UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Investigation of:	*	
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THE EXPLOSION OF APARTMENT BUILDING 8701 OF FLOWER BRANCH APARTMENTS IN SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND ON AUGUST 10, 2016	*	Accident No.: DCA16FP003

Interview of: MICHAEL DRISKELL

Washington Gas Facility
Chillum, Maryland

August 2016

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RAVI CHHATRE
Investigator-in-Charge

APPEARANCES:

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I N D E X

I N T E R V I E W

MR. CHHATRE: Good afternoon. Today is Saturday, August 28, 2016 [sic]. We are currently in Washington Gas facility at Chillum. And we are meeting in regards to the explosion of apartment building 8701 of Flower Branch apartments in Silver Spring, Maryland. This is to investigate the accident that happened on August 10, 2016. The NTSB investigation number for this accident is DCA16FP003.

My name is Ravi Chhatre. I'm with National Transportation Safety Board in Washington D.C. and I am investigator in charge of this accident. I would like to start by notifying everyone present in this room that we are recording this interview for transcription at a later date. All parties will have a chance to review the transcript when and if they are completed.

Also, I would like to inform Mr. Michael Driskell that you are permitted to have one other person present with you during the interview. This is a person of your choice -- your supervisor, friend, family member -- or, if you choose, no one at all.

Please state, for the record, your full name, spelling of your name, contact information, such as work phone, work email address, and work mailing address. No personal information please. And whom you have chosen to be present with you during your interview.

MR. DRISKELL: My name is Michael Driskell. My work address is 7620 Croydon Lane in Forestville. I don't know the zip code.

I don't have a work email. The only email I have is a personal email. My personal phone -- you don't want personal information. I can't recall the work phone because it's in my phone. It's programmed in my phone.

MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

MR. DRISKELL: And yes. I would like Spencer Nichols here with me. Is there anything else?

MR. CHHATRE: And please spell your first and last name or (indiscernible).

MR. DRISKELL: Michael Driskell. M-i-c-h-a-e-l. Last name Driskell D-r-i-s-k-e-l-l. Michael Driskell.

MR. CHHATRE: Thank you. Now, I would like to go around the room and have each person introduce themselves. Please state your name, spelling of your name, your title, and organization that your represent, and your contact information, such as work phone, work email address, work postal address. We will start from my left.

MS. GUNARATNAM: My name is Rachael R-a-c-h-a-e-l G-u-n-a-r-a-t-n-a-m, NTSB Hazmat investigator, number -- phone number ([redacted].

MR. EMEABA: Kalu Kelly Emeaba. K-a-l-u, K-e-l-l-y, E-m-e-a-b-a. I'm an NTSB investigator. My phone number is ([redacted].

MR. OLIN: Lieutenant William Olin, fire and explosives investigator for Montgomery County, Maryland. My office address

is 100 Edison Park Drive, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877. My phone number is ([redacted]. And my email is [redacted].

MR. AMROLIWALA: My name is Rashmikant Amroliwala R-a-s-h-m-i-k-a-n-t. And last name is A-m-r-o-l-i-w-a-l-a. I'm working with the State of Maryland Public Service Commission, pipeline safety engineer. My phone number is ([redacted].

MR. STAEBLER: My name is Doug Staebler. I'm senior vice president of operations for Washington Gas. Staebler is S-t-a-e-b-l-e-r. And work phone is [redacted].

MR. PRICE: Steve Price. Division head, system operations. ([redacted], email, [redacted].

MR. SPANGLER: David Spangler, manager of pipeline safety compliance for Washington Gas. Cell phone number [redacted]. It's Spangler S-p-a-n-g-l-e-r.

MR. NICHOLS: Spencer Nichols, associate general counsel, Washington Gas. ([redacted].

MR. CHHATRE: Thank you very much.

INTERVIEW OF MICHAEL DRISKELL

BY MR. CHHATRE:

Q. Mr. Driskell, for the record, if you can just tell us personal background, your formal education, any training that you received, how long you worked for Washington Gas, through Williams, I guess.

A. High school graduate. Came to the Washington Gas May 5,

1980. I retired from Washington Gas January 2011. Three months later I went to Williams Meter and have been working with Williams Meter through today.

Q. Okay.

A. What else did you need? Did you want experience, training?

Q. Yeah, I mean, anything that relates to this particular, you know, your job functions.

A. Okay. I was -- I worked my up Washington Gas from a helper to a crew leader.

Q. Okay.

A. Look at everybody's -- up to a crew leader when I retired. My training is, I was in the field in Washington Gas, you know, running services, doing -- looking for leaks and stuff, and until 1995, 6-ish, when I had extensive training on leaks going, you know, they wanted to incorporate the filed with appliance service. And they had, you know, a pilot program where they took some of us and taught us leaks and, you know, the inside stuff, going inside. It was usually outside.

So from that -- then I went on a van for a years. I did training. I'm sorry. After this class in '95, I rode with service people. You don't need names? Do you need names? I rode with service men, older service guys that I can't remember. For months. And then I went to -- I did that up at Springfield. I was stationed at Northwest Station, Nebel Street and Rockville.

Then I went to Northwest and rode with service men and

eventually could go out on my own and been doing leaks. You know, and with Williams, when I went to Williams, it was like trying out for the team again. They didn't really take into account what I did done at gas company that much. It was like starting over again. I had to ride with the guy, you know, that had never worked in the gas company. I mean, he had showed me -- you know, Williams is very into their training. They're a little even more than the gas company because I feel they may feel they're the underdog and, you know, they have to do a little better. So I did all the training.

And then I've been doing turn-ons, turn-offs, and I do the leak shift too, you know, where I go out, for those who don't know, and if people call in a gas leak. I smell a leak at my stove, or range, or whatever, I go out and check that.

Q. Okay. So when you say you were trained on leaks, is that inside leak, outside leak, how do you detect that, or what does that mean?

A. I was trained how to detect outside leaks from day one, you know. I would be on a crew and somebody would smell gas and we'd go out and drill on a street and I'm sure other gas guys who told you this. We drill the street and test and aspirate and do all that. And, you know, I was trained that from day one, from the day I was a helper on. You know, it's pretty common knowledge for gas people, for those that don't know. And then, we didn't really do the inside stuff. We'd run the services or fix -- put a clamp

on a main, and then in '95, '6, '7, in there somewhere, I was trained on how to do the inside, you know, test for leak venting and all of that stuff. And then I got my WSSC pipefitter's card and it was full blast.

Q. Tell me something about Williams. Is it a small company, big company, what do you know about Williams?

A. There's -- well, I've been there for 5 years. There's a smaller company. I thought there'd be more gas guys at Williams, but there are not. You know, they're run -- well, Nell (ph.) you know. She just came. The general manager, I guess, is Earl White (ph.), who was a foreman at the gas company. And he's -- out of all the people I've had, Earl is a pain. Earl can be a pain. But he -- and I won't elaborate on that. But he really tries to make sure we do it the right way more than most. Okay.

Q. So is it a consulting company for Williams? Williams is a consulting company for Washington Gas?

A. Yes. Oh, I'm sorry.

Q. That's what I was asking.

A. We do the work for -- I'm sorry. I rambled on there a little bit. We do the work for, most of the work for Washington Gas on the service side.

Q. Okay.

A. The turn-ons, the turn-offs, the folks that didn't pay their gas bill, people that are moving, et cetera.

Q. Okay.

A. That stuff.
Q. So now going back to this particular event that happened recently, have you gone to any one of those two buildings, 8701 or 8703 in the recent past?
A. Yeah, apparently I have. Yes, I was here, it says.
Q. Okay, do you -- I'll allow you time to go through that.
A. I have gone --
Q. If it brings any memory back --
A. While I was out there, believe me, I went through this. I can't remember anything about these jobs. I'm sorry.
Q. That's okay. If you don't remember, you don't remember. I mean --
A. Now, I do a lot of jobs, and some jobs stick out, you know. Once in a while, a job would stick out. And more than once in a while. But here, this doesn't, you know, this doesn't ring any bells at all. I couldn't tell you, you know --
Q. Okay.
A. It says I was here, so I was here, but I have to take this paper's word for it.
Q. Okay. I mean, if you don't remember, you know, I don't want you to be guessing something.
A. Yeah, I'm not going to -- with all you folks around me, I'm not guessing. No.
Q. And the whole purpose of giving you (indiscernible) brings any memory back. Okay. Now, when you go -- typically, when you

go -- a gas order, inside the gas order, what will you do? How -- I mean, walk me through like -- you came to this room for a gas order complaint, what will you do?

A. Okay.

Q. As you arrive on the street.

A. First thing I do is I get out of the car, of course. I'll turn on my gas ranger. It's a gas detecting machine. I'm sure other folks have mentioned it too. I turn it on the ambient air outside because that's where you have to zero it. And I'll get my stuff on. How specific do you want me to be? You don't care (indiscernible) put a hard hat on?

Q. No, you can just walk me past through --

A. Okay, fine.

Q. I mean, just -- either, you know (indiscernible) is good for me.

A. Okay, then I'll -- with my machine, I'll knock on the front door. I will not ring the doorbell. I will knock on the front door and ask the customer to give me as many details as they can with my machine here and with it running. You know, it gives me an idea. The machine is pretty accurate. A lot of times it will start going off right when I walk in the front door.

Q. Okay.

A. Sometimes -- often it won't. Now, customers are usually pretty good at telling us where the leak is, especially women. They'll guide you to where the leak is.

Q. Okay.
A. And if I find a leak, I'll isolate the appliance if I can. If I -- I'll isolate the appliance, turn the gas off, and put a red tag on it, and inform the customer they have to get a contractor to fix it. If I can't isolate, meaning it doesn't have its own shut off on it, I have to go out to the meter or go inside, wherever the meter is and test there. And when I'm done that, then I will test all around.

Now that I know I won't get false reads from this furnace, I'll go around the rest of the house and make sure that nothing is there. I will test -- if the meter is inside, I will test at the meter, all around at the service-entry point. And then outside, also with my screwdriver, make sure gas isn't getting in. It's called gas getting in. That's one of the worse things that can happen.

Q. Now, when you say furnace, you are talking about central heating furnace or --
A. Whatever they have that's gas.
Q. Okay.
A. I can usually figure it out.
Q. Okay.
A. Most people have furnace, hot water, and stove. But it varies, you know, it varies. I can usually figure that out.
Q. You have (indiscernible) how long experience you have (indiscernible) numbers of years of experience you have, are you

qualified to replace the regulators?
A. Yes.
Q. So you --
A. I have an OQ card. It's out in the car. I could get it.
Q. Okay. That's -- so you can.
A. (Indiscernible).
Q. Okay.
A. Yes, I'm qualified to do -- replace regulators and mercury regulators.
Q. So both.
A. Yes, there's a difference.
Q. I understand. But I mean, you're qualified for both. Spring and mercy.
A. Yes, (indiscernible).
Q. Okay. Now, with your, I guess almost 30 plus years with Washington Gas, do you have any idea how many regulators you replaced on a weekly, monthly basis?
A. At Washington Gas, very few.
Q. Okay.
A. At Washington Gas we had a mercury regulator we would refer it to in another department, rough-in. That was, you know, we would refer it to rough-in trucks, would come out and do it, Washington Gas.
Q. Okay.
A. Or I don't know when I worked at Washington Gas whether they

referred it then to Williams. That I don't know. That was beyond. Now, at Williams we do it all ourselves.
Q. Okay.
A. If I see a mercury regulator that's weeping -- if I get a call from leak, and I walk up to the house and smell gas, somebody may have blown the mercury regulator and gas may be coming out the vent, I can repair, I can change that myself.
Q. You can do that?
A. Yes.
Q. Not as a Williams' employee?
A. As a Williams' employee, I can. As a Washington gas employee --
Q. You are not.
A. -- I wasn't qualified to take out mercury (indiscernible).
Q. (Indiscernible).
A. Right.
Q. But if it was a spring-loaded, you could.
A. I can do it. Yes. But I was -- as a tech, we usually didn't do that. We usually refer it. Because as a tech -- as a leak tech, if I was on a leak, for instance, I usually have maybe another leak. I couldn't spend an hour and a half, two hours on a job.
Q. To replace that.
A. I usually had --
Q. But you would call somebody at Washington Gas to replace it

or you would call --
A. I would call -- excuse me -- I didn't mean to interrupt. I would call --
Q. Say that again. What did --
A. I would call dispatch.
Q. Oh, dispatch. Okay. And they will --
A. Dispatch and say I need a crew here, you know.
Q. And deal with it. So the Washington Gas having internal crew that will come --
A. Yes.
Q. -- to replace that. Okay. So how will you know that the regulator is the one that's the problem and not the meter or not something else? How will you know when you arrive at an address?
A. I wouldn't. I'd have to figure it out.
Q. So how -- that's what I'm saying.
A. Oh, okay. I'm sorry.
Q. How would you figure it out?
A. If I'm on a leak call?
Q. Um-hum.
A. I would test at the meter and make sure there's no leak.
Q. At the meter?
A. Yeah, at the meter. And the regulator on an inside meter has a vent line that goes outside. And I can tell if it's weeping by going outside when I do my in-ground test.
Q. Educate me on that. What is an in-ground test?

A. Oh, okay. Okay. When I go for leaks and let's say I find a tiny leak on a furnace or (indiscernible) I can't assume that that's the only leak.
Q. Correct.
A. I can't turn it off and then walk away. In my opinion, the worst thing that can happen is gas getting in, it's gas from the service outside that's getting in through the wall, you know. And it'll go, you know, cinder block walls. It'll go whatever. So we have to check, because that's a higher pressured gas outside than if the meter had the appliances. So we got to go outside. It's part of our procedure. We have to take a screwdriver and put it in the ground and make sure we don't get readings with our machine outside in the ground.
Q. I think I'm lost. So you have a screwdriver.
A. Um-hum.
Q. So you put (indiscernible).
A. This is outside.
Q. Outside in the ground.
A. In the ground.
Q. Okay, so you make a hole?
A. Make a hole.
Q. And then what do you do?
A. I put my machine -- I put my --
Q. Oh, you --
A. I test my -- with my (indiscernible) machine that I brought

in.
Q. Okay.
A. I'm using a lot of hands here. Sorry.
Q. Okay. Sounds like a bar hole test.
A. A bar hole. It's bar testing. We go --
Q. Okay, okay.
A. I'm sorry. There was --
Q. I -- you are talking --
A. I didn't know you (indiscernible) --
Q. -- about something different that I am not aware.
A. No.
Q. That's why I really asking you.
A. I'm sorry. I bar testing outside.
Q. Bar hole test. Okay.
A. Yes.
Q. So which probe do you stick it in, in that hole?
A. My ranger.
Q. Okay.
A. The same one I brought inside to make sure it wasn't leaking.
Q. Okay. Like a CGI?
A. A CGI machine. Yes.
Q. Okay. All right.
A. Are we good? Am I using the right lingo? I'm assuming he knows nothing.
Q. Okay.

A. So I --
Q. That's what you should assume.
A. If I said bar and test, we'd have been -- my gosh, you're writing a lot of stuff, what are you talking about? I'm just joking.
Q. So and if you see something in the ground, then what happens?
A. Okay, then if it's within -- well, our policy is if I get readings within 10 feet of the building wall, I have to call a truck. I have to, you know, call big blue. And Washington Gas and Williams make it very easy for me to call big blue. That would not be a reason -- I wouldn't -- it wouldn't be a reason -- oh, man, I don't feel like calling. I get paid by the hour by Williams to wait for the big blue.

And Washington Gas comes quickly, so it's not, you know, an obstacle at all. And I wouldn't hesitate for one minute to call. And it's within 10 feet. I go a little farther. I -- if it's leaking 15, 20 feet, I'm still calling because, you know, day after tomorrow, that could be migrating to the wall.
Q. Is it because of -- I guess the grade or (indiscernible) how do you want to put it? What is the term you is?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

A. It's grade (indiscernible).
Q. (Indiscernible). Okay.
A. It has to be responded to and taken care of right now.
Q. But how does that tell you it's the regulator and not

something else?
A. That doesn't tell me it's a regulator.
Q. Okay.
A. The bar hole test tells me it's probably (indiscernible) service.
Q. Right. Okay.
A. Service line coming in the house.
Q. Okay.
A. The weeping tells me it's the vent line.
Q. Now, educate me on weeping now.
A. Okay. When a regulator doesn't seat well, it can weep. Or a mercury regulator that had the mercury blown out of it. Mercury regulator has a little bit of mercury in it. If a plumber changes a hot water heater, for instance, turns the gas off, does his work, and turns it on too fast, he'll blow the mercury out of the regulator, blow it out into the front yard or wherever.
Q. Oh, okay.
A. And that -- then 20 pounds of case, possibly, or less will come out of that vent line.
Q. Okay.
A. Okay. Lesser amounts is weeping. I've had it blowing, you know, 20 pounds, people walking their dogs, smelled gas. But lesser amounts and much more often, it'll be weeping out of that vent line and that (indiscernible) --
Q. So weeping meaning like a wisp of gas coming in?

A. Yeah, right. Will weep.
Q. Okay. But you'll hear that. Will you hear that?
A. Maybe not. You'd hear the blowing, you know. If you blow a mercury regulator, you'll (indiscernible) and they'll hear it inside, the gas will be going through the meter a mile a minute.
Q. Okay.
A. But you won't hear the weeping. I don't think.
Q. Okay.
A. Unless you get right up -- these vents are in the bushes, and nobody goes back there, you know.
Q. Sure. Okay.
A. Nobody even knows they're there. Most homeowners don't.
Q. Now what happens if the vent is blocked?
A. If what?
Q. If the vent is blocked in any way?
A. Oh, that's very bad. We have to -- if I can't get -- if a vent is blocked or a vent is vented inside for some reason, they've put an addition on the house or something, that's very bad. We can -- we have to turn the gas off until it gets repaired.
Q. Okay. So you -- so like I guess I'm back to my (indiscernible) that -- excuse me -- I'll call you back.
A. I think I know where you're going. You're asking me how do I test a vent to see (indiscernible)?
Q. So you walked in, the first thing -- correct me if I'm wrong

here, you walk into the house for a leak call, and you know, you got your meter turned on in your truck, you walk in the front door, you knock on the door, or you just take the bar hole test first? Which one you do first?
A. I'll go inside first. The gas leak inside --
Q. Oh, you go inside first.
A. A gas leak inside is much worse than a gas leak outside.
Q. Okay. So you go inside and then ask the person if they suspect a leak, or how you --
A. I ask the person if they suspect where -- are you smelling gas, can you give me an idea of where it's coming from, give me --
Q. Okay, okay.
A. And they'll usually give you a pretty good idea. Women will tell you right where it is (indiscernible).
Q. So you go look for the leak and you find the leak, appliance (indiscernible) you turn it off, or do whatever you need to do for that.
A. Right.
Q. You either fix it or tag it. And then you say you go out and do the bar hole?
A. No, after I fix it or tag it, I'll test the rest of the inside of the house.
Q. Okay, that's what I --
A. That's much more important.
Q. Okay.

A. A leak outside is much worse than outside.
Q. Okay.
A. Then at the end at my -- when I'm done, I'll go outside and -- as a matter of fact, I don't bring my screwdriver with me. I stick my screwdriver in the back of the car so I don't forget.
Q. Oh, okay.
A. Because I'm getting older and I don't want to forget these things. But then I take my bag back and I go oh, yeah, I better do the house line test and I do it. Okay.
Q. Okay. So inside, once you -- let me just say my oven is leaking. So you -- you're the guy, you fix the oven. You say, well, I'm tagging, get it fixed.
A. Okay.
Q. Okay. Everything else is kosher. So you (indiscernible) turned my gas off.
A. I can isolate it you're saying?
Q. Isolate that. Yeah.
A. Okay.
Q. And then you check everything in the house. Everything is good. Then you go out, go to your truck, and you see the screwdriver, so it tells you, I got to do something else.
A. Right.
Q. Am I correct so far?
A. You're doing well.
Q. So you take your screwdriver. Then you stick it where?

A. At the building where the service line is.
Q. So I mean the building -- just near the meter or where you stick your screwdriver?
A. Okay, do we have an inside meter or an outside meter?
Q. Let's just say you have an inside meter?
A. Inside. Let's say an inside. I figure out where the service comes in.
Q. Okay. So that's your guideline.
A. Yes. I have something called a small whirl, which tells me, but most houses, I can tell. You can tell where the --
Q. Thirty years' experience, you --
A. Right. You know, yeah, I can teach you in five minutes. It's not hard to figure out where the service meter is. I stick the hole in there. And I might stick another one back. I'm not doing extensive --
Q. That's fine. We are just --
A. And then I'll check the vent line.
Q. Just checking. Okay. But when you're inside, will you know the regulator problem? I mean, you're checking everything in the house. Right? And you're checking --
A. Yeah, but I'm not checking -- on the leak call, I don't tear down the vent line and check the vent line.
Q. Okay.
A. I check it up here, I don't -- I just don't do that. I don't think it's procedure. I don't --

Q. No, I understand (indiscernible).
A. Yeah, I don't do that. I just --
Q. No, well, I believe if you cannot find a leak, and my appliances are good, then will you go ahead and change the regulator?
A. I would check it for a leak. I wouldn't check its performance.
Q. I understand.
A. Right (indiscernible).
Q. That's all I'm really asking for. Yeah.
A. Yes. Of course, I would check everything that's gas.
Q. Okay.
A. Every -- I look up in the ceiling because some folks used to have a dryer, but now they don't anymore. Used to have a gas dryer and there might be a dead-ended piece there. I check --
Q. So how would you know when you're doing all this check, everything turns out to be negative, my appliances are good --
A. That happens --
Q. (Indiscernible) will you be going and checking now my regulator inside the building? Will you be --
A. That's part of the check.
Q. Okay. So how will you know that my regulator --
A. That's --
Q. -- is not leaking? How will you know that?
A. I will check around the regulator. If the regulator inside,

I would check around -- I'd check everything that's -- yes, everything. That's our prime directive.
Q. Okay.
A. Especially if you're on a leak shift. Check everything.
Q. So if the regulator is leaking, where (indiscernible) --gas reading, will it give a noise, what -- how would you know?
A. It would give me a gas reading.
Q. Okay.
A. Or if it's -- well, it can only leak around the seal and it can only leak where it goes into the pipe and out the vent.
Q. Right.
A. So if it's not leaking out the vent, and I don't get this very often, and these are 16-year old regulators sometimes, around the seal once in a blue moon, but not very often.
Q. Okay.
A. But I check them. Every gas man will tell you he checks them.
Q. Okay. But will you hear any noise with the regulator leaking, will you --
A. Possibly, but I won't go by that. I won't be like, oh, I don't hear anything, it can't be leaking. I use my machine. I absolutely --
Q. But if you hear something, how will it sound like? If the regulator is leaking, how would it sound like to you?
A. Well, if it's blowing like we said, we would hear gas flowing

through like 20 pounds.
Q. But that's gas going outside the building. Right, it's not --
A. Right. But you would still hear it. You'd hear (indiscernible). And when I hear a meter running, I can tell, and this is no superman thing here, I can tell if an appliance is running, you know. If I hear gas going through the meter and I don't hear a furnace on or I know they're not cooking and the hot water heater is not -- that's something fishy there. That's -- you know, that's -- I need to know where that gas is going. And everybody -- I'm not a hero. Every gas guy, you know, every gas guy --
Q. But you know, the regulator is before the meter. So your meter running would not tell you if the regulator is the problem.
A. Right. You're true. Absolutely. Yes. If it's blown, the gas would be flowing through that regulator and out that vent line. But if it's just weeping, I'm not going to hear it. I still have to test outside, which is what we would (indiscernible) --
Q. Okay. Now if it is venting out, will you still get some gas (indiscernible) inside?
A. Probably not.
Q. Probably not.
A. It depends. That's probably not what they're smelling.
Q. Well, I mean, I thought you said (indiscernible) broken,

right, or compromised, if you will.
A. It -- yeah, but the weeping -- there's no correlation between the seal leaking and the regulator (indiscernible).
Q. No, I'm talking about odor. Would you get the odor inside the house if my regulator is malfunctioning, not necessarily broken or --
A. If it's weeping, probably not.
Q. Nor inside the house?
A. Yeah, probably not.
Q. Okay.
A. The customer will tell you where the leak -- the customer will usually tell where the vicinity of the leak.
Q. And if there's -- and I don't know the terminology for it, but I use the terminology, compromise, broken, and all the gas now is going through the vent, what kind of noise you'd hear inside?
A. I hear gas flowing through a pipe.
Q. To the vent, but -- so you'd hear the noise inside of the gas going outside.
A. Right.
Q. Okay.
A. I would have smelled that if it's blowing that hard. I would have smelled that walking up to the house probably.
Q. Okay.
A. Unless the vent is out back.
Q. Right. I mean, you (indiscernible) back door and you are

entering the front door.
A. Right.
Q. So -- okay, okay.
A. Am I being helpful at all here?
Q. No, I'm -- you are being very helpful. And I think at this time I'll pass. I think I have learned enough for the day.
A. I've confused you enough.
MR. CHHATRE: No, no, no. Thank you so much. Rachael?
BY MS. GUNARATNAM:
Q. Can I continue his train of thought?
A. Yeah.
Q. So after you've identified that it's the regulator, what then, what steps do you take to address the problem, the leak is coming from the --
A. Okay, it's blowing out the regulator or you know -- I'm going to turn the gas off and make every effort to replace the regulator.
Q. Okay.
A. If I'm on -- I do both now. I work for Williams doing service work, turning folks on and off, they didn't pay their bill, they're moving. I also, on the weekends, and sometimes during the week, do the leak shift, where I'm at work and if somebody calls in a leak, like you're speaking of, that's just what I do. You know, when I'm called, I go to that leak. If I'm on a leak shift, I'm just going to turn them off and say I'm

calling the gas company.
Q. Oh, okay.
A. If I'm at Williams, I'm probably going to fix it myself.
Q. Okay.
A. Because I don't have time when I'm on a leak shift. Because I'm usually the only one out there in an area, or me and another guy, you know, but I'll make it safe. I'll absolutely make it safe.
Q. So when you're working on behalf -- for Washington Gas, then you call them if it's --
A. Yes, usually --
Q. Yeah.
A. Only because I don't have time.
Q. Right.
A. I hope you understand that.
Q. So do you -- so you turn the gas off and then call them?
A. I hate to do that. I hate to turn folks off.
Q. Right.
A. You know, but sometimes you just have to.
Q. So tell us, because I'm trying to understand, if you're changing out a regulator for Williams, how does that work? How do you go about changing out a regulator? Is that a multi-day thing or is it just --
A. No, no. Changing out a mercury regulator or a regulator, an hour maybe.

Q. Oh, okay.
A. Depending on --
Q. Do you have that equipment on you usually?
A. Yes, I have that equipment with me.
Q. Okay.
A. You need a special -- for a mercury regulator, you need a bucket with a bag, you know, a Hefty heavy-duty use -- trash bag in it and a black thing to put down, and a bucket. And I have a thing called a Jerome meter which tells me if any mercury has been spilled. And I mean it's like a major -- you know, the first time I did it, it took me longer than an hour, but after a while, you know, you have to put these things up and make sure the mercury doesn't fall it. And it's quite a production.
Q. I see. And then, do you have the ranger running at the time or like do you have --
A. I always have the ranger running --
Q. Ranger running. Okay.
A. Yes. Because I don't know whether there's a leak. You know, strange things happen. You know, I don't know whether a pipe is leaking, something happens. I didn't turn the -- you know, I've been here a long time. I didn't know whether I didn't turn a stop cock off all the way by accident, a little bit of gas is coming out that I don't smell. But --
Q. Okay.
A. I always have it. The ranger tells me if it's leaking. You

can't go by your nose. You can't go by smell, I mean by noise. I mean, you know, that's just me. It's probably everybody too.
Q. Okay. So once you finish changing out the regulator, you then document it in the CAD or --
A. Then I have to take the pressure --
Q. Oh, do the pressures.
A. I have to make sure the pressures of the new regulator are set to the proper pressures.
Q. Okay.
A. And it's high/low, low/low, and lock-up. And especially make sure it locks up. And a regulator that locks up means if something happens and the flow gets really bad, it'll shut the gas --
Q. Do you --
A. Was that confusing? You look confused.
Q. No, no.
A. I'm just rolling here.
Q. So you're checking -- yeah, you check the pressures on the regulator. Then what -- after that, what -- are you continuing checking inside or --
A. Okay, I'm -- you want me to walk --
Q. Yeah.
A. Yeah, I've checked the pressures on the regulator. Now, I'm going to turn the gas back on. Because I've turned the folk's gas off. Okay. I'm going to turn the gas back on, which means I'm

going to go to each appliance and turn the appliance off. Okay.

Each appliance, whatever they are, whether they have appliance stop cock. Okay, then I'm going to set my meter and I'm going to do some tests on that meter. I'm going to do a house line test to make sure that the pipe between the meter and the service stop cock is not leaking.

I'm going to do a DR test. I'm going to make sure the meter works. The gas company has got to have the meter working. I'm going to do an odorant test to make sure I can smell gas, so you know, the next person, if there's a leak, will know it's there. And then I'm going to do a vapor test. I'm -- I do two vapor tests.

First I use my machine around the fittings. I've tightened it up now. I use my machine around the fittings and then I soap it. My soap test is, you know, the final test. Then -- I'm not done yet. Then I go to each appliance with my machine and turn it on and make sure the part between the appliance shut off and where it combusts gas is not leaking also. Because my house line test only tested from the appliance stop cock to the meter. And I do that. And then I light the appliances.

I make sure the vent -- I'm sorry. I'm leaving stuff out. I make sure the vents look good. This is stuff -- you know, make sure the vents are good. Make sure nothing looks strange. Light the appliances, make sure that the flames look good. Sometimes air gets in the line when I do this and I have to make it doesn't

go out on us and, you know, make sure it stays on.

And then I test everything again with my machine before I leave. It just doesn't take as long -- it probably takes less time to do it than it is me explaining. But then I make sure nothing is leaking when I leave. That's my number one priority. Then I go outside and do my in-ground test and (indiscernible) test.

Q. And then when the job is completely done, how do you document?

A. I go to the computer and punch it in to the computer.

Q. Okay.

A. Now, I noticed -- if I can bring this up. On this one job I went to -- I forgot my glasses -- are these the CVS -- I'm not going to break them.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, yeah.

MR. DRISKELL: That's what I meant by my glasses.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You break them, you owe me two dollars.

MR. DRISKELL: Dang. Okay, thank you. The 8701 job I went to shows me completing a job in about two minutes.

BY MS. MS. GUNARATNAM:

Q. What's the date on that? Sorry. It's on the top --

A. 8/26/2015.

Q. Okay.

A. It shows me completing the job in about two minutes. That's

not entirely true. I think I showed up there and forgot to push arrive. Let me see, it's here. Arrive time is 12:42 and odorant complete time is 12:44. I forgot to -- as I often do, I forgot to push arrive. So don't --

MR. CHHATRE: Arrival time is wrong?

MR. DRISKELL: Yes, arrival time is wrong.

BY MS. GUNARATNAM:

Q. Okay. When you're -- so going back to what you were saying when there's -- if it's a Washington Gas job, you wait for their truck to arrive?

A. I don't have to if I can turn the gas off.

Q. Oh, okay.

A. Then I've made it safe. Now, if I find a leak outside in my screwdriver hole, I have to stand by until a big blue arrives, make sure it safe. But the inside one, if it's a regulator, I can just turn the gas off --

Q. I see.

A. -- (indiscernible) which is where it comes through the wall, and I've made it safe. They don't need me anymore.

Q. Do you document that?

A. Absolutely, ma'am.

Q. Okay. All right. Okay.

A. And I put a red tag. I'm sorry. I put a red tag on there so everybody will know why it's off and not (indiscernible) we show up here again on my Saturday afternoon.

MR. CHHATRE: Kelly?

BY MR. EMEABA:

Q. Yeah, not much. I think your test of meter racks all around after you turn off (indiscernible) operation, would this action be according to Washington Gas procedure, or was it a hands-on training you received?

A. Both. You mean, when you say meter rack, you mean a multi-meter rack --

Q. Yes, multi-meter racks.

A. Okay. When I go into -- normally -- I can't speak for this job, but it says I was there, so I probably did it. When I go to a multi-meter rack, I do my test where the service comes through the wall, I test my meter. I can't test the regulator pressures. I can't test the pressures on the regulator.

I don't test every meter unless I smell something, unless my machine tells me something, I don't go and test. Because I've been in -- East West Highway has 150 meters in the garage. You've never seen so many gas meters. I don't test every meter. I test mine. And if someone isn't quite right, if something is leaning, if something doesn't look right, I can't explain it, but I would then test other meters, or if my machine tells me that it's possibly something. But I don't go to every single meter and test it on and turn it on.

Q. Okay. Another question. Kalu Kelly Emeaba. You talked about regulatory placement, which are referred to Washington Gas.

When -- what conditions, or situation could lead to a blowout of regulator, service regulator mercury?
A. Okay, when -- and this always happens. This has been -- I've never blown one. I've turned many on, you got to go real slow. If -- plumbers do it all the time. They replace the hot water heater and they turn the gas off. If they turn the gas on fast, the gas will come down and somehow, I'm not exactly sure how, blow that mercury, it's only about this much mercury, up and out the vent.
Q. Okay.
A. And that's turning it on too fast.
Q. When -- where in the system setup could a plumber turn on or turn off the water heater you said?
A. Uh-huh.
Q. Did they turn off the water heater or did they turn off the gas line?
A. They turn off -- when they blow the mercury regulator -- because they always come over to the meter and turn off the gas line. Some hot water heaters, not many anymore, but some don't have shutoffs on them. Not every hot water heater has its own shutoff. Okay. Appliance -- we call it an appliance stop cock. So if a plumber shows up to change your old 1940 hot water heater and it has no shut off on it, he's got to turn it off at the gas, at the service entry point.
Q. Okay.

A. See what I mean? Because he can't -- he's got no way to stop the gas to put his new pipe in.
Q. Okay, so he -- the only (indiscernible) is to turn it off from the main valve.
A. Right.
Q. That come -- which supplies all the multi-meters.
A. Oh, okay.
Q. Because the water meter could be -- is separate by --
A. I'm sorry. I was thinking of one house. You're thinking of multi-meters. All the multi-meter houses --
Q. Similar to the one you worked on at 8703.
A. Okay. Multi -- a multi-meter you can just turn off at the meter. That meter is after -- they have shutoffs after the regulator. It comes in, goes up, there's a regulator, and then there's a zillion, their meter is down.
Q. Yes.
A. That's after the meter. I was thinking you were talking about a house, you know, a person's house. The plumber is not going to turn off the whole apartment building to put in a hot water heater at apartment 202. He's going to turn off 202 and do it.
Q. Okay.
A. Okay.
Q. For apartment like this, 8703 --
A. Uh-huh.

Q. -- which -- there's a gas meter that supplies the water heater.
A. Only the water heater. Okay. Yeah. Apartment buildings have that.
Q. Yeah.
A. Okay. Uh-huh.
Q. Okay. You say you cannot recollect what is in that place. So if a technician or a plumber is working on that water heater, and there's a meter that is a gas meter that supplies this water heater, where is he going to shut off the gas supply to that water meter?
A. Just at that meter, like the meters will be 101, 102, 103, and then there will be a house meter, and that's for the hot water heater or maybe dryers or whatever, that everybody is using.
Q. Okay.
A. He would turn off that, which is after the regulator.
Q. Okay.
A. He would turn off just at that meter, just right, you know --
Q. Okay. So if you can lead us, I mean, based on your -- I'm trying to learn, so --
A. Okay. No, that's -- I'm trying to help, but I don't know if I'm doing any good.
Q. Yeah. The technician off that particular meter, how would the turn off for that meter, gas meter affect the regulation, regulator? I'm sorry.

A. Not at all. Because the regulator has to service every apartment and the hot water heater. Okay. It comes in, there's a regulator which regulates the pressure to everything. So there's one or two regulators. There's a lot of meters. There's more than one. Those regulators won't be affected, because you can't turn off the whole apartment building to fix the hot water heater when you can just turn off the meter.

Now, if he turned off the meter -- if we turned off the meter, there'll be a disc in the inlet side, so that not anybody can turn it on. So if, you know, if a plumber did it, there would be no disc. Gas company, Williams Meter doesn't want anybody coming back and being able to turn it on either.

Q. Okay. Thank you.

A. So but we -- did that help? I don't know. Your face isn't --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's -- thank you.

MR. DRISKELL: Okay.

MR. CHHATRE: Lieutenant?

BY MR. OLIN:

Q. First, thanks for coming in. So like in an apartment building where you would come in and you have a bank of meters, would you -- one of your first things be like to visually inspect that bank of meters?

A. Yes, I wouldn't go and look in each one of them.

Q. Right.

A. I'd look at the bank and see if anything is leaning.
Q. Okay.
A. Is something leaning, is something not look right. Yes.
Q. Okay. Similar to the example you used with the parking garage --
A. Right, right.
Q. Right. All right.
A. That parking garage --
Q. Okay.
A. -- has it. Right.
Q. Okay. Is there any type of service that a person would do that would require them to disconnect, short of replacing the regulator, to disconnect the union between the regulator and the vent line?
A. No. I mean, is there any kind of service they would do, like --
Q. Some type of a procedure that would require them to --
A. Absolutely.
Q. -- take the union apart between the regulator and the vent line?
A. Yes, if we turn gas on. Not at multi-meter apartment buildings, because the vent lines are sometimes very large. But you need to check if a vent line has been clogged up.
Q. Okay.
A. Then you would remove the union, you know, out of the vent

line. And we have a pump test that we pump it up, you know, see if it holds two inches of water (indiscernible).
Q. And --
A. And -- but that's the non-gas carrying pipe.
Q. Okay.
A. That doesn't -- you know, if that was left loose or anything that wouldn't be the end of the world, unless the regulator malfunctioned, it would send gas inside.
Q. And you said that's not done in a multi-meter -- that testing the vent --
A. Right.
Q. -- line would not be done in a multi-meter system?
A. No. Sometimes the vent lines are very large. It's not -- I don't believe -- I don't do it. I'll tell you right now. I don't believe it's part of our procedure. Sometimes the vent lines are an inch and a half, two-inch pipe, they go forever. If you've been in a basement of a garage somewhere, they go up 40 feet, and we just pump them up. You know, I'm used to three-quarter vent lines where you pump it up. I'm not even sure how I could pump up a large vent line like that.
Q. Okay.
A. But no, there's no reason that I know of to loosen that union.
Q. Okay. And just in your years of experience, have you observed a disconnected vent line when you've walked into a job

before you started, that's just been --
A. Yeah, I've done a couple in houses where the house is being renovated or something and they've taken the pipes out. And there's a regulator without -- not very often. Once in a blue moon, but I have seen out.
Q. Okay.
A. Never, that I can recall, at an apartment building. No.
Q. Okay.
A. You know, this is heavily renovated houses, you know. I'm sure you've seen them in Montgomery County.
Q. And in your estimation, that would be something that you would see like when you come in and do that visual, that first visual inspection?
A. I mean, I would see that. Yes.
Q. Okay.
A. That would be -- that's what we call an AOC, abnormal operating condition. And we have a piece -- we have a tab in our computer that asks if we saw an AOC, which is -- AOC is that, you know, something leaning, water, you know, anything odd, anything, you know, abnormal operating condition. And we document that.
And they have a crew that just does those jobs. They just come out and do AOCs. But that -- if I saw no vent, I would turn the gas -- if it's unvented, no regulator, you have to turn the gas off. If you have to dig a hole in the front yard, you have to turn the gas off. You have to --

MR. OLIN: Okay, thank you, Michael.

BY MR. AMROLIWALA:

Q. This is Rashmikant Amroliwala, Maryland Public Service Commission. Here when you go out and do any kind of work, maybe as a service tech, maybe turn on, turn off, how do you check the odor of gas when you go inside the basement? Do you check the odors of gas, or maybe any odorant in the gas pipeline?

A. Yes, I test it in the meter, a small amount. You can't let a lot out (indiscernible) but I test a small -- I (indiscernible) amount at the meter itself. Without my -- I use my nose for this, because that's, you know --

Q. But do you ever check with the odorator or odor meter, do you use it?

A. The odorator? I did when I was at the gas company, but not here in -- I did the odorator, as a matter of fact at the gas company, but not at Williams. No.

Q. Then how you will know that the odorant which you smell is (indiscernible) smell for the odorant?

A. I don't. I use my nose and if I can smell my gas, I go, odorant, okay. You know, that's -- now, I have been on jobs at the gas company where I did not smell gas, where I opened it and I did not smell gas.

Q. But do you -- when you just turn on the gas, at the same time, do you open the meter and smell the odorant?

A. Yes. Briefly, yes.

Q. Okay, so that's the way --
A. That's the only way I can really --
Q. That's the way that you need to do it.
A. That's the way I do it. Yeah. And I can usually smell gas pretty well.
Q. And when you turn on gas, is that the -- you need to change the meter, the gas meter all the time when you turn on the gas?
A. Now and then. Now and again. Once in a while. If it's an old meter, if it's got water in it, if it doesn't register, if it's got a broken (indiscernible). It sounds like a lot of reasons. But I have to change them, you know, now and again. Yes.
Q. And here you do the house line test. How do you do the house line test? Do you do the test with the meter or just the house line only?
A. I use the meter to do the house line test. You set the meter and you let a little gas out, or you're smelling it until the half foot hand gets up to -- I do it the upward swing, 4:00, 5:00, and then I turn the gas off. All the appliances are already off. Let's assume that. And I wait five minutes and see if that little tiny hand turns any. And if it does, I know there's a leak up in the customer's ceiling or some -- I retest my stuff, but I know there's a leak somewhere that I can't see. I know they're using gas when none of their appliances are using it. Right (indiscernible).

Q. And how will you know that there is no leak in five minutes?
A. It won't move. The hand won't move. I --
Q. So do you mark any --
A. I mark every single (indiscernible).
Q. You mark with a pen and make sure that there's no leak?
A. I have -- yes, I mark it every single time.
Q. If you don't change the meter and just use the same meter, is it a requirement that you need to change the washers in the meter?
A. I carry a pocket full of washers and change both washers. Because it will leak if a washer is broken, you know, sometimes the washer is old. They're like only three-quarters of the way around, and it's broken, and it will leak.
Q. If you see any appliances defective is there any requirement that you need to turn on the gas?
A. I don't think I understand that question.
Q. If the stove is defective --
A. Oh, defective.
Q. -- what you will do? You will still turn on the gas, or you won't?
A. Well, maybe, maybe not. If it has an appliance shut off on it, and I can isolate it, I'll leave the folk's gas on, and I'll just tell them their -- with a red tag, that their stove is defective and turn the rest of the gas on, assuming that nothing else is defective.
Q. So if there's a red tag --

A. Red tag, that notifies them that something is wrong. Yes.
Q. So when you were with Washington Gas for the whole time you worked as a service tech or you did something else also?
A. Oh, I did lots of -- well, not lots of -- I did other stuff. I started as a helper, you know, out in the digging. And I worked my way up to crew leader. So I was running service -- you don't run services too much anymore, but we used to. NBRs and stuff, back in the old days. We'd look for leaks, bar and test, and you know, find the -- try to find the leaks. Ran a few services and stuff like that. And then I became -- I was a service tech for a while and I left as a crew leader.
Q. When you checked the leaks inside the building, what instrument do you use to check the leaks?
A. My gas ranger. Gas --
Q. That's a CGI?
A. CGI machine. Yes. It's -- we call it --
Q. It's not the gas track?
A. No, it's not the gas track. I use my gas ranger.
Q. Gas ranger?
A. Yes. It's (indiscernible).
Q. Every time when you gas turn on, or turn off, do you check outside --
A. Each and every time.
Q. Outside with the gas ranger?
A. Yes, I -- each and every time, put my screwdriver in the

holder I got in the back of my car, so I don't forget it. You're not -- forgetful sometimes. And then when I put my -- take my bag out, oh, there's the screwdriver, I better not forget to -- I forget things every once in a while, it's getting older.

MR. AMROLIWALA: Okay, that's (indiscernible).

MR. DRISKELL: Thank you.

BY MR. STAEBLER:

Q. Doug Staebler. Yeah. You were describing about this sound of gas flow in the meter, so in a single-family home and then maybe even in an apartment complex with more meters. When everything is operating normal and the gas is flowing, does it make a sound?

A. Yes. And especially in apartment building. You know, you got boilers going and guys taking showers and people --

Q. And you can hear the gas whistling?

A. You can hear the gas flowing through. That does not mean it's leaking. And I do not use that as --

Q. Right.

A. But if I hear the gas flowing like that in a single-family home, I go wait a minute, something is not right. You know, just something in your head. I can't explain it, you know.

Q. Right. So if a regulator fails and is not weeping, but blowing, it would be a much different sound in a single-family home than just normal operation of gas blowing through --

A. Yes, normal operation of gas flowing in that single-family

home.
Q. Now in a commercial or multi-family apartment, would it be a much different sound if the gas was blowing from the regulator than --
A. That's a good question. I don't know the answer to that. But it would be -- you know, I would check outside. I always check the vent line. My gosh, you know, especially a mercury regulator, you know.
Q. And then you had mentioned earlier about the mercury regulators, you've changed some because they've been weeping or failing, and there was a plumber, you know, turning it on. Have you ever changed one that just failed on its own?
A. That's hard to say because no plumbers say they did.
Q. Right.
A. They plumber is not going to say -- yeah. I've had one or two say, look, man, I turned it on too fast, I'm sorry. Those guys are cool. The plumber --
Q. Yeah. But without any indication of someone being there doing work?
A. I had it weeping before. You know, these are 1950 regulators, you know. I've had it weeping before, but blowing --
Q. No?
A. -- you know, not blowing. You usually look for a hot water heater sitting out in the front yard.
Q. Right.

A. You know, when you see it, you know, you know where the smell is coming from.

MR. STAEBLER: Yeah. Okay. No more questions.

BY MR. CHHATRE:

Q. Okay. There are a couple of follow-up questions. Have you done any leak calls for the multi-story or multi-apartment buildings?

A. Have I done any leak calls for multi-apartment buildings? Sure, yes. I've done leak calls everywhere.

Q. Well, I bet.

A. Even ones I don't remember.

Q. You've worked long enough that --

A. Yes, I have.

Q. Okay.

A. I've done quite a few for --

Q. Any of those had failed regulators?

A. No, not that I can recall.

Q. Recall. Okay.

A. No. No, usually it's -- I'm smelling gas on the third floor hallway, you know something like that. You know, somebody has left their stove on just a tiny bit.

Q. And how would -- and I'm thinking the multi-apartment building like the one that happened in this incident.

A. Right.

Q. You know, 14 apartments. And you said, the gas pushing

through the regulators because so many people might be using it.
A. Right.
Q. What kind of -- how -- can you tell me how the (indiscernible) look like? Would you -- would it be any different than if the regulator has failed and leaking, let me put it this way?
A. Yeah.
Q. Or would it sound the same?
A. Yeah, it would sound -- it would be a little worse if it failed and it's blowing out the vent.
Q. Okay.
A. Because sometimes the vent lines aren't always as tight as they should be, because they're non-carrying gas pipes.
Q. Right.
A. So if it -- you can also smell a little bit inside sometimes, especially single-family homes. When you go in, you can hear gas going --
Q. Right.
A. You know?
Q. No, I'm talking multi --
A. That's harder, you know.
Q. So you wouldn't be able to tell the difference?
A. No. Uh-uh.
Q. Okay.
A. And once again, I never use the sound as my --

Q. Oh, I understand --
A. -- it must be leaking. I don't think any gas guy does that. All the stuff I'm telling you, every gas guy knows, you know.
Q. Sure.
A. You know, I'm not being a hero.
Q. You are not any different. Okay. Now, what happens if -- I guess, never mind. For the multi-apartment structure, the gas has to be pushing --
A. Right.
Q. -- to make a noise.
A. Right.
Q. In this case, like midnight, if nobody is using any gas, they just say -- that kind of noise, that it wouldn't be making noise, that it (indiscernible) be making noise.
A. It probably shouldn't. In a small apartment building --
Q. No, yeah -- I don't know. If you got 14 apartments, small, medium, what's the definition?
A. Yeah, that's not a real big -- middle of the night, probably nobody is cooking, probably the heat is not on. And the hot water heater was probably in the basement there, I'd imagine.
Q. Right, right.
A. And their dryers, nobody is drying anything. It's --
Q. We don't know, but I'm just saying (indiscernible) --
A. Right, right. It shouldn't be running.
Q. -- likelihood --

A. If it was going 100 miles an hour through there, I would think that was weird at that time of night.
Q. Okay.
A. I would, personally.
Q. No, I understand.
A. Because what's being used? I mean, would any of you think that?
Q. No, again, you know, you just (indiscernible) if anybody was using anything at all, but I'm just saying, normally, at 11:30 at night, midnight --
A. You shouldn't hear gas pushing through. Right.
Q. Okay.
A. Fourteen apartments. No.
MR. CHHATRE: No. Thank you so much. That's all I have really. Feel like -- at least now I feel like I know a lot.
MR. DRISKELL: Thank you. I hope I was helpful.
MR. CHHATRE: Rachael?
MS. GUNARATNAM: I'm done.
MR. CHHATRE: Okay. Kelly?
MR. EMEABA: Thank you. I'm okay.
MR. CHHATRE: Anybody have any questions?
MR. AMROLIWALA: When you worked with -- Rashmikant Amroliwala, Maryland Public Service Commission. When you work over here with this company, how you get qualification? Is that Washington Gas qualify you or your company qualification is

qualifying you?

MR. DRISKELL: That's a good question. I went to Washington Gas and they qualified me. I guess Pipetown. And we take these tests all the time. I guess all the crew leaders and all the gas -- we take tests all the time. We're due up for a test now. But we -- Williams Meter now has its own training department with Glenn Sutton (ph.) and he will give us some training too, but both. But my answer -- my long-winded answer is both in this company, and Williams trained us.

MR. AMROLIWALA: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good.

MR. CHHATRE: Okay. Thank you so much.

MR. DRISKELL: Can I go now?

(Simultaneous comments.)

(Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: THE EXPLOSION OF APARTMENT BUILDING 8701 OF FLOWER BRANCH APARTMENTS IN SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND ON AUGUST 10, 2016 Interview of Michael Driskell

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA16FP003

PLACE: Washington, D.C.

DATE: August 2016

was held according to the record, and that this is the original, complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed to the best of my skill and ability.

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Katie Leach
Transcriber