NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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IN RE:

THE EXPLOSION OF APARTMENT : NTSB Accident No.

BUILDING 8701 OF FLOWER : DCA16FP003

BRANCH APARTMENTS IN SILVER:

SPRING, MARYLAND ON AUGUST 10, 2016

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INTERVIEW OF: LYLE KENNETH DAVIS, JR.

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
DAVID SPANGLER, DOT Pipeline Safety
Compliance

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

APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the Interviewee and Washington Gas Company:

SPENCER NICHOLS, ESQ. Associate General Counsel Washington Gas Company

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

INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Good afternoon.

Today is Saturday, August 28th, 2016. We are currently at -- I got it wrong. I'm sorry. Off the record.

I've got the wrong text here.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record briefly)

INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Good afternoon.

Today is Saturday, August 28th, 2016. 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, and investigating the explosion that occurred on August 10, 2016.

The NTSB investigation number for this accident is DCA16FP003. My name is Ravi Chhatre. I am with National Transportation Safety Board, located in Washington, DC. And I'm 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 transcripts if and when they are completed.

Also, I would like to inform Mr. Lyle Davis

2.0

1	that you are permitted to have one other person present
2	with you during the interview. This is a person of
3	your choice. Your supervisor, friend, family member,
4	or if you choose, no one at all.
5	Please state for the record your full name,
6	spelling of your name, contact information, such as
7	work phone, email address, or postal mailing address,
8	and whom you have chosen to be with you during your
9	interview.
10	MR. DAVIS: Okay. So you want name,
11	address, phone number, spelled
12	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Spelling of your name
13	
14	MR. DAVIS: Okay.
15	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: and whom you have
16	chosen.
17	MR. DAVIS: Okay.
18	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: If you forget
19	anything I'll remind you.
20	MR. DAVIS: I have Spencer Nichols sitting
21	here with me.
22	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
23	MR. DAVIS: And my name's Lyle Kenneth
24	Davis, Jr. L-Y-L-E, Kenneth, K-E-N-N-E-T-H, Davis, D-
25	A-V-I-S, Junior, J-R, J-U-N-I-O-R. I live at

1	. And my, do
2	you want my personal phone number?
3	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: No.
4	MR. DAVIS: Okay.
5	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Now, I would like to
6	go around the room and have each person introduce
7	themself. Please state your name, spelling of your
8	name, your title, and the organization that you
9	represent, and your contact information, such as work
10	phone, email address, and mailing address. We will
11	start from my left and go around the room.
12	INVESTIGATOR GUNARATNAM: Rachael
13	Gunaratnam, R-A-C-H-A-E-L, G-U-N-A-R-A-T-N-A-M, NTSB
14	Hazmat Investigator. Phone number,
15	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Kalu Kelly Emeaba, K-
16	A-L-U, K-E-L-L-Y, E-M-E-A-B-A. I'm an NTSB
17	Investigator. My phone number is
18	LT. OLIN: Lieutenant William Olin, Fire and
19	Explosives Investigator from Montgomery County,
20	Maryland. Office address, 100 Edison Park Dr.,
21	Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877. Phone number,
22	, email, William, ———, O-L-I-N
23	at .
24	MR. AMROLIWALA: My name is Rashmikant
25	Amroliwala, R-A-S-H-M-I-K-A-N-T. Last name is A-M-R-O-
I	I and the state of

1	L-I-W-A-L-A. I'm working with State of Maryland,
2	Public Service Commission, Pipeline Safety Engineer.
3	My phone number is
4	MR. PRICE: Steve Price, Division Head,
5	System Operations, Washington Gas,
6	is my email.
7	MR. STAEBLER: Doug Staebler, Senior Vice
8	President of Operations at Washington Gas. Staebler is
9	S-T-A-E-B-L-E-R. Phone number is
10	MR. SPANGLER: David Spangler, S-P-A-N-G-L-
11	E-R, Manager of DOT Pipeline Safety Compliance for
12	Washington Gas. Phone number,
13	MR. NICHOLS: Spencer Nichols, Associate
14	General Counsel, Washington Gas,
15	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Thank you very much.
16	This is Ravi, NTSB. Mr. Davis, for the record just
17	give us some background, your formal education,
18	training, any courses you have taken during employment
19	for your work.
20	MR. DAVIS: Okay. I went to high school. I
21	didn't graduate, but I went to high school. I started
22	at the gas company in 1974. I got 33 years at the
23	Washington Gas Company. Spent probably 13, 15 years
24	out in the street digging ditches and fixing gas leaks.
25	And did a little bit of, took a couple of
	I .

years off at the gas company, on a little lighter note of driving this truck around delivering steel plates, and pick up supplies and stuff. Just a couple of year break.

And then I went out as a contract inspector for the gas company, inspecting new gas pipes. That's where I met Mr. Arkay (phonetic) at many of times.

And was there for years until they actually did away with the inspectors at the gas company. And then they put me back out in the field, doing service work as a service tech. And the dates, and exactly the dates of when all this happened, I don't know --

INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.

MR. DAVIS: -- exactly. But I got 33 years total there at the gas company. And I've kind of done just about everything they have to do, from cleaning taws (phonetic) to digging ditches, sir.

And now I've been at Williams Meters. I took three months leave of absence off from the gas company when I left. And I've been at Williams Meters for, I think about nine years now, since I've been retired pretty much. And I'm a service tech there. And I also do leak work for the gas company through Williams. And that's pretty much it.

INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. So you retired

1	as a service tech from Washington Gas?
2	MR. DAVIS: Yes. Yes.
3	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: So how many years you
4	were a service tech? Just a ballpark.
5	MR. DAVIS: I probably, I'm thinking maybe
6	ten years in there is probably, you know
7	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Good enough.
8	MR. DAVIS: between getting rolled back
9	here and rolled back there, you know. They did, you
10	know
11	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Right now you work
12	for Williams Gas?
13	MR. DAVIS: Williams Meters.
14	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Williams Meters.
15	MR. DAVIS: Williams Meters Service.
16	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: As a service tech?
17	MR. DAVIS: Service tech.
18	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: So, set me straight.
19	What are your responsibilities at Williams Meters?
20	MR. DAVIS: Gas turn ons, turn offs. I also
21	do leak shift, leak work for the gas company. And
22	shifts. Like, basically pretty much through the whole
23	winter I'm on the gas company leak shift.
24	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
25	MR. DAVIS: Doing leak work for the gas
I	

1	company.
2	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: When you say turn on,
3	turn off, is it like turning some meter off, for
4	whatever reason, then turning back on? Is that
5	MR. DAVIS: Right. I didn't do turn off of
6	bills, or anything like that. I did basically turn off
7	for move outs.
8	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
9	MR. DAVIS: Like people moving out, and they
10	want their gas terminated
11	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Coming
12	MR. DAVIS: for, you know, they're
13	moving.
14	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
15	MR. DAVIS: That's the only thing I did turn
16	offs for.
17	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
18	MR. DAVIS: Never for bill.
19	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. So, have you
20	had a chance to look at this document, I guess that's
21	given to you?
22	MR. DAVIS: Yes. Yes.
23	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Do you remember
24	anything about this?
25	MR. DAVIS: To be honest with you, I
J	I and the state of

1	couldn't tell you. I couldn't tell you.
2	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Yes. Please be
3	honest with me.
4	MR. DAVIS: You know, yes. That I don't
5	know nothing about.
6	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
7	MR. DAVIS: I think they said this was
8	actually the building next door to the explosion.
9	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Right. Okay, now if
10	you don't know I won't ask any questions. We still
11	have some (unintelligible) old entries made in here.
12	And we're going to double check some of those entries.
13	You know, I guess what I'm asking Washington
14	Gas, that's a record. Here's all the documents you had
15	given us. Please check for any errors, just like we
16	pointed out.
17	MR. PRICE: Yes. Yes. I've already said
18	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Because I would put
19	this, if we're to put this in the document I want to
20	make sure everything is accurate, right. Some of the
21	errors we just point out, just for the record, so
22	nobody will forget.
23	Now, gas technicians, have you done any gas
24	odor complaints response to
25	MR. DAVIS: Several.

1	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. To single
2	family homes, or to apartment buildings like the one
3	that
4	MR. DAVIS: Both.
5	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Both, okay.
6	MR. DAVIS: Both.
7	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Have you replaced any
8	pressure regulators?
9	MR. DAVIS: Pressure In the apartment
10	building or
11	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Both, both. Both.
12	MR. DAVIS: Never, I don't think never in an
13	apartment building. Residential, yes, replaced a few.
14	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. So, with your,
15	I guess ten years with Washington Gas, and nine with,
16	about, Williams, do (unintelligible) replaced, we are
17	with the single family homes?
18	MR. DAVIS: That's pretty much right, yes.
19	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Have you seen any
20	failed regulators in the apartment building that you do
21	not replace, but you noticed the regulator is not
22	working properly?
23	MR. DAVIS: And actually, we don't check, I
24	don't check apartment building's regulators, because
25	it's a multi meter rack. And you're not going to get a

1 good number or nothing. Because the multi meter rack 2 that's, you know, I could, no, I've never seen one 3 fail. 4 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. Okay. Now, single family homes where the regulator fail, how do 5 you know the regulator's not working? 6 7 MR. DAVIS: Well, you got several things on that. Inside meter, outside meter. 8 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Give me both. 9 10 MR. DAVIS: Okay. Outside meter, usually if 11 it's failed and you put your test on it, if it doesn't lock up, in other words, if it doesn't lock up above 12 the set pressure. If it doesn't lock up, and it keeps 13 14 rising on the, if it's a two pound system, or inches system, if it doesn't lock up it's going to keep going. 15 If it goes up above two inches of set 16 pressure it needs to be changed out. If it's not 17 18 locking up within two inches of the set pressure it needs to be changed. 19 Also, the vent itself, which screens that, 20 21 it will also be passing gas. It will actually, we call 22 it fart. It will actually fart. It will fart gas out the vent. 23 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: 24 Okav. 25 MR. DAVIS: And so, you have to take the,

1	either replace the regulator, or replace the head, or
2	clean it. You can try cleaning it, but you're probably
3	wasting your time. It's better to just put a new one
4	on there.
5	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: So, when you say lock
6	up, educate me on that. What does that mean? When you
7	put a gauge on, and you say for instance, lock up
8	MR. DAVIS: If it doesn't
9	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: What does that mean?
10	MR. DAVIS: Well, if it doesn't lock up that
11	means it's not, if it's not going to hold your water,
12	then it's not going to hold your gas.
13	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: So, it's going to
14	keep rising or keep dropping, or
15	MR. DAVIS: That's right. It will keep
16	rising out actually. It will keep rising all the way
17	up, and actually probably spit more out of the bottom.
18	It doesn't matter. Once it gets past, just turn off
19	and replace it.
20	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
21	MR. DAVIS: But if it doesn't lock up, if
22	it's not locking up your water, it's in your U gauge,
23	then it's not going to lock up your gas.
24	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
25	MR. DAVIS: So you're getting, so if your

1 water's going to continue coming, your gas is going to 2 continue coming. So far as, the reason 3 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: 4 I'm using them, seven inches of water column, is because that was the pressure at the building that 5 So, at seven inches of water column if you 6 exploded. 7 put a gauge on, then it should be stable, showing you Is that, does that, you're saying? 8 seven inches. MR. DAVIS: Well --9 I'm trying to INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: 10 11 understand what this sort of process was. 12 MR. DAVIS: Yes. I mean, your lock up is going to rise a little bit. It may come up an inch. 13 14 But if it comes up above like two inches at like say Say if it, say if a lock up is --15 set pressure. INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Seven inches. 16 Say, well, let's just say 17 MR. DAVIS: Okay. it's set at seven inches. 18 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: 19 Okay. MR. DAVIS: Say the regulator's set at seven 20 inches. 21 22 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. MR. DAVIS: Okay. And you do your lock up 23 And your lock up, and the water, and your U 24 gauge, if the water keeps coming say past nine inches, 25

1	it can come up like two inches. Say if it starts
2	coming up ten inches, 11 inches, the regulator's bad.
3	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
4	MR. DAVIS: Okay. If it comes up an inch,
5	stops dead, boom, regulator's good to go.
6	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. How do you do
7	a lock up test? I mean
8	MR. DAVIS: That's kind of, I'd probably
9	have to show you than to have to tell you.
10	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. Never mind.
11	MR. DAVIS: It's easier to show you than
12	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Never mind. We can
13	do that
14	MR. DAVIS: Yes.
15	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: later on, we can
16	do that.
17	MR. DAVIS: But, you know, but if it doesn't
18	lock up it needs to be changed.
19	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
20	MR. DAVIS: And if it keeps rising up the U
21	gauge
22	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: So that's
23	MR. DAVIS: it's bad.
24	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: one way. What
25	other ways we can tell if, I mean, is it the only test
ļ	

1	that tells you the regulator has, is not working
2	properly, or fail? Or any other ways you have seen
3	regulators
4	MR. DAVIS: I'm not
5	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. The regulator
6	is not working properly or, I'm calling it failed
7	regulator. Would you smell gas? Would you hear gas?
8	Would the customer have no gas?
9	MR. DAVIS: I
10	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: One question at a
11	time?
12	MR. DAVIS: Yes. Could you
13	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. A regulator
14	which is not working properly, will you, if you go
15	there will you smell gas odor?
16	MR. DAVIS: You can, yes. If the
17	regulator's not working properly, and the vent line, if
18	it's an outside meter, and if the regulator's not
19	One sign of it giving away is the vent, you're going to
20	smell gas coming out of the vent. You'll smell it.
21	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
22	MR. DAVIS: You'll smell it there coming out
23	the vent.
24	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
25	MR. DAVIS: Now, if you're on a inside
I	

1	meter, and the meter's inside, and you got your vent
2	line going outside, your vent line, you can also smell
3	it at the vent line coming out the wall at the outside.
4	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Outside.
5	MR. DAVIS: Which, yes.
6	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Would you hear any
7	noise?
8	MR. DAVIS: You can, I've seen them, I've
9	heard them, yes. Oh, yes. I mean, I've heard them
10	before, yes.
11	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: In what pressures?
12	In just the water column?
13	MR. DAVIS: Well, every one I've had,
14	probably I'd say inches.
15	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
16	MR. DAVIS: But I've actually
17	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Yes.
18	MR. DAVIS: You have to get up close, you
19	know. I mean, if the truck's around my car, you
20	probably won't. But you can hear it if you get up
21	close though. You can hear it.
22	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: And what kind of
23	noise it makes?
24	MR. DAVIS: Like, sssssssss (phonetic).
25	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. So it's And
	I and the state of

1	if it's making noise can you smell it, irrespective of
2	whether you're (unintelligible) or not.
3	MR. DAVIS: Of course. Of course you're
4	going to
5	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
6	MR. DAVIS: Yes. It's gas coming out.
7	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Gas coming out. So
8	that's definitely (unintelligible). Okay. And, but
9	you said you had never seen anything that failed in the
10	apartment, multi dwelling?
11	MR. DAVIS: I've never checked one, to be
12	honest with you, sir.
13	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Oh, okay.
14	MR. DAVIS: (Inaudible).
15	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: So you really can't
16	tell?
17	MR. DAVIS: No. I can't say that
18	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Yes. That's, I'm
19	with you.
20	MR. STAEBLER: But
21	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Have you worked on
22	Oh, go ahead.
23	MR. STAEBLER: This is Doug Staebler. So,
24	but you're not able to check to see if one's locking
25	up. But if one failed and was blowing gas out the
l	

1 vent, you would --2 MR. DAVIS: Oh. Well, I mean, he didn't ask me that. 3 4 MR. STAEBLER: Yes. 5 MR. DAVIS: Of course, when you get, any inside meters I go to, or any, to check those, your 6 7 inside meter, it's natural for me, because I'm coming from the gas company, and I know. 8 I actually, it's, and we're trained, and 9 we're taught that, to check for the vent line outside. 10 11 And make sure that it has a vent line coming from the inside to the outside. 12 If not, you can't turn the gas on. 13 14 doesn't get turned back on. You have to call the gas company to come out there and replace the vent line. 15 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: That is good 16 clarifications. How do you check the vent line? 17 18 do you do that? How do you know that the vent line is not blocked? 19 MR. DAVIS: Put a pump test on it. 2.0 Put a 21 pump test on it, then you take it apart at the union on 22 the inside, put a pump test on it and blow it through. And if blows up above two inches of water column, if it 23 goes up above two inches, then it's locked up, 24

something's clogged.

1	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: So you
2	MR. DAVIS: If your gauge, you're using a U
3	gauge, you're using a pump. You put the two together,
4	you take the union apart, you put the two together, you
5	pump it. If it starts, if the U gauge pumps up more
6	than two inches you got a, some kind of
7	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Clog.
8	MR. DAVIS: bee's nest in there, or
9	something
10	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Some kind of
11	blockage?
12	MR. DAVIS: Yes. And then you have to leave
13	it off, and have somebody come down and replace it or
14	fix it.
15	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: So, like you put, and
16	how much pressure you put on that
17	MR. DAVIS: You just put your hand pressure,
18	you know, you got a hand pump
19	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
20	MR. DAVIS: like a bicycle pump. And you
21	pump it up.
22	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: So how many inches of
23	water column?
24	MR. DAVIS: If it goes up above two inches.
25	In other words, it's set, if it goes up, if it blows

1	two inches and you're pumping, and it's still blowing
2	free, you're going to, your line's blowing free, and
3	you're clean.
4	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
5	MR. DAVIS: But if it goes, if the U gauge
6	goes, and the U gauge starts going, it rides above two
7	inches
8	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: That would be
9	MR. DAVIS: the line's clogged, your
10	line's clogged up.
11	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. I'm with you.
12	MR. DAVIS: Yes.
13	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. And that's
14	really I have right now. Thank you so much. Rachael.
15	INVESTIGATOR GUNARATNAM: So, you don't
16	remember this
17	MR. DAVIS: No.
18	INVESTIGATOR GUNARATNAM: Okay. All right.
19	Do you remember visiting the building at all?
20	MR. DAVIS: No. I remember getting some
21	tacos from the taco truck across the street. Because
22	they're just my favorite place to
23	INVESTIGATOR GUNARATNAM: And that's off the
24	record.
25	MR. DAVIS: (unintelligible)

1	MR. PRICE: Which would be my question.
2	What did you eat for lunch that day?
3	INVESTIGATOR GUNARATNAM: No, I don't have
4	anything.
5	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. Kelly.
6	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Mr. Davis, this is
7	Kalu Kelly Emeaba. Currently you work for Williams
8	Meters, correct?
9	MR. DAVIS: Yes, sir.
10	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: What kind of trainings
11	do you have to, from your current work with them?
12	MR. DAVIS: Training as far as a service
13	tech?
14	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Yes.
15	MR. DAVIS: Actually, I got most of my
16	training from the gas company. And when I came to
17	Williams they put me through training too. And I went
18	out with those techs. They're tough, the techs that
19	they had when I went out there.
20	And showed them that I was qualified to do
21	the job. I passed every paper test they give me. Been
22	doing it a long time, you know, I've been doing it a
23	long time, you know.
24	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Do you work over the
2.5	
25	area of Flower Branch Apartment? Your work area?

1	MR. DAVIS: That used to be my area,
2	probably in 2010. That used to be my area.
3	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Where do you currently
4	work, the district?
5	MR. DAVIS: Right now I'm in Hyattsville,
6	maybe Riverdale, Hyattsville, College Park, Bowie.
7	That's probably the most right there.
8	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Which are close to
9	this place?
10	MR. DAVIS: Peachtree County.
11	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: And you stay close to
12	this (unintelligible)?
13	MR. DAVIS: Yes. I probably, for me
14	probably 20 minutes away, probably. I know the
15	apartments very well. I know, you know, I mean, I
16	can't go in, and I can't tell you what the metering
17	looks like, or can't tell you
18	But I know the apartments, because I've been
19	in there before. But I can't tell you I ride by
20	them all the time going to the other jobs. I know, but
21	I can't tell you exactly what the metering looks like.
22	I can't even, you know, I can't tell you
23	whether the meter's inside or outside, to be honest
24	with you. I know that it used to be inside. They
25	might be outside now.

1	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. While you were
2	with Washington Gas did you work at other multi
3	dwelling apartments, with multi meters like this? Did
4	you?
5	MR. DAVIS: I've done turn offs.
6	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: For other apartments?
7	MR. DAVIS: For apartments in general, yes.
8	Apartments
9	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: That do have the multi
10	dwelling meters?
11	MR. DAVIS: Yes.
12	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. And when you go
13	there for turn or, which is similar to this, can you
14	just lead us through what you normally do?
15	MR. DAVIS: I mean, if you, like a turn on,
16	turn off?
17	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Yes. For a turn on.
18	MR. DAVIS: Normally I probably have to go
19	to the rental office, make sure I can get in the meter
20	room. That's, you know, make sure I can get in the
21	meter room. Because usually meter rooms are locked.
22	Sometimes they are, sometimes they aren't.
23	Find the meter, make sure the customer's
24	home. Find the meter. And I'll probably do a, cut the
25	appliances off in the unit. Find the meter. Make sure

to cut the appliances off. And it's basically, you know --

In the meantime I'm always like, it's natural for me to just walk in there. As soon as I walk into, I'm looking for dead grass, smelling, looking for odor of gas. Making sure where the meter's at, making sure where the vent line's coming out at. And then I just turn off the appliances and start doing my turn on.

There's not a whole lot, there's not a -Again, in an apartment building, I don't check
regulators in the apartment building. But that's the
main time consuming as far as when you're going to a
resident's house, a regular normal house, one regular
house.

So it kind of, the time's cut down a little bit less with not checking the regulator. When I do a turn on, and I check for the vent line, make sure nothing's passed on the vent line. I do the barn (phonetic) test at the building wall, where the entry of the gas line comes in that.

And I'll check the appliances, make sure all the appliances are, all the flues are connected, you know, make sure everything's safe there. Relight the appliances. And that's pretty much it. There's not a

2.0

1 whole lot. It's --So, in your current 2 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: 3 position with Williams Meter do you still work in multi 4 dwell apartments? 5 MR. DAVIS: Yes. Oh, yes. INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. And can you 6 7 compare them with, any of them with this particular one on 8703? 8 I'm not sure what you're saying. 9 MR. DAVIS: 10 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Can you compare the 11 meter locations, these certain, with this particular 12 one at this apartment? MR. DAVIS: I know it's a big apartment 13 14 development. And I'm in big apartment developments every day probably. There's probably 50 meters in 15 there, or 20 meters, or 30 meters. So it's pretty 16 much, you know, they're all pretty much the same, I 17 mean, as far as multi meters. That's a lot of meters 18 19 in --20 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. But from what you mentioned, you, even currently you still do turn 21 22 ons, correct? MR. DAVIS: 23 Yes. And when you do 24 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okav.

turn ons, what other (unintelligible) do you have to

1 perform, like (unintelligible) of a line test, house 2 line test, and all that? Do you ever do tests like 3 that? MR. DAVIS: You know what, I do the test on 4 the meter on a house line test. I do a half foot, on 5 the half foot hanger (phonetic) when I turn it on. 6 7 After I turn all the appliances off and I do, make sure I got a tight half foot hanging on the meter. I do 8 that. 9 And on a 5AR (phonetic) meters it's five 10 11 So, I do the five minute test on it. It may 12 get longer than that sometimes. But that's pretty much the only test that makes sure that the line's tight 13 14 that I do. It's the line tight test. 15 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: The line tight --MR. DAVIS: Yes. 16 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: 17 -- test? MR. DAVIS: Make sure that the house line's 18 tight, the house line tight test. 19 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Okay. Are there 20 safety precautions, procedure you have to follow 21 through to confirm that, beside, or beyond the line 22 23 tight test you mentioned? Are there some things you have to do extra? 24 25 MR. DAVIS: As far as that one during a turn on?

2	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: For one apartment you
3	are trying to turn on, yes. Are there activities you
4	have to perform using, without, maybe with your CGI,
5	things like that?
6	MR. DAVIS: Well, I mean, when I check my
7	points of entry and exit when I do my turn on, you
8	know, turn on. I do my points of entry at the gas line
9	where it comes into the unit. Usually my nose is the
10	best sign of anything when I'm in a multi meter rack
11	like that. If I smell something I'm checking it.
12	But as far as the house line itself, that
13	one unit I'm testing it through the meter, as far as
14	the tight house line test through the meter. And I'll
15	soak test the swivel, soak test all the, everything
16	that I've, especially everything I've touched or
17	loosened up.
18	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: So, while you are in a
19	meter room would your CGI be on while you are in there?
20	Or do you not turn in on?
21	MR. DAVIS: Yes.
22	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Which one?

the CGI will be on because I got to test the outside.

Now, I mean, I take it inside every time, you know, I

MR. DAVIS:

23

24

25

Sometimes, you know, sometimes

1 walk in there right off the bat. I may test at the end 2 of when I'm done. But I don't, as far as doing any testing, 3 like, once I leave out of there I test the building 4 wall at the building wall, and the entry and the exit 5 of the building wall. 6 7 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: So, you turn it on to test it outside, then you turn it off, then go inside 8 to do your work? 9 Is that correct? 10 MR. DAVIS: Say that again? 11 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Do you turn it on, 12 your CGI on to do the test outside? Then you turn it off, go downstairs to the, what is it, the meter room, 13 14 and do your work? MR. DAVIS: No, it was, I usually leave it 15 on the whole time when, you know, the whole time when 16 I'm -- If it's on, it's on. Now you got to wait for it 17 to restart all over, reset itself, every time you turn 18 it on and off. 19 2.0 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Thank you. That's it. 21 LT. OLIN: I got nothing. This is Rashmikant 22 MR. AMROLIWALA: Amroliwala, State of Maryland Public Service 23 Commission. When you just go out for gas turn on or 24 gas turn off, what normally AOCs, that's abnormal 25

1	operating conditions, you can observe? So, did you see
2	any AOCs while doing any turn on or turn off procedure?
3	MR. DAVIS: On this particular place here?
4	MR. AMROLIWALA: No. No, no, no.
5	MR. DAVIS: Or anywhere? Say like
6	MR. AMROLIWALA: In general. Not that
7	particular case. That's the case that you don't know.
8	So, this is in general. I'm asking you what are the
9	AOCs that you can observe during gas turn on and gas
10	turn off?
11	MR. DAVIS: Rusty pipe at the meter buildup.
12	Rust, rusty pipe at the meter buildup. You know, like
13	I said, I'm coming from the gas company. This is like
14	a natural thing to me.
15	When I walk up, as soon as I get out of the
16	car, I'm looking for dead trees, dead vegetation. I'm
17	looking for any kind of dead grass, any kind of yellow
18	marks if that's showing gas line. I'm looking for
19	anything that's dead, it's over top.
20	It's just, it's natural for me to do that.
21	And the guys coming from the gas company, we're taught
22	that, you know, we're taught. We look for dead grass,
23	dead trees, rusty pipe.
24	MR. AMROLIWALA: This is inside the
25	building. This is not outside.

1	MR. DAVIS: It doesn't matter. I don't care
2	if it's inside or outside. You still got a gas line
3	going in the house.
4	MR. AMROLIWALA: Yes. So, inside the
5	building what do you see you can observe?
6	MR. DAVIS: Do you want inside or outside?
7	MR. AMROLIWALA: Out, inside. I'm asking
8	inside.
9	MR. DAVIS: On the inside? Well, there's
10	not too many rusty pipes I see on the inside. That
11	gives me something to think about. Because there's not
12	too much abnormal
13	MR. AMROLIWALA: (Unintelligible) of
14	appliances, high pressure, a leak, or any
15	LT. OLIN: Well, that wouldn't be an AOC.
16	MR. AMROLIWALA: (unintelligible) maybe
17	the meter is maybe close to the electrical connection?
18	MR. DAVIS: Well, it
19	MR. AMROLIWALA: I'm sorry. Any kind of
20	MR. DAVIS: You're probably talking about a
21	meter that's probably been sitting there for 50 years.
22	MR. AMROLIWALA: (Unintelligible).
23	MR. DAVIS: And it, but as far, inside it's
24	hard to find really something abnormal on the inside.
25	MR. AMROLIWALA: The inside.
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MR. DAVIS: Yes. Unless you're coming in,
maybe somebody decided to use the gas line for a
clothes hanger, or something like that. Or, you know,
something like that. But as far as, I mean, you're
talking about something that's probably been sitting
there for years, and been sitting that way for 40, 50,
30, 20 years.
MR. AMROLIWALA: Hanging line, like no
support, nothing like that. So, any kind of AOCs I'm
just asking, in general. Okay. Let me go to the next
question then. This is a, the second question is like,
the operative qualification. Do you have the OQ card
right now available?
MR. DAVIS: Yes. I think I do. I think you
might have, I think I do have it.
MR. AMROLIWALA: So that we can just check
071 and 072.
MR. DAVIS: I think I do. I think I have it
now. Let's see what I got here. Might, maybe that's
it. Maybe that's old, new one. I'm not sure.
MR. NICHOLS: Do you want him to show you
the card?
MR. AMROLIWALA: Or he can (unintelligible).
MR. DAVIS: I'm not sure whether that's my
new one or not there. I think that's, I think, yes, I

1	think I just got that one.
2	MR. AMROLIWALA: This is a lot of days.
3	Yes, 12, 117, and there are more than 17. Yes, I, from
4	this OQ card I can say that his qualification is
5	current
б	MR. DAVIS: It is
7	MR. AMROLIWALA: for the requirements of
8	the turn on, gas turn on and gas turn off.
9	MR. DAVIS: So, I don't get, what are you
10	saying?
11	MR. NICHOLS: You're good.
12	MR. AMROLIWALA: Yes. These are
13	(unintelligible).
14	LT. OLIN: We're going to keep your answers.
15	MR. AMROLIWALA: They're required to know
16	that, what is 071 and what is 072. I have the
17	(Simultaneous)
18	MR. AMROLIWALA: when he saw that I
19	identified from the list that, okay, these are the
20	requirements that
21	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. Any questions?
22	Any more questions?
23	MR. AMROLIWALA: No. No more questions.
24	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay.
25	MR. STAEBLER: Doug Staebler. See, you

1	mentioned doing a pump test on the regulator vents. Do
2	you do that on every service, on every call?
3	MR. DAVIS: On, you know, I'd be lying if I
4	said I did.
5	MR. STAEBLER: Yes.
6	MR. DAVIS: Okay.
7	MR. STAEBLER: Yes. So you don't break the
8	vent?
9	MR. DAVIS: I'd be lying if I said I did.
10	MR. STAEBLER: And now, if you went into a
11	commercial park, an apartment building with a multi
12	meter set, and you're doing a turn on, would you go
13	over and break apart their pipe
14	MR. DAVIS: No.
15	MR. STAEBLER: and do a pump test?
16	MR. DAVIS: Never, no.
17	MR. STAEBLER: Okay. No more questions.
18	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Ravi Chhatre, NTSB.
19	And to follow up on that, that is my question. Are you
20	required by your procedure, are you required to go,
21	anytime you go to anyplace, house, single family home,
22	multi family dwelling, does the procedure, what you
23	know (unintelligible) require you to check the vent?
24	MR. DAVIS: Well, he's asking me for an
25	apartment building, right? I would be lying if I said
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1	I broke every apartment building loose to check the
2	regulator.
3	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: I understand.
4	MR. DAVIS: Okay. As far as residential,
5	yes, I check them.
6	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: My understanding is -
7	-
8	MR. DAVIS: And it's real, it doesn't take a
9	minute.
10	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: No.
11	MR. DAVIS: So, you know, it's not a, it
12	doesn't take long.
13	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: No, I understand. I
14	guess my question about normally you, I mean, you
15	already answered that, that, you know, you don't on the
16	multi family dwelling.
17	MR. DAVIS: Yes.
18	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: You don't.
19	MR. DAVIS: I'm not going to say I've never,
20	I've had maybe sometimes missed one here and there.
21	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Yes.
22	MR. DAVIS: You know what I mean?
23	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Sure.
24	MR. DAVIS: Yes.
25	INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: I guess my question
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really is not that, whether you missed or not. 1 The question is whether the procedure requires you guys to 2 3 do that? 4 MR. DAVIS: Yes. Now, I don't know about 5 the apartments. I don't think it requires it on the apartments. 6 7 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Okay. But the documents you are going to give us will have that 8 requirement in there. 9 MR. DAVIS: You do check the vent line to 10 11 make sure it's going outside. That's --12 INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: Yes. Okay. That's all I have actually. If nobody has anything --13 14 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Well, I'm --INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: 15 Oh, yes. INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Just clarity. 16 though you may not remember working on 8703, if you go 17 18 to a property for turn on work, what activities will you perform for you to say that a vapor test is clear, 19 and the other end is okay? What test will you perform 20 21 to confirm that vapor test is clear, and other end is 22 okay? The, with the ranger. With our 23 MR. DAVIS: 24 ranger. Our ranger. 25 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: With your ranger?

1 MR. DAVIS: Yes. Yes, that's the only way 2 you, that's, you know, that's the only way you can. 3 INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: With the ranger can 4 you confirm that the other end is okay? MR. DAVIS: Well, if it was reading 100 5 percent on it, yes. If, say this, yes. 6 There's no 7 other way that I can check it. There's no other way that the gas company employees have to check it but a 8 9 ranger. 10 We're talking INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: No. 11 about other. Well, my nose. 12 MR. DAVIS: (Off microphone comment) 13 14 MR. DAVIS: My nose and the ranger. That's the only, there's no other way you can check the 15 16 odorant in it and, you know, I can check it. INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: 17 Okay. MR. DAVIS: I have, we have other little 18 sensits (phonetic), like sensit type things. 19 that's not giving you a number or a percentage. 2.0 It's 21 just giving you, it's just telling you that there's gas 22 indicated there. But it's not giving you a number. It's not a number machine that gives you 23 numbers like the ranger does. The ranger's from zero 24 25 to 100. So, if it's getting 100 percent or 90 percent

1	of the gas, it's telling you that's, it's, I'm taking
2	it that the machines are just made for natural gas
3	right, the rangers?
4	MR. STAEBLER: Yes. So you, this is Doug
5	Staebler. Are you asking about a combustible gas test,
6	or an odorant test
7	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: No.
8	MR. STAEBLER: to check for odorant
9	levels in the gas?
10	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Correct. Like this
11	one is a service call he went to
12	MR. STAEBLER: Yes.
13	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: which is a turn on.
14	MR. STAEBLER: And he said
15	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: That's what I'm trying
16	to find out from him in an apartment like this.
17	MR. STAEBLER: So, would you do a smell
18	check to indicate that you smell odorant while you're
19	doing a turn on?
20	MR. DAVIS: Yes. But, you know, the machine
21	tells me the best. And I, now, if something happens
22	MR. STAEBLER: Yes. But I think he's asking
23	if your check, the check to make sure that the gas is
24	properly odored, not that it's leaking, that you would,
25	whether you'd break a connection, or something. You

1	could also do an odorant check to make sure
2	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Yes, yes.
3	MR. STAEBLER: the odorant levels
4	MR. DAVIS: At the end of (unintelligible).
5	MR. STAEBLER: Yes.
6	MR. DAVIS: At the end of the
7	(unintelligible) you can check, yes.
8	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: Yes. And the reason
9	I'm asking, because the machine cannot give you the
10	odorant. But it can tell you the level of gas in the
11	air. That's what the machine's going to do.
12	MR. DAVIS: Well, as far as I know, the
13	odorant, the only thing it picks up is the odorant,
14	right, the gas and the odorant, right?
15	MR. STAEBLER: Yes. It picks up the gas,
16	right.
17	MR. DAVIS: But I mean
18	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: The gas, not the
19	odorant. That's what I'm trying, asking the question.
20	MR. DAVIS: Hell, I'm lost on this.
21	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: No, no, no. The
22	machine you have
23	MR. DAVIS: Yes.
24	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: would tell you the
25	percentage of gas in the air. Okay?

1	MR. DAVIS: Yes.
2	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: But not the odorant.
3	MR. DAVIS: I'm thinking that the two are
4	the same. So, I'm, you, know, I'm confused on your
5	question. I'm thinking that the two are the same.
6	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: For example, for you
7	to have an odorant in a gas pipeline. Remember, it's
8	odorless and not
9	MR. DAVIS: Right.
10	INVESTIGATOR EMEABA:(unintelligible).
11	The gas, the machine doesn't pick it up. That's what
12	I'm asking, how you are able to confirm it's okay. And
13	initially your answer
14	MR. DAVIS: By the ranger. That's, you
14 15	MR. DAVIS: By the ranger. That's, you know, that's
15	know, that's
15 16	know, that's INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: You mentioned your
15 16 17	know, that's INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: You mentioned your nose. So, I'm okay with that already.
15 16 17 18	know, that's INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: You mentioned your nose. So, I'm okay with that already. INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: All right. Let's
15 16 17 18 19	know, that's INVESTIGATOR EMEABA: You mentioned your nose. So, I'm okay with that already. INVESTIGATOR CHHATRE: All right. Let's move on.
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	41
1	any questions, thank you for coming.
2	MR. DAVIS: Okay, guys. You guys have nice
3	weekend.
4	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went
5	off the record.)
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CERTIFICATE

MATTER: Explosion of Apartment Bldg 8107 in Silver Spring, MD, August 10, 2016 Accident No. DCA16FP003 Interview of Lyle Kenneth Davis, Jr.

DATE: 08-20-16

I hereby certify that the attached transcription of page 1 to 42 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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