



**National Transportation Safety Board**  
Washington, D.C. 20594

February 21, 2017

Andre C. Minor  
5318 Windbreak Drive  
Fredericksburg, VA 22407

Andre C. Minor:

Reference: NTSB Accident No. DCA16FP003, Silver Spring, MD.  
Your Interview conducted on August 20, 2016.

Enclosed is a copy of the transcript of your interview that was conducted as a part of the on-going investigation of the above referenced accident. Please review the transcript for accuracy and make any necessary editorial changes on the attached transcripts. Please put your initials next to each suggested change. After your review, please sign the attached endorsement and return it with the marked copy of the transcript to the following address on or before February 28, 2017:

Kalu Kelly Emeaba  
National Transportation Safety Board (RPH-20)  
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20594.

Or if you desire e-mail your comments to: [REDACTED]

Please note that this transcript should be treated as confidential at this time. This transcript is for your use only, and is not for release. If you have any questions, please contact Investigator-in-Charge. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Electronic Signature

Ravindra M. Chhatre  
Investigator-in-Charge  
[REDACTED]

Enclosure

National Transportation Safety Board  
Office of Railroad, Pipeline, and Hazardous Materials Investigations  
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20594


Reference: NTSB Accident No. DCA16FP003, Silver Spring, MD.  
Your Interview conducted on August 20, 2016.

I have reviewed my interview transcript from the above referenced accident and:

----- (A) I have no comments to make.

----- (B) My comments are submitted herewith.

*ACM*  
----- (C) My comments are marked on the attached copy.

  
-----  
Andre C. Minor

*8/20/17*  
-----  
Date

## NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

-----:  
 IN RE: :  
 :  
 THE EXPLOSION OF APARTMENT : NTSB Accident No.  
 BUILDING 8701 OF FLOWER : DCA16FP003  
 BRANCH APARTMENTS IN SILVER:  
 SPRING, MARYLAND ON :  
 AUGUST 10, 2016 :  
 :  
 -----:

INTERVIEW OF: ANDRE C. MINOR

Saturday,  
 August 20, 2016

Washington Gas Facility  
 Chillum, Maryland

BEFORE

RAVI CHHATRE, NTSB  
 RACHAEL GUNARATNAM, NTSB  
 KALU KELLY EMEABA, NTSB  
 LT. WILLIAM OLIN, Montgomery County  
 RASHMIKANT AMROLIWALA, State of Maryland  
 Public Service Commission  
 DOUGLAS STAEBLER, Washington Gas  
 STEVE PRICE, Washington Gas

This transcript was produced from audio  
 provided by the National Transportation Safety Board.

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 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

## APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the Interviewee and Washington Gas  
Company:

SPENCER NICHOLS, ESQ.  
Associate General Counsel  
Washington Gas Company

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: On the record. Good  
3 afternoon, today is Saturday, August 20th, 2016. We  
4 are currently at -- what's the name of the facility  
5 here?

6 MALE PARTICIPANT: Chillum Facility.

7 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Washington Gas  
8 Chillum Facility. We are meeting in regards to the  
9 explosion of apartment building 8701 of Flower Branch  
10 Apartments in Silver Spring, Maryland that occurred on  
11 August 10, 2016. The NTSB Investigation Number for  
12 this accident is DCA16FP003.

13 My name is Ravi Chhatre. I'm with National  
14 Transportation Safety Board in Washington D.C., and I'm  
15 investigator in charge of this accident.

16 I would like to start by notifying everyone  
17 present in this room that we are recording this  
18 interview for transcription at a later date. All  
19 parties will have a chance to review the transcripts if  
20 and when they are completed.

21 Also I would like to inform Mr. Andre Minor  
22 that you are permitted to have one other person present  
23 with you during your interview. This is a person of  
24 your choice, your supervisor, friend, family member.  
25 Or if you choose, no one at all.

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1           Please state for the record, your full name,  
2 spelling of your name, contact information such as work  
3 phone, work email, and work, meaning address, and whom  
4 you have chosen to be present with you during your  
5 interview. Please do not reveal any personal  
6 information.

7           MR. MINOR: Yes, sir. May I start off with  
8 the first question, sir?

9           INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Please state for the  
10 record your name, full name, spelling of your name, and  
11 your contact information. And then whom you have  
12 chosen to be with you.

13           MR. MINOR: Full name is Andre C. Minor, A-  
14 N-D-R-E, C, M-I-N-O-R. Do not have a work phone, but  
15 I will gladly give you my personal cell phone.

16           INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: No, don't give me any  
17 personal information, if you -- just want your business  
18 information if you have any.

19           MR. MINOR: No business information right  
20 now, sir. My cell phone.

21           INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay, will Washington  
22 Gas be able to get hold of you in case we want to  
23 transcribe in the mail, send it to you?

24           MR. NICHOLS: We can work through Maryland,  
25 Shelly (phonetic) if that works.

1 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Oh, yes I'm sorry.  
2 You left Washington Gas, right?

3 Go ahead and give your personal information  
4 and we can redact it.

5 MR. MINOR: Yes, [REDACTED]

6 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: And your mailing  
7 address. You live at?

8 MR. MINOR: [REDACTED], all one  
9 word.

10 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: How do you spell it?

11 MR. MINOR: [REDACTED].

12 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

13 MR. MINOR: [REDACTED]  
14 (phonetic).

15 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Your email address?

16 MR. MINOR: T-H-I, T as in Tom, H as in  
17 Harry, I for Ice, underscore T as in Tom, H as in  
18 Harry, I as in Ice, [REDACTED].

19 i.e., ([REDACTED]).

20 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. And whom you  
21 have chosen?

22 MR. MINOR: I've chosen the guy right to my  
23 left.

24 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

25 MR. NICHOLS: That guy.

1 MR. MINOR: That guy, Spencer Nichols.

2 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

3 Now we will go around the table and each  
4 person will introduce themselves. Please state your  
5 names, spelling of your name, your title and other  
6 addition that you need to present. And your business  
7 contact information such as work phone, email address,  
8 or postal mailing address. Starting from my left.

9 INVESTIGATOR GUNARATNAM: My name is Rachel  
10 Gunaratnam, R-A-C-H-A-E-L G-U-N-A-R-A-T-N-A-M, an NTSB  
11 Hazmat Investigator. My phone number is [REDACTED]

12 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Kalu Kelly Emeaba, K-  
13 A-L-U K-E-L-L-Y E-M-E-A-B-A. I'm an NTSB  
14 Investigator. My phone number is [REDACTED].

15 LT. OLIN: Lieutenant William Olin, Fire  
16 Explosives Investigator from Montgomery County,  
17 Maryland. Office address is 100 Edison Park Dr.,  
18 Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877. My phone number is [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED]. My email is william, W [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED].

21 i.e., ([REDACTED])

22 MR. AMROLIWALA: My name is Rashmikan  
23 Amroliwala. The first name is R-A-S-H-M-I-K-A-N-T.  
24 Last name A-M-R-O-L-I-W-A-L-A. I work with the State  
25 of Maryland, Public Service Commission, Pipeline Safety



1 Engineer. My phone number is [REDACTED].

2 MR. STAEBLER: My name is Douglas Staebler,  
3 S-T-A-E-B-L-E-R. I am the Senior Vice President of  
4 Operations for Washington Gas. My work number is [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED]

6 MR. PRICE: I'm Steve Price. I'm Division  
7 Head of System Operations at Washington Gas. My work  
8 phone is [REDACTED] Email [REDACTED]

9 MR. NICHOLS: Spencer Nichols, Associate  
10 General Counsel, Washington Gas, [REDACTED]

11 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Thank you for that.  
12 Kelly, why don't we start with you, with  
13 this operations?

14 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. Mr. Minor.

15 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

16 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Thank you, please sir  
17 could you state your position with the company when you  
18 worked with Washington Gas?

19 MR. MINOR: Service Tech.

20 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Your educational  
21 background and the function you performed for the  
22 company?

23 MR. MINOR: Educational background,  
24 volunteer fire fighter, family military service Base brat Bradford Air  
25 Force. Went to technical school, four years.

1 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay.

2 MR. MINOR: If you want my whole background,  
3 BMW, Master Technician, also Fire Explosion certified,  
4 CPR certified. My job at Williams Meter was to service  
5 meters, turn gas on, sometimes replace meters. Relight  
6 Tech, after the construction job is done, I go make  
7 sure no appliances are uncompliant, and relight, turn  
8 the gas on. Make sure everything is done. No leaks,  
9 everything is straight and no AOC (phonetic) meters and  
10 continue on to the next job.

11 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Prior to you working  
12 for Washington gas, correct?

13 MR. MINOR: Contracted to Washington Gas,  
14 sir.

15 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Contractor for  
16 Washington Gas. How were you qualified? Were you  
17 qualified directly by Washington Gas? Or did you  
18 contractor qualify you for the works he did?

19 MR. MINOR: I was qualified through  
20 Washington Gas, sir.

21 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Were there OQ cards  
22 you were given?

23 MR. MINOR: After you complete the course,  
24 yes.

25 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: So was those

1 qualifications do they have an expiration date, or just  
2 a permanent qualification?

3 MR. MINOR: They had expiration dates.

4 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. So how long  
5 were you with the Washington Gas contract?

6 MR. MINOR: I believe, well, Grid 1 was the  
7 first contractor out there, has to be closed up,  
8 forwins (phonetic) meter, it will be four years.

9 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: It took about four  
10 years. So thank you.

11 So could you lead me through on daily  
12 visits, what your daily functions were like?

13 MR. MINOR: Depends on a scenario.

14 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. Let's go back  
15 to this, the property at 3703 Ellis Street, Apartment  
16 102.

17 MR. MINOR: Yes, you want me to walk you  
18 through the whole scenario?

19 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Yes.

20 MR. MINOR: As I get my orders through the  
21 CAD, I arrive on the job. When I park my vehicle, I  
22 check and see if the customer is home by calling the  
23 phone number on the CAD. If the phone number is not  
24 correct, nine times out of ten, I have to go to the  
25 rental office. Before I do that, I exit my vehicle,

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1 get my tools, place my cone in the front of the vehicle  
2 and make sure I'm in a good parking spot, nothing  
3 illegal.

4 I walk to the rental office, check and see  
5 if that person still lives there, or the person is  
6 home, or may I go into the apartment? It's usually  
7 locked. Sometimes they give me the key to the lodging  
8 room. I would go to the customer's door. Knock on the  
9 door, give four knocks. Customer opens, I check their  
10 appliances first before I turn the gas on, make sure  
11 they didn't tamper or anything. And make sure  
12 everything is connected.

13 Then I'll proceed down to the <sup>Laundry</sup> lodging room.  
14 And before I enter the <sup>V</sup>lodging room, I turn on my gas  
15 meter and also my ranger, to detect for any gas leaks  
16 before I walk into the facility or light anything. As  
17 I go to the meter, I check the number to make sure I  
18 have the right meter. I make sure the <sup>stop cock is off</sup> stop ~~clock~~ is in  
19 there, and make sure there's a lock <sup>is</sup> there.

20 If there's a lock there, I remove the lock.  
21 I replace, take the <sup>cock</sup> stop ~~clock~~ off, replace the  
22 washers, turn the gas on, check for leaks. I'll  
23 rephrase that, let's take that back. I do my check, I  
24 have to check the regulator. It's a multi, it's a  
25 multi rack here. So I have to check the regulator

1 which is pretty good big one. Check the PSI. If it's  
2 correct, then I would go and turn the gas on to the  
3 meter.

4           Go back to the apartment and check their  
5 appliances and make sure it's not leaking. Go back  
6 downstairs, to see did the hand move as I do my house  
7 line tests. And if it did move, that means there's a  
8 leak in the apartment, or in the line. If it don't  
9 move, I proceed on turning the gas back on.

10           Go back to the apartment again, relight  
11 their appliances. Give it about five minutes and make  
12 sure there's no gas reading on my ranger, and proceed  
13 to leave.

14           INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. So at the time  
15 you get from the work at this address, were you able to  
16 go through the scenario you just described?

17           MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

18           INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. I'm looking at  
19 the work order. I could see two attempts that you cut  
20 it out on that day. We see replacement of old meter.  
21 Can you tell us how you went about that?

22           MR. MINOR: I need to change the old meter  
23 by date, or nine times out of ten, it's usually got a  
24 problem, or the framing. But a lot of those meters in  
25 the meter room are damaged. You come across people who

1 will try to change the numbers. You come across people  
2 who break the urk (phonetic). You come across people  
3 who have messed with the topping, and ended up screwing  
4 with the threads. That means it won't lock down  
5 tightly to stop the leaking.

6 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. In this case,  
7 do you remember what happened to it?

8 MR. MINOR: No, sir. It happened too long  
9 ago. I'm sorry about that.

10 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay, all right. And  
11 if you have to swap, or replace a meter, are there some  
12 safety precautions that you have to take as part of the  
13 normal replacement procedure (phonetic)?

14 MR. MINOR: Well, since I have to leave out  
15 the meter room, I place a plug into the outlet to make  
16 sure there's no gas seeping, and make sure the stop  
17 clock is off. I put caps on my meter as I take them  
18 outside, because you still have gas inside the meter,  
19 before I place it also inside my vehicle.

20 Then I grab a new meter, make sure the new  
21 meter is correct. Make sure the number's correct. And  
22 make sure it's validated. Then I take it downstairs,  
23 remove the plug, place the washers. Do my checks.  
24 Turn the gas on.

25 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. In the process

1 of replacement of gas meter, do you have anything to do  
2 with the line valve or service valve to that apartment?

3 MR. MINOR: The service valve is the stop  
4 clock.

5 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: The stop clock, yes,  
6 okay, the stop clock. Would this entail touching the  
7 main valve that leads to the entire apartment?

8 MR. MINOR: No, sir. I don't have to touch  
9 the main valve.

10 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Just the stop clock.  
11 When, what do you have to do with the stop clock? Can  
12 you lead me?

13 MR. MINOR: The stop clock is like an off  
14 and on switch. You ether turn it one way and it's off,  
15 or you turn it the other way and it's on. Flow, flow  
16 of gas.

17 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. And when you do  
18 turn it off, do you check for anything for it?

19 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir. Especially brass  
20 ones, you've got to check for leaks. You soap it up.  
21 And if you spin it and it's got a bubble, then you  
22 either have to replace it, or call Washington Gas to  
23 replace it, depending on the scenario.

24 There's a stuff you use, that you pack it.  
25 And if someone takes like a certain kind of grease. I

1 don't know the name of the grease, but you pack it and  
2 you spin it around. And it stops the leaks.

3 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. So let's go to  
4 the second work. After you completed the meter  
5 replacement, you also, I see your work order indicated  
6 you turned on gas with new washer. This matter can you  
7 lead me through the turn-on process. What you did at  
8 this particular address? Can you remember what you did  
9 in the turn-on process?

10 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

11 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: At this particular  
12 address?

13 MR. MINOR: Had to be (inaudible), if that's  
14 the scenario I just placed it back, phrased about two  
15 minutes ago.

16 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: No, I thought that was  
17 the job description you gave to me. So, my question is  
18 that you followed the same procedure you already  
19 described?

20 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

21 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. After you  
22 completed the meter replacement, and you finally turn-  
23 on of the gas back to the system. From what you say,  
24 you so tested it and so on and so forth. Are there  
25 additional precautions that you exercise or you follow



1 to assure the safety of the location?

2 MR. MINOR: Now there's two things. You  
3 talking about safety to make sure I cover my end? Or  
4 the safety, or the rules of Washington Gas?

5 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: The safety that you  
6 cover on your end. And the safety of, at the time  
7 you're leaving the meter company.

8 MR. MINOR: I'm going to start off with my  
9 safety.

10 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay.

11 MR. MINOR: As I enter these apartments that  
12 are locked, sometimes you have kids playing inside of  
13 it. So I got to, and sometimes the lights don't work  
14 at all. So I've got to make sure my flashlight's  
15 right. I've got to make sure my flashlight is a 03.3.  
16 That means it's sealed and gas can't get inside or  
17 cannot ignite a spark in cases of gas leaking inside  
18 these house facilities.

19 The facilities sometimes have wrecks.  
20 Wrecks can lead to dangerous situations, especially if  
21 these have lot of water. Sometimes one to two feet.  
22 So yes, I have to check my self before I enter some  
23 scenarios of these buildings. Actually at Washington  
24 Gas safety checks, that's repetitive, I would have to  
25 do it regardless. Despite of my situation that I'm in.

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1           Soon as I put my hands on the meter, that  
2 means I would have to follow Washington Gas protocol.

3           INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. So after you  
4 completed the replacement, the turn-on, and you checked  
5 making sure -- from what I see here you conducted some  
6 soap tests. And all that on that line, you've written  
7 on the meter you installed, correct? On the new meter?

8           So you do anything at all with the rest of  
9 the meter?

10          MR. MINOR: How is this, sir? If my ranger  
11 goes off, if my ranger picks up any gas, yes, I check  
12 all.

13          INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay, so if it  
14 doesn't, you do nothing?

15          MR. MINOR: No, sir.

16          INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: All right. At the  
17 time of this work. I know it's been a while now. Do  
18 you remember any, something at all, ordinary that you  
19 observed at this meter room?

20          MR. MINOR: No, sir. I can't recall just a  
21 specific meter room.

22          INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. Do you remember  
23 beside your meter equipment, or gas equipment, were  
24 there other utilities within that same confinement?

25          MR. MINOR: No, sir. Only what I have

1 documented here. Again, it happened so long ago I'm  
2 sorry I couldn't give you any more.

3 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Thank you so much.  
4 I'll pass it on.

5 MR. MINOR: Okay.

6 LT. OLIN: I don't have any -- I've just got  
7 one question for you. And this is Lieutenant Olin, in  
8 your four years with Washington Gas, do you ever recall  
9 going into any -- like an apartment building like this,  
10 where you would have a bank of meters. And find a vent  
11 line off from a regulator?

12 MR. MINOR: Off from a regulator, vent line?  
13 Well usually a vent line would go straight outside.

14 LT. OLIN: Have you ever seen one -- gone in  
15 and seen one just disconnected?

16 MR. MINOR: No, sir.

17 LT. OLIN: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. AMROLIWALA: Yes, this is Rashmikan  
19 Amroliwala, Maryland Public Service Commission. Here  
20 you just went out on September 15, 2015 for gas turn-  
21 on. When you just get the order for gas turn-on and I  
22 just read that you replaced the new meter. Why did you  
23 replace the new meter?

24 MR. MINOR: Again, it goes back to question  
25 the asked me too. It depends on the scenario. Sorry,

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1 there's not much documents on why I did it. But what I  
2 would do if the meter has been tampered with, if the  
3 meter is faulty, if the meter has been disconnected by  
4 years, I replace it.

5 MR. AMROLIWALA: Okay, so that's the  
6 Washington Gas requirement that you just look at it and  
7 when you find the situation, you just replace the  
8 meter?

9 MR. MINOR: Yes, it's best that definitely,  
10 if the meter it's recommended to be unsafe.

11 MR. AMROLIWALA: Okay. And here you said  
12 that you tested the house line. How long do you test  
13 the house line?

14 MR. MINOR: Fifteen minutes, sir.

15 MR. AMROLIWALA: And after testing the house  
16 line, do you check all the joints, the piping joints,  
17 and everything to make sure that no leaks anywhere?

18 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir. That's a multi-meter  
19 rack.

20 MR. AMROLIWALA: No, not the meter rack.  
21 The rest of the pipeline, under, customer site piping?

22 MR. MINOR: If that was the case, I would  
23 check what the meter was connected to, inlet and outlet  
24 side of that meter.

25 MR. AMROLIWALA: Okay, and here you just

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1 looked only in the meter rack side, there just change  
2 the meter, do the testing. But you don't go into the  
3 apartment and check any pipeline. Right?

4 MR. MINOR: I go in the apartment first.

5 MR. AMROLIWALA: Okay.

6 MR. MINOR: That's the first thing I do, and  
7 make sure those things are connected, and just right.

8 MR. AMROLIWALA: And the qualifications, on  
9 September 15th, 2015 when you did this job, the  
10 qualification is required by a tech, the locating and  
11 installing and protecting customer meters and  
12 regulators. Do you have your OQ card available right  
13 now, with you? And which can indicate that you're  
14 qualified, OQ card?

15 MR. NICHOLS: He's no longer an employee  
16 with Williams Meter. He's now with the fire  
17 department.

18 MR. AMROLIWALA: But the old one, the  
19 September 2015?

20 MR. NICHOLS: Oh, you're asking him if you  
21 happen to have your old OQ card?

22 MR. MINOR: No. Everything is taken away  
23 once it, the date it expires.

24 MR. AMROLIWALA: Okay. Can the Washington  
25 Gas find it out, when?

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1 MR. NICHOLS: OQ record for Mr. Driscoll  
2 (phonetic)?

3 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: OQ record for, yes.

4 MR. NICHOLS: Okay.

5 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: And mainly I'm looking  
6 for 0701, that's locating and installing and protecting  
7 customer meters and regulators. And second one is  
8 0702, that's the internal relief valve pressure,  
9 regulating when and --

10 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Point of correction.  
11 This is not Mr. Driscoll.

12 MR. NICHOLS: Oh, sorry, pardon me.

13 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: It's Andre Minor.

14 MALE PARTICIPANT: Sorry, Mr. Minor, my  
15 fault, thank you.

16 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Thank you for  
17 correcting it.

18 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, so you need the OQ record  
19 for Mr. Minor.

20 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. Here at this  
21 location, after finishing the meter replacement of the  
22 meter, did you check the regulator vent outside of that  
23 building?

24 MR. MINOR: Excuse me, sir. May I appoint  
25 my lawyer please?

1 MR. NICHOLS: So I need to clarify  
2 something. I'm your representative.

3 MR. MINOR: Representative.

4 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, but go ahead with your  
5 question.

6 MR. MINOR: Again, this is not being abrupt.  
7 I'm looking out for myself. And to look out for  
8 myself, he's asking questions that happened last year.

9 MR. NICHOLS: So, if you can't remember  
10 something, just go ahead and say you don't remember.  
11 That's fine.

12 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Yes.

13 MR. MINOR: Okay. I don't remember, sir.

14 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. All right.

15 MR. STAEBLER: This is Doug Staebler. Just  
16 so, going through your process, do the dial test  
17 fifteen minutes. Then you're going to go back into the  
18 apartment I assume, to turn on the appliances?

19 MR. MINOR: Yes, they have to be turned off  
20 at the shut-off valves. Shut-off valve, if the shut-  
21 off valve is not there, I go back down and discontinue  
22 my work, and give them a red card.

23 MR. STAEBLER: Okay. And then if the shut-  
24 off valve was there, you're going to light the  
25 appliances. Do you do any other safety checks in the

1 apartment for gas leaks while you're --

2 MR. MINOR: Yes. Connection to the stove, I  
3 check the flex line. If it's a hard pipe, I double  
4 check those to the furnace. If they have a lock  
5 furnace, I go get the maintenance man to open the  
6 furnace up. Check the furnace to see if it's clean.  
7 When was the last time it's been serviced? And also  
8 check the flex line or the pipeline to that.

9 MR. STAEBLER: Okay. And then if you go  
10 into a meter room, you're going to work on a specific  
11 meter, in this case, 102 I guess they're changing the  
12 meter. Do you check the rest of the rack for leaks  
13 while you're in there?

14 MR. MINOR: No, sir. If I may be permitted  
15 to speak. As I'm going to just one meter, what I  
16 understand from is by law, that you shouldn't touch  
17 anything that was not appointed to you. So I only look  
18 for that one meter unless my ranger goes off,  
19 accounting for a leak. A reading between grade one,  
20 two, or three, I call Washington Gas.

21 MR. STAEBLER: Right, so you have an  
22 instrument in there that would detect if there was a --

23 MR. MINOR: A range, a gas ranger, sir.

24 MR. STAEBLER: Okay, no further questions.

25 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay, you got any



1 questions?

2 MR. PRICE: Nope, we're done.

3 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Ravi Chhatre, NTSB.

4 Who requests to change the meters? Does the request  
5 come from Washington Gas customer, or the housing?

6 MR. MINOR: I had no request, sir.

7 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. So you do  
8 know. You just get your CAD request to go and change  
9 the meter. It doesn't matter who initiated the  
10 request.

11 MR. MINOR: Okay, if it's a 13130, that's a  
12 request to change the meter.

13 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

14 MR. MINOR: This was the case, there wasn't  
15 a case to change the meter, a 130.

16 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. Now do always  
17 carry the company procedures on your truck, on your  
18 person, when you go to do any job?

19 MR. MINOR: You mean my handbook?

20 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Yes, handbook,  
21 whatever, or the manual if you would.

22 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

23 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: With whatever  
24 equipment you carry?

25 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir. At the time, when I

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1 was working for Williams meter, I had a two seater  
2 truck. So the book was behind my head.

3 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

4 MR. MINOR: If I needed to see any of ASTs  
5 (phonetic) or anything they go by.

6 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. Have you ever  
7 checked the regulators during your tenure with  
8 Washington Gas as a contractor?

9 MR. MINOR: Always sir, because if the  
10 pressure is not right, then the call -- depends I  
11 believe it was a B32 were the big ones.

12 MALE PARTICIPANT: The B32 are the big ones.

13 MR. MINOR: Then I would, if it's not  
14 working right, if it's blown gas through a vent or the  
15 pressure's going over, or not locking up, I would have  
16 to call Washington Gas and ask somebody to come on  
17 point, and turn that off. And then get the, to contact  
18 the maintenance man to make sure there's a by-pass so  
19 we don't turn the gas off of all them people in their  
20 apartment.

21 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. I'm not sure I  
22 understand everything. Information I see as useful,  
23 but can you elaborate more slowly, and tell me why  
24 would you look at the regulator?

25 MR. MINOR: Yes, you have to always check

1 the regulator to make sure there's no weeping gas,  
2 passing gas, or leaks.

3 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: For any reason you  
4 enter, any reason you're called into that building?

5 MR. MINOR: Any reason you go into the  
6 building for gas turn-off -- to turn-on.

7 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Gas turn on. Okay.

8 MR. MINOR: Yes, yes.

9 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: So that will like  
10 changing the meter, our a new installation?

11 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

12 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. So you're  
13 supposed to look at the regulator. And how will you  
14 know the regulator is functioning properly?

15 MR. MINOR: I have a U gauge (phonetic). As  
16 I plug in my U gauge, if it drops on lockup, then  
17 something, or goes up with drop. It's not locking,  
18 it's bad. If it goes over it, it depends on if it was  
19 525, 2PSI or a 725. If it goes up past 725 to an 8,  
20 it's bad. If it drops below a seven -- a 625 it drop  
21 way below that, it's bad.

22 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. Can I  
23 (inaudible) with one of you. I don't think I  
24 understand, maybe Kelly does.

25 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, so if I could either

1 speak or help gather questions to get that, so.

2 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Please do, and try  
3 yourself. And if (inaudible) know who.

4 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, so as part of the  
5 procedure you're talking about is basically a regulator  
6 check and lockup test?

7 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

8 MR. NICHOLS: You would do that then through  
9 the meter connections. You would have an instrument,  
10 and a gauge that you would hookup to the inlet side of  
11 the meter at the swivel, correct?

12 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

13 MR. NICHOLS: Okay. And then you would then  
14 with that have a small valve that you would open, that  
15 would simulate some flow?

16 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

17 MR. NICHOLS: And then the U gauge would  
18 then tell you what pressure the regulator's regulating  
19 at?

20 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

21 MR. NICHOLS: Which should be about seven  
22 inches?

23 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

24 MR. NICHOLS: If it's eight inches, or six  
25 inches it's either too high or too low. And then you

1 would --

2 MR. MINOR: Adjust it.

3 MR. NICHOLS: -- adjust the spring on the  
4 regulator?

5 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

6 MR. NICHOLS: And then you would then, shut  
7 the valve, right, for the U gauge? And lock the  
8 pressure in to make sure the regulator locks up, if  
9 there's no flow of gas?

10 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

11 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. Is that a part  
12 of the request that Rachael or Kelly made and can get  
13 the information from Washington Gas?

14 MR. NICHOLS: Yes. A part of our  
15 procedures. Yes.

16 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. Now and how  
17 long you work for Washington Gas, at least four years?

18 MR. MINOR: Total would be four years  
19 contracted to Washington Gas.

20 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Right. How many  
21 regulators have you replaced?

22 MR. MINOR: Oh, --

23 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: I'm just, what ever  
24 you're feeling is fine, I mean we can get more  
25 particular from Washington Gas, what do you think of?

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1 MR. MINOR: If it's the regular size  
2 regulators, I can say probably about two or three a  
3 week.

4 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Oh, okay.

5 MR. MINOR: And then --

6 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: And --

7 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

8 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: We're looking at the  
9 single family residence, or multi-family like apartment  
10 buildings?

11 MR. MINOR: I would never, I'm not qualified  
12 or Q'ed to change for ones for multi-building or a  
13 multi-meter rack.

14 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay, in the case of  
15 3703, if you were to go replace this particular meter?

16 MR. MINOR: I would have to call in.

17 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: So you're not able to  
18 check out the regulator to make sure it's working?

19 MR. MINOR: I can check it --

20 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay, that's my --

21 MR. MINOR: -- but I can't replace it.

22 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: So in this particular  
23 case you did do that?

24 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

25 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: And so if the

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1 regulator is not working properly, then you have to  
2 call somebody to replace the regulator?

3 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

4 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: And how often have  
5 you done that?

6 MR. MINOR: So far, in four years I've never  
7 had to in that facility.

8 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Single family  
9 residence has two or three a week.

10 MR. MINOR: Yes.

11 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Do you know what kind  
12 of regulators Washington Gas uses? If you can't  
13 recall, if not, that's fine too. I don't want you to  
14 feel that you're kind of guessing and answer me.

15 MR. MINOR: Okay. I do know when I see  
16 them, and I'm not quite sure I'm pronouncing the name  
17 right. But so far, it's Torin, T-O-R-I-N, I believe.

18 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: T-O-R, I-N?

19 MR. MINOR: I-N, yes.

20 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. And what was  
21 the other one?

22 MR. MINOR: The last starts with A  
23 (inaudible).

24 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Oh, starts with A.  
25 Do you guys know what?

1 MALE PARTICIPANT: I'm not sure. You know,  
2 it's --

3 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Can you find out any  
4 history about the regulators for there?

5 MALE PARTICIPANT: Yes. We do have them,  
6 kind of a bunch of them.

7 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Can you keep track of  
8 the requests we're making? I don't want to say  
9 something and then forget.

10 MALE PARTICIPANT: Yes.

11 (Off microphone comments)

12 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Can you tell from  
13 your experience, your sudden regulated, or your spring  
14 loaded are a mercury?

15 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, you can, you can tell the  
16 difference.

17 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: You can. Okay.

18 MR. NICHOLS: And just to clarify too, that  
19 the mercury regulator is a spring loaded regulator too.

20 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

21 MR. NICHOLS: It just has a mercury seal as  
22 the relief device versus another spring.

23 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Compared to?

24 MR. NICHOLS: Compared to other regulators  
25 that would have another spring.



1 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: To a spring spring,  
2 or just spring mercury?

3 MR. NICHOLS: Yes.

4 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Is that a correct  
5 statement, and description?

6 MR. NICHOLS: Yes.

7 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. And how would  
8 you be able to tell that, looking at the regulator?  
9 Will it say something on the regulator that it's a  
10 mercury?

11 MR. MINOR: That's just, what do we call  
12 that? Probably like when you change a tire, you just  
13 know. Just by looking.

14 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. Identified by  
15 experience, so.

16 MR. MINOR: Yes, by experience.

17 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: So a new person may  
18 not be able to tell the difference. Is that a correct  
19 statement?

20 MR. MINOR: Correct, sir.

21 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: But the regulators  
22 doesn't say it has mercury in it?

23 MR. MINOR: No, sir.

24 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. So this two or  
25 three regulators a week, you said, typical. I mean I'm

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1 not holding you the number, but ballpark number, do you  
2 remember how many of those would be mercury and how  
3 many of those would be --

4 MR. MINOR: I'm not qualified to change  
5 mercury. If it's a mercury --

6 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Oh, so you mean if it  
7 has mercury, then somebody else has to -- all of the  
8 regulators that you changed have been spring loaded  
9 then by default?

10 MR. MINOR: By, yes right. You're right,  
11 are typical spring loaded, our regulators.

12 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. Do you know  
13 how many of, only if you remember, how many that you  
14 had to call back and say look, it's mercury and I can't  
15 change it?

16 MR. MINOR: Two.

17 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Two in four years.

18 MR. MINOR: Yes.

19 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: And this question for  
20 the four year period, do you remember why you changed  
21 those mercury meters?

22 MR. MINOR: Yes, if I checked the pressure  
23 and even after I checked the pressure I turned the gas  
24 full on, and it gurgles, it's bad.

25 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

1 MR. MINOR: If I check the pressure and it  
2 doesn't do anything, it's bad.

3 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

4 MR. MINOR: If it's leaking mercury, then I  
5 definitely, step back and --

6 (Simultaneous speaking)

7 MR. MINOR: Yes, I'm bad, yes.

8 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: And what you meant,  
9 gurgle?

10 MR. MINOR: It makes a gurgling sound.

11 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: It does.

12 MR. MINOR: Like it has water in it.

13 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Oh, okay.

14 MR. MINOR: And if it's leaking then I have  
15 to call Washington Gas and the call the hazmat team  
16 out.

17 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

18 LT. OLIN: Leaking mercury?

19 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

20 LT. OLIN: Yes, okay.

21 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Now have you seen,  
22 similarly speaking in four years, have you seen any  
23 regulator that was leaking gas?

24 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

25 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: And how does that

1 sound?

2 MR. MINOR: It sounds like, either a  
3 hissing, or when you walk past the house, you'll smell  
4 it.

5 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Oh, yes okay. And  
6 that's true for both the spring loaded and the mercury?

7 MR. MINOR: Yes, the odor is passed through.

8 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: They will be the  
9 same?

10 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

11 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Any of the pressure  
12 typically for regulators you change, with the 20PSI  
13 (phonetic), your high official gas lines?

14 MR. MINOR: No. Not of the ones I changed.

15 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Typically you  
16 changed.

17 MR. MINOR: No, 2PSI regulators, or is the  
18 regular seven (inaudible) for the regulators. I don't  
19 change that (inaudible).

20 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: For the outlet.

21 MR. NICHOLS: Which is the outlet side. So  
22 he's asking the inline pressure from the distribution  
23 system.

24 MR. MINOR: Oh, okay.

25 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: (Inaudible), yes.

1 MR. NICHOLS: So you would deal with 20 or  
2 50 typically, that's our distribution system.

3 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

4 MR. NICHOLS: Or you wouldn't, they won't,  
5 you wouldn't see that pressure on any of your gauges --

6 MR. MINOR: No, sir.

7 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

8 MR. NICHOLS: Because you're looking at the  
9 operating --

10 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: So you've got, and  
11 that, this two or three per week would that be the  
12 reason because the regulator is not working? Or the  
13 pressure's not holding, or what is the typical cause?  
14 If there is a typical cause.

15 MR. MINOR: No problem, I can recall one  
16 that happened in D.C. I went to another house to turn  
17 gas on. As I walked past the person's house, beside  
18 it, it was leaking gas. And I wasn't there on a call.  
19 It just so happens I had to have been in the area.

20 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Happened to notice  
21 it?

22 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

23 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: And that one making a  
24 hissing noise?

25 MR. MINOR: Yes.

1 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. So you could  
2 hear it, I mean?

3 MR. MINOR: It was coming out pretty strong,  
4 yes.

5 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

6 MR. MINOR: If it was a small leak, no.  
7 Your ranger will pick it up. That's why I turn my  
8 ranger on before I go in any place.

9 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

10 MR. MINOR: Yes.

11 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: So by procedure, you  
12 are required to kind of turn your meters as you get off  
13 the truck? Before you go any place, or?

14 MR. MINOR: Spenser.

15 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: I guess my question  
16 is, since I've got you, I'll repeat the question.

17 MR. NICHOLS: All right.

18 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: When do you turn your  
19 meters on to?

20 MR. MINOR: As you proceed out of your  
21 vehicle.

22 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. Now what  
23 happens in a location when you drive in and you start  
24 smelling gas? How can you calibrate your  
25 instrumentation there?

1 MR. MINOR: The instrument don't calibrate,  
2 but sometimes the instrument will pick it up. I try my  
3 best to pinpoint it. And if I smell gas, I will call  
4 Washington Gas. Hey, I smell gas in this neighborhood.  
5 I'm going to walk around see can I find it. And that  
6 has happened. It happened off Marlboro, five houses  
7 down.

8 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. And I guess in  
9 this particular incident that we are investigating,  
10 Flower Garden --

11 INVESTIGATOR GUNARATNAM: Branch.

12 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Flower Branch  
13 Building, how did it happen to you, that you're driving  
14 and you smell gas?

15 MR. MINOR: At the apartment complex. No,  
16 it never happened to me in the apartment complex.

17 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

18 MR. STAEBLER: And question two, when the --

19 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Identify yourself.

20 MR. STAEBLER: Oh, this is Doug Staebler.  
21 So I thinking like, experience with regulators leaking,  
22 ever leaking inside? Or are they --

23 MR. MINOR: Outside.

24 MR. STAEBLER: Outside through the vent?

25 MR. MINOR: Yes.

1 MR. STAEBLER: Okay, so no gas in the  
2 buildings, when --

3 MR. MINOR: No, sir.

4 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: These are  
5 (inaudible). So did, when you say hissing, you don't  
6 necessarily smell the gas then? You heard hissing, or  
7 you can smell?

8 MR. MINOR: You smell the gas. Well, some  
9 people cannot. Some people not used to the smell, some  
10 people are used to the smell. I mean, but if it's  
11 blowing pretty strong you can hear it hissing.

12 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: You can hear and  
13 smell?

14 MR. MINOR: Yes.

15 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: I know you just give  
16 me quite a bit of information, I've had to better  
17 understand, (inaudible) --

18 MR. MINOR: I'm sorry if my technology is,  
19 if I'm taking --

20 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Oh no, you're fine  
21 with me.

22 MR. MINOR: Okay.

23 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: You're doing fine.  
24 So I'll just pass it on to. Each of you any questions?

25 (No audible response)

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1 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. Anybody have  
2 any follow-up questions?

3 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Yes, just a few after  
4 that I'm done.

5 You mentioned while responding to one of the  
6 questions asked you. You say by law -- I'm sorry this  
7 Kalu Kelly Emeaba -- you say by law, you do not touch  
8 anything that is not assigned to you at the meter  
9 racks.

10 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

11 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay, and then so does  
12 that include you not doing soap tests of any of that  
13 part of the, any of the meter besides the one you were  
14 sent to?

15 MR. MINOR: If I don't see any reason to, or  
16 and I cannot get Washington Gas. Why test somebody  
17 else's meter they're paying for? No, sir.

18 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. And just going  
19 back to by law, is that in the procedure that you carry  
20 on, what you call your handbook? Or which law were you  
21 referring to, please?

22 MR. MINOR: Well, just considering that it  
23 is a federal, am I correct, it is a federal standard.  
24 You touch something, the right terminology -- well, to  
25 put it in my terminology, you don't want to touch

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1 nothing that doesn't belong to you. And I wasn't there  
2 to test their meter. I was there to test somebody  
3 else's. I was given permission to test 102 meter. No  
4 one else's. So no one didn't give me a reason to touch  
5 it, I kept my hand off of it. That's my terminology.

6 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: So that law, is your  
7 own law?

8 MR. MINOR: No, you're not allowed to touch  
9 other people's meters. You're not allowed to turn them  
10 off. You're not to turn them on. You're not allowed  
11 to turn them on -- you're not allowed to turn them off  
12 or turn them on if you're not there, assigned there,  
13 unless you find a reason to turn it off.

14 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. And that I  
15 agree with you. I'm asking on the aspect of checking  
16 for gas leaking within that meter rack. Is there  
17 something you do, or you don't supposed to do at all --

18 MR. MINOR: No, I don't need to do. No,  
19 sir.

20 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: You don't need to  
21 check for any leak at all within that area?

22 MR. MINOR: No, that's different. This is a  
23 multi --

24 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: It's multi-meter.  
25 About 14 of them.

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1 MR. MINOR: Yes, there's 14 of them. I  
2 don't check all 14 of them. Okay, I go on my gas  
3 ranger. If my gas ranger picks up a smell, I will  
4 check all of them. Other than that, I will change the  
5 main riser. I will check all the regulators, because I  
6 test it. And I will got the meter out the side, to  
7 touch. Other than that, no I would not touch anything  
8 else unless my ranger tells me to.

9 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Thank you.

10 Now one more question. Do you, can you from  
11 your recollection. Do you know if your handbook, or OM  
12 (phonetic) manual you were using, that's William's is  
13 similar to what Washington Gas employees carry too?

14 MR. MINOR: Yes.

15 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Same thing?

16 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

17 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. And maybe this  
18 one I was a little bit lost too. I wanted just to  
19 clarify. Ravi, asked a question concerning testing of  
20 regulator. Where do you connect the U gauge to test  
21 the regulator?

22 MR. MINOR: If I'm correct, it would be  
23 inlet. This is oh, man, if I'm correct, it'd be you  
24 know --

25 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: If you can draw, do

1 you have anything, you want to draw it?

2 MR. MINOR: Yes.

3 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Please go ahead.

4 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: He can draw on the --  
5 oh here, we're going to draw here and get the lucky  
6 chair.

7 MR. MINOR: Yes.

8 MR. NICHOLS: Show us.

9 MR. MINOR: The main service valve is here -  
10 -

11 MALE PARTICIPANT: We're not grading on art  
12 work.

13 MR. MINOR: Okay, okay. And there's a  
14 multi-meter right there. To check that meter, I would  
15 check it, I would connect it here, which I believe is  
16 the inlet side.

17 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay.

18 MR. MINOR: And this is the, the right side  
19 is going to the customer's house. There's no gas in  
20 there right now because it has to go through the meter.  
21 So I would definitely check the inlet side. The inlet  
22 side will give you the pressures from the regulator,  
23 what's going through these other multi-meters, or the  
24 rack.

25 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay.

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1 MR. MINOR: When I take my pressure and this  
2 regulator here is giving me a false reading, then I  
3 call Washington Gas. I stop here. Stop all work here.

4 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: What is that? Where  
5 you just put the test now?

6 MR. MINOR: That's the meter I'm working on.

7 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay.

8 MR. MINOR: I'll proceed to turn off, stop  
9 all work there, and stop all work that I'm doing. Call  
10 Washington Gas, and that how I proceed there.

11 Depends on how bad it is, Washington Gas  
12 tell me to turn the whole thing off. I call the  
13 maintenance people, let them know what's going on. Or  
14 Washington Gas will get over there five, or ten, or  
15 twenty minutes to go ahead and change the regulator, or  
16 do a by-pass valve to keep the gas going through the  
17 rest of the house, or apartments.

18 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. So you can  
19 actually change a regulator by putting in a by-pass?

20 MR. MINOR: Yes.

21 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. Thank you so  
22 much. Because when you mentioned earlier, by law, you  
23 don't touch a rack before with equipment, except when  
24 you are asked to. So my thought and where I was a  
25 little bit lost to say, for a multi-dwelling you need

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1 to apply this, how could you have done it without, you  
2 know, impacting them. So you explained that you  
3 actually connect a by-pass and then you have to replace  
4 the regulator.

5 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

6 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. Thank you.  
7 That's what I wanted to know.

8 MR. MINOR: Okay.

9 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Thank you.

10 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: And you Lieutenant,  
11 any questions?

12 LT. OLIN: No, I'm good, thank you.

13 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Yes, your witness.

14 MR. AMROLIWALA: Yes, when you went there  
15 and you said that --

16 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Identify.

17 MR. AMROLIWALA: Oh, Rashmikan Amroliwala,  
18 Maryland Public Service Commission. When you, this  
19 meter rack, and you said just if you smell gas or if  
20 your detector indicates the reading, then you will  
21 check the whole rack?

22 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir.

23 MR. AMROLIWALA: Is that normally, not  
24 procedure that you need to check the whole meter rack  
25 with the gas track, that make sure that there is no

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1 leak, indicates no leak? Because the first meter is  
2 leaking, and you are just working on 14th meter, then  
3 it's a distance and might not pick it up in your gas  
4 track. So is it not a requirement that you need to  
5 check all the entire meter rack just by touching with  
6 your gas track?

7 MR. MINOR: No, sir. Not the protocol, no,  
8 sir.

9 MR. AMROLIWALA: Is a Washington Gas  
10 procedure? Is that not?

11 MALE PARTICIPANT: What?

12 MR. AMROLIWALA: That when they go inside  
13 they need to check other things?

14 MR. NICHOLS: We'd have pull the procedure,  
15 but I think that is the procedure, that you would  
16 check. And that's no comment to you. You're just  
17 expressing your understanding of what your requirements  
18 were, so.

19 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: But that can be  
20 requested, right?

21 MR. NICHOLS: It's been requested, and --

22 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: So we should get  
23 that?

24 MR. NICHOLS: Right.

25 (Off microphone comments)

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1 MR. MINOR: May I --

2 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Please, if you have  
3 something to.

4 MR. MINOR: May I speak?

5 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Of course you can.

6 MR. MINOR: I want to speak up for my fellow  
7 man on this. Again, when you go into these dungeons.  
8 It's very difficult to check all these meters with  
9 crap, dead animals, darkness, things that aren't  
10 supposed to be there.

11 And when you request these people to change  
12 it, they still don't do it. It comes in my hands while  
13 I turn a customer's gas on. I'm the one getting the  
14 phone call, why did I do this procedure?

15 I'm the one that have to say, why does the  
16 guy call me 9:00 o'clock at night saying you walked out  
17 with an attitude? So again, when you say check  
18 everything, we got to also look at the safety of us.

19 And if I see something dangling, over our  
20 meter. And if I don't get a reading, I'm going to just  
21 be blunt, why should I put myself in danger? Who's  
22 going to protect me?

23 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: But you do call  
24 Washington Gas, right at that time?

25 MR. MINOR: When you're, Washington Gas has

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1 something dangling over a meter? No, you could only  
2 put a red tag on that situation because --

3 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: But you do take some  
4 action, then?

5 MR. MINOR: But that's it, the action is  
6 only for that meter.

7 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

8 MR. MINOR: Not the ones in a corner, and  
9 have a dog pivot (phonetic), over two feet of water.  
10 Not the ones with traps, again, dead animals. Not the  
11 ones that's hanging to the side, or AOC (phonetic).  
12 Again, I'm there for that one meter. And I'm going to  
13 use my ranger for my safety to check and make sure  
14 there's no leaks.

15 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

16 MR. MINOR: Now should I crawl, on top of a  
17 box top and check for a leak and fall off and break my  
18 leg and then be out of a job, what happened to me? I'm  
19 just saying, you're asking me a lot of questions about  
20 what I should check. What about the employees who need  
21 to check it? What about us?

22 MR. STAEBLER: And this is Doug --

23 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Off the record for a  
24 second.

25 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went

1 off the record momentarily.)

2 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Back on the record.

3 MR. STAEBLER: And this is Doug Staebler.

4 I'm just following up, you know. In a situation where  
5 there isn't any obstructions or any dangers, do you  
6 feel, you know, in a meter room where there's multiple  
7 meters, the procedure and process you follow would  
8 detect any leak on that meter set? Even if you're  
9 there working on a single meter?

10 MR. MINOR: That's why I use my gas tracker  
11 for. Yes, as you said it that way, yes that's what I  
12 use my gas tracker for. We have a gas ranger and a gas  
13 tracker. The gas tracker is this little hand gun  
14 device that has a sniffer. I will go across everything  
15 I can --

16 MR. AMROLIWALA: Yes.

17 MR. MINOR: -- to see would it go off.

18 MR. AMROLIWALA: Yes, that's what I was  
19 looking, that you need to check with the gas tracker.

20 MR. MINOR: Okay, I'm sorry, sir. The  
21 question was presented to me a different way.

22 MR. STAEBLER: Right, and before when you  
23 said you wouldn't touch any other facility. You  
24 wouldn't touch another meter. You would just do the  
25 work on the meter, but you would still, it sounds like

1 you would still use your gas tracker to check the rest  
2 of the set, for --

3 MR. MINOR: Yes, sir. There you go, yes.

4 MR. STAEBLER: Okay, thank you.

5 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Any other?

6 (No audible response)

7 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: No more questions  
8 from you?

9 (No audible response)

10 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: You have any  
11 questions, then?

12 MALE PARTICIPANT: I'm good.

13 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. If not, off  
14 the record, thank you for coming and meeting here.  
15 Appreciate your time.

16 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went  
17 off the record.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

MATTER: Explosion of Apartment Bldg 8107  
in Silver Spring, MD, August 10, 2016  
Accident No. DCA16FP003  
Interview of Andre C. Minor

DATE: 08-20-16

I hereby certify that the attached transcription of page 1 to 50 inclusive are to the best of my professional ability a true, accurate, and complete record of the above referenced proceedings as contained on the provided audio recording; further that I am neither counsel for, nor related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action in which this proceeding has taken place; and further that I am not financially nor otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.



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