE: -- I thought you guys are better
18 knowledgeable about how you guys keep record.

19 MR. SHORI: But, I mean, there's clear documentation on
20 a 1992 project to replace portions of line 109 and 132 as a result
21 of seismic issues.

22 MR. NICHOLSON: Right.

23 MR. SHORI: And we've gotten that on the record in
24 several places, so I -- without knowing anything more, that would
25 be the very first place to start is those two projects.

1 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

2 Q. Joaquim, do you remember what the specifications were
3 for the pipe you welded in?

4 A. What do you mean by specifications?

5 Q. Do you know the wall thickness or yield or grade?

6 A. No, I do not.

7 MR. CHHATRE: And how -- okay. Never mind. I was
8 wondering how would you choose the welding rod, but it's some time
9 ago so you probably don't remember.

10 MR. JOAQUIM: No, I don't. There was many different
11 projects and we used hippie and -- or HYP.

12 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

13 MR. JOAQUIM: And 6010 on different projects. So I
14 couldn't recall.

15 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

16 MR. NICHOLSON: Can I just ask what is it about that job
17 that stands out, given that you can't remember who else was there
18 or what size pipe it was? Why do you remember that so well, so
19 vividly that there was a void?

20 MR. JOAQUIM: As an apprentice and wanting to be the
21 best welder that I could possibly be, you don't want a repair.
22 And so when the x-ray technician came out and looked at me and
23 said, you know, that there was something wrong, I immediately
24 thought that it was on my weld, but it was not. So that's why I
25 remember it vividly.

1 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

2 MR. NICHOLSON: Thank you.

3 MR. CHHATRE: That is -- hey, Mr. Joaquim, thank you so
4 much for your time. We really appreciate it.

5 MR. JOAQUIM: Yeah.

6 MR. CHHATRE: And it does help us. Thanks again.

7 MR. JOAQUIM: All right, thank you.

8 MR. CHHATRE: Off the record. Thanks.

9 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

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
 SAN BRUNO, CALIFORNIA
 Interview of Joe Joaquim

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA-10-MP-008

PLACE: Washington, D.C.

DATE: June 27, 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.

Kimberly A. Hawkins
Transcriber