

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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IN RE: :
 :
THE COLONIAL PIPELINE :
GASOLINE LEAK THAT WAS : NTSB Accident No.
DETECTED ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2015 : DCA15MP002
IN CENTREVILLE, VIRGINIA :
 :
----- :

INTERVIEW OF: ROCCO ALVARO

Wednesday,
September 30, 2015

Reston, Virginia

BEFORE

MUHAMED EL-ZOGHBI, NTSB

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

APPEARANCES:

On Behalf of Colonial Pipeline:

JEFF TITUS

Manager, Process Safety Management and Emergency
Response

Colonial Pipeline Company

P.O. Box 1624

Alpharetta, Georgia 30009-9934
[REDACTED]On Behalf of Fairfax County:

TRICE BURGESS

Assistant Fire Marshal

Fairfax County Fire Marshal's Office

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

(5:15 p.m.)

MR. EL-ZOGHBI: This is Muhamed El-Zoghbi, Hazardous Materials Accident Investigator with the NTSB. We're here to conduct an interview related to the Colonial Pipeline release that occurred in Centreville, Virginia, on September 21st, 2015. Today is Wednesday, September 30th. It is approximately 5:15. We are in a conference room at the Fairfax County Office of the Fire Marshal. And we're going to begin by going around the table. And please give us your name, the spelling of the name, and your position. All right. I'll begin with my left.

MR. ALVARO: Rocco Alvaro, Captain in the Fire Hazardous Materials Investigative Services Section here in the Fire Marshal's office. Rocco is R-O-C-C-O, last name is Alvaro, A-L-V-A-R-O. Name, title, position?

MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Yes. Yes, please.

MR. ALVARO: That was it.

MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay. Just to make you aware, you're allowed to have a representative if you want to have one. Not an attorney necessarily, or any

-

MR. ALVARO: Yes.

1 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: -- person. You're allowed
2 to have one person here with you during the interview.
3 So also just didn't note that this is a recorded
4 interview, and you have no objections to the recording
5 of the interview?

6 MR. ALVARO: No, not at all.

7 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

8 MR. BURGESS: Trice Burgess, Fairfax County
9 Fire Marshal's Office and investigator. Last name
10 spelling B-U-R-G-E-S-S, and a contact phone number is
11 [REDACTED].

12 MR. TITUS: Jeff Titus with Colonial
13 Pipeline Company. Last name spelled T-I-T-U-S. I'm
14 the manager for Process Safety & Management and
15 Emergency Response based in Alpharetta, Georgia. Phone
16 number is [REDACTED].

17 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

18 MR. ALVARO: I did not give you my phone
19 number, Muhamed. It is [REDACTED].

20 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Great. Thank you. Captain
21 Alvaro, is it Alvaro? Am I pronouncing -

22 MR. ALVARO: Rocco, please.

23 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Rocco?

24 MR. ALVARO: Yes.

25 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay. Rocco, could you

1 please in your own words and narrative format, just
2 tell us what your involvement was with the release that
3 occurred on September 21st and walk us through the
4 entirety of your involvement in the incident.

5 MR. ALVARO: Sure.

6 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Thank you.

7 MR. ALVARO: Normal shift day for us, it was
8 actually the first day of our tour. We work four days
9 in a row, two 12-hour shifts, daytime 7:00 a.m. to 7:00
10 p.m. followed by two evening shifts 7:00 p.m. to 7:00
11 a.m. So that was actually the first day of our four-
12 day tour. Normal day.

13 In the afternoon I received a phone call
14 from Trice approximately maybe 3:30, 4 o'clock,
15 somewhere in that time frame. I don't have the exact
16 time. I actually tried to check my phone, and it
17 actually deletes after so many days. It clears a log,
18 and the log picks up on the 22nd. So if I had checked
19 it yesterday, I could have given you an exact time that
20 Trice called me.

21 But anyway, he was tied up on another call,
22 gave me a buzz to go out there and see what was going
23 on. We carry radios with us all day. We always
24 monitor what's going on in the county so if something
25 comes up, we can respond and we can be proactive -

1 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

2 MR. ALVARO: -- so to speak. I monitored
3 the call all day. It sounded like a normal just
4 illegal dumping, gasoline odor, or a gas odor. I think
5 that's what it came in as so I'm thinking, you know,
6 natural gas. And again, you know, as we're doing other
7 stuff, we're monitoring the radio in the background so
8 you really don't hear every single word that's being
9 said. You're just kind of, okay, gas leak, okay, you
10 know, vehicle accident, ALS call, emergency call.

11 So didn't pay much attention to it. Had
12 heard some communication on the radio earlier in the
13 day before Trice called me between Trice and command on
14 this gas leak. Somehow they got a hold of him. They
15 were exchanging information via radio. And I heard it
16 again. Didn't pay much attention. I just heard
17 Investigator 18, which that's Trice's identifier, come
18 up on the radio and give them some basic information.
19 So not a big deal. Normal stuff. Trice's got it. He
20 is the lead on most of our HazMat calls so if you hear
21 him come up on the radio, it's like, okay, I can go
22 back and do my work because I know that call's covered.
23 So a very competent individual.

24 So good. No big deal. Fast forward. He
25 calls me, hey, Rocco, I'm tied up. Can you go out and

1 provide some on-scene assistance. Absolutely. Shoot
2 right out there kind of towards the end of our shift so
3 we're getting to that time frame. Get out there, it's
4 not a big deal. It's right down Braddock Road. It's
5 not emergency response for us. We don't shoot red
6 lights and sirens unless we absolutely have to.

7 So it takes me, you know, 20, 30 minutes to
8 get out there maybe, get on scene, just jaw jack with
9 the fellows that are out there, talk to them briefly,
10 see what's going on. And you can tell they're still in
11 the investigative stage. As you're walking up from my
12 vehicle, I park just as you come in off Macon into the
13 complex there, I park in that, I think it's a daycare
14 center right there, maybe a KinderCare. I park in that
15 parking lot because the police have the road cordoned
16 off.

17 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay. I'm going to, if you
18 don't have any objections --

19 MR. ALVARO: Yes, I'll tell you exactly
20 where I parked.

21 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: -- we have a map, and feel
22 free to use it. Just when you use the map -

23 MR. ALVARO: Yes.

24 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: -- make sure that you --

25 MR. ALVARO: Yes.

1 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: -- describe the location.

2 MR. ALVARO: There's the preschool right
3 there. Wherever they had the road blocked off, the PD
4 did. So here's Sweetwater. So I guess I'm coming in
5 Macon. Yes, coming in Macon. So I stopped just before
6 where the police officer has the road blocked, and I
7 park in the parking lot of the preschool, which is off
8 of Macon Drive on Multiplex Drive. There's no one
9 there. I just kind of take up the whole entrance to
10 the preschool. Get out, just kind of a few words to
11 the police officer to see how he's doing type of thing.
12 You know, he'd been there a while.

13 So as I'm approaching the scene where the
14 HazMat unit is in the retention basin here, if you want
15 to call it a retention basin, the concrete culvert
16 where it dumps into the stream here, you get a distinct
17 odor of gas. Gasoline, not natural gas. I'm thinking
18 I thought this was a gas call. So dumping gasoline in
19 the air. You can smell it. Talked to the guys.
20 They're still investigating. They're not sure what's
21 going on. They tell me they've canvassed the entire
22 area pretty much behind the shopping center. They're
23 looking for any illegal dumping, residual product or
24 staining in the concrete. And again that's the
25 assumption we're going on.

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1 We don't have any other information to
2 dictate that something else other than an illegal dump
3 has occurred somewhere in the area. As I talked to
4 them a little bit longer, they've had this odor for two
5 weeks. That comes from the management, from Sweetwater
6 Tavern. So good information to have.

7 Talked to them again. Again the on-scene
8 units are telling me that there's a gas station just on
9 the other side of Sweetwater Tavern, which you can see.
10 I think it's an Exxon gas station.

11 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Yes.

12 MR. ALVARO: Yes. They said they'd already
13 spoken to the owner there or the on-duty manager. He
14 verifies that his Veeder-Root is up and running, that
15 it is correct, that they've dipped their tanks, and
16 there's no reason to believe that they have a leak or a
17 significant leak anyway. He's contacted his manager
18 because he's not exactly familiar with all of the
19 protocols here at the gas station. The manager will be
20 there the next day, which is the 22nd, and he'll
21 evaluate the whole system at that time just to make
22 sure everything's up and running. He'll check the sale
23 receipts. He'll dip the tank to make sure everything
24 is, well, within a certain percentage. Normal
25 procedure for the management of that Exxon and do that

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1 if they have an issue.

2 So again, trying to eliminate possible
3 sources. We're still going on a dumping, what I
4 perceive to be a dumping call, just because of the
5 color of the product. It is so dark you're thinking
6 that it's mixed in with diesel. So you're thinking
7 maybe some service station or some truck, you know,
8 just illegal dump somewhere in this area, and it just
9 flowed down and found its way into the stream.

10 At that point no reason to believe we have a
11 gas line issue. And as Trice will tell you, we get a
12 ton of illegal dumping calls in the county. I mean,
13 it's almost daily sometimes. Or some type of release,
14 a surface release, on the county, whether it be
15 accidental, vehicle accident, mechanical failure, or
16 intentional. So again, that's where I'm thinking
17 anyway, just based on a product that's there.

18 Take some very, very basic photos. It's
19 starting to rain a little bit so the ground, as you're
20 heading down to the concrete basin, is very slippery.
21 The guys were falling. They're not sure how much
22 product is in this concrete basin so we come up with
23 just, hey, let's recover what we can. Let's get a pump
24 down there. We've got an over-pack drum. Let's fill,
25 let's recover it. Let's see what we can pull out of

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1 it. Maybe we can get a better sampling of product.
2 Maybe the top layer is really dark. Let's see what's
3 underneath it.

4 They do that. They set up -- and this takes
5 a little while. I get there maybe 4:00, 4:15 or so.
6 So I'm there until probably the end of shift, 7 o'clock
7 or so. And this is what we're doing in the meantime.
8 We're just, we're collecting product. These guys have
9 done a recon. I just kind of walked the area myself
10 just to see what's going on. They're telling me they
11 do have gas odor in the very end of the parking lot at
12 the Multiplex which would kind of be where everything
13 comes down into this one little area right here just, I
14 guess it'd probably be north maybe.

15 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: All right. North is -- this
16 is the top of the page.

17 MR. ALVARO: Actually north is this way.
18 North is this way. So it's going to be, I guess it's
19 going to be maybe southeast of the recovery site, the
20 first recovery site here.

21 MR. BURGESS: Was it down this way?

22 MR. ALVARO: No, it was -

23 MR. BURGESS: Up here in the front?

24 MR. ALVARO: Other side of the road.

25 MR. BURGESS: Okay.

1 MR. ALVARO: Just across the fence line.

2 MR. BURGESS: Okay.

3 MR. ALVARO: Yes, right there. Also,
4 because there is such a vapor smell, Command decides to
5 dump foam into this stormwater drain. They're
6 thinking, you know, to help alleviate some of the odor,
7 some of the gasoline smell, and to help out the
8 businesses in the area, there's nothing wrong with
9 putting foam into this stormwater drain so it will flow
10 down, catches wind in a pipe, whatever vapors you have.
11 It will suppress it, and then just till we get a
12 blanket down here at the end of the concrete basin,
13 then we'll stop. That was the game plan.

14 While they're doing that, I'm talking to
15 Stormwater. And again, my number one, I guess,
16 function or concern when I get there is, okay, who's
17 the responsible party. The county's there.
18 Stormwater's been there for a while. The maps that
19 they're showing me, they show that the county has an
20 easement directly over this concrete basin. Well, it's
21 your property. Technically you are the responsible
22 party at this point.

23 So they made some phone calls. They get, I
24 guess, the go ahead or the confirmation to contact a
25 cleanup company, which I provided them a brochure that

1 we've made up here over God knows how many years it's
2 been around. They pick a cleanup contractor. Turns
3 out to be, oh, my goodness, was it --

4 MR. TITUS: It was Atlas.

5 MR. BURGESS: Atlas.

6 MR. ALVARO: Atlas, it was Atlas. That's
7 right. It was Atlas. Confirmation, they get the go-
8 ahead. They've got a fiscal line item approved to go
9 ahead and call Atlas. Atlas is on the way from Lorton,
10 Virginia, which is on the southern part of the county.

11 So they're en route. ETA's going to be up
12 in an hour and a half, two hours. So I'm thinking not
13 a big deal, I'm going to wait. I want to make sure
14 when they get here, I get to see what they're doing,
15 and we're all in the same plan. So I'm waiting there
16 again. We're still just kind of going through the
17 recovery phase. They're still pumping out the top
18 layer. They've already filled the over-pack drum 90
19 gallons, 85 gallons or so. Now they've got a 35-gallon
20 over-pack drum that they're bringing down to fill it
21 up.

22 They do kind of a secondary recon. They
23 look in the basin again, and they realize it's bigger
24 than what we can handle so pumping has stopped.
25 They're setting up for foam operations. I get hold of

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1 Atlas just to give them the rundown. Hey, this is what
2 we've got. This is what we've done. I talked to, oh,
3 my goodness, I forget his name.

4 MR. BURGESS: Paul or Matt.

5 MR. ALVARO: I think it was Paul. No, it
6 might have been Matt. Well, it was either one or the
7 other. I can't remember who. It was Paul or Matt.
8 And tell them what we're going to do. He says, hey,
9 can you do me a favor and not put foam in the system,
10 and here's the reason why. He says the more foam you
11 put in there, the harder it is for our vehicles to
12 extract the product. You're essentially going to
13 cavitate our pumps because the foam is so aerated.
14 That's what it is. It's bubbles.

15 So I was like, well, hold on, let me get
16 back to you. I want to check with command first, see
17 that they're okay with it. Because again, the gasoline
18 odor is coming and going, and it's changing
19 essentially, you know, as the breeze changes, as the
20 wind direction changes, the direction of travel, the
21 vapor is changing as well, too. So sometimes it's
22 strong, sometimes it's not as strong.

23 So we decide, okay, whatever is in their
24 best interest. We don't consider it a safety issue.
25 Again they're monitoring this whole area with monitors.

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1 They're not coming back with very strong readings,
2 especially up above where Sweetwater Tavern is. So the
3 decision is made to stop.

4 They did flow maybe just a little bit of
5 foam before they got the word to stop. It's not a big
6 deal. They pack up their operation. They cease that.
7 They get that cleaned up. They leave the over-pack
8 drum in place. They seal it off.

9 I'm not sure if they had any product in the
10 35-gallon smaller over-pack drum. They may not have
11 pumped into that. They begin cleaning up their
12 equipment. Their portable pump, they get that cleaned
13 up. They apply additional pillows and pads just to
14 soak up anything.

15 Again the rain is starting to come down now.
16 And this is actually the first time just before Atlas
17 gets there that the one boom, the initial first series
18 of booms right at the end of the concrete culvert is
19 starting to show some brown staining, almost like now
20 it's collecting product.

21 But again, it's been raining for a little
22 while. You've got a tremendous amount of asphalt area
23 here so you're going to get a lot of rain-off or runoff
24 here into this one storm drain. So it's expected. We
25 know it's coming. So we beef up some of these pillows

1 and pads and a boom.

2 Stormwater does the same thing. I believe
3 they go downstream just before the first retention
4 pond, and I think they apply and check a set of booms
5 that they've placed down here because one of their
6 workers actually did get in his truck and drive around.
7 He may have applied a second set or just checked this
8 set for any staining. And when he came back, he said
9 everything's all set down there. There's no product
10 that's gotten past this first series of booms so
11 everything's holding.

12 So again, responsible party is determined.
13 The cleanup contractor is coming. Everything that
14 we've done so far is holding the product in place.
15 Atlas gets there. The first thing their worker does is
16 he shoots down the hill. He has a quick look. Okay,
17 good. He checks the boom pillows and pads. He's happy
18 with what is here so far.

19 He tells us the vacuum truck's probably
20 going to be maybe 30 minutes behind him. This is maybe
21 around 6 o'clock he gets there, maybe just after 6:00.
22 And again I'm not keeping track of time because right
23 now everything is stable. The event is stable.
24 Everything is in place for us to do what we think is a
25 quick recovery of product. We have no reason to

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1 believe there's anything else coming into this site.

2 Again the gasoline line, the Colonial's
3 line, you know, is a thought, is a consideration, but
4 we still have an unknown here which is the Exxon gas
5 station very close and a little bit uphill from where
6 we are here. So again, potential suspect here. And
7 also illegal dumping based on the information we had
8 here in the sense that the product is so discolored.
9 You know, one of the HazMat techs said, you know, I
10 think it's diesel, definitely gasoline, but I'm also
11 maybe getting an odor of diesel, and it looks really
12 dark like diesel product would look. So, okay. We're
13 still focusing on any illegal dump for the most part.
14 That was the information we have.

15 So the Atlas guy, he drives down. He checks
16 this. He's happy with it. He hasn't seen anything
17 that he doesn't like. He comes back. The HazMat unit,
18 all the units clean up. And I believe they all leave.
19 I wait around with one Stormwater technician, whose
20 card I have upstairs. We hang out. We reserve these
21 spots right here in Sweetwater Tavern's parking lot for
22 the vacuum truck. And the vacuum truck shows up, and
23 it sets up operation.

24 That's the 21st. I'm happy with what
25 they're going to do, just a brief face to face with

1 their folks. Stormwater still on the scene. And
2 that's it. That's it.

3 I talked to, as I'm getting ready to leave,
4 another representative from Stormwater comes, Valerie.
5 She's got the cameras. Her intention is to come back
6 the next day just to make sure there's no illegal tie-
7 ins here and run a camera system down here. Great.
8 Not a big deal. I agree. I want to pass everything on
9 to Trice the next day. And that's it. I leave. And
10 Atlas, essentially turn the site over to them, and they
11 go to work. And then, of course, we come back to work
12 the next day.

13 Do you want me to continue with the 22nd, or
14 do you guys want to just focus on one day at a time?

15 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: No, please, please continue.

16 MR. ALVARO: So the 22nd we're coming in to
17 work, and we do a shift change here at the office
18 unless the guys are on an actual physical call that
19 we'll meet them on the scene. We do a change with our
20 evening shift, which is Allen and Rich Gunder, just
21 talking to them roundtable in the morning. They say,
22 hey, we're not sure what's going on, but something
23 changed in the middle of the night. Apparently there's
24 more gas than they can recover, and they've recovered
25 already a full vacuum truck, or close to one full

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1 vacuum truck.

2 So there's something else going on here so
3 we're going to have to ramp up operations and go back
4 out there on the 22nd. And again, we come on at 7
5 o'clock in the morning, but we pretty much get here an
6 hour before shift so we're here at 6:00 talking about
7 this.

8 So no big deal. We're setting up to go out
9 there that day. And again, you know, talking to Allen,
10 this is now beginning to ramp up. More Colonial reps
11 are out there. I think Stormwater's still involved.
12 And maybe another agency or two is beginning to jump on
13 board with this. Obviously Atlas is heavily involved.
14 We go out there that morning. That's myself, a
15 lieutenant on my shift, our battalion chief, Barry
16 Hall, another HazMat investigator, and Trice is not too
17 far behind us. We talk on the phone on the way there
18 briefly. We're going over some stuff.

19 The information we share, is it possibly,
20 it's not an illegal dump. Still not sure what it is
21 yet. Still we have not ruled out the Exxon gas station
22 by any means. We just know that there's something else
23 going on, and it's above an illegal dumping. With that
24 much product, it's just, it's beyond the scope of just
25 some schmo from a gas station, from a service station,

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1 dumping in a stormwater drain.

2 So obviously now my thoughts are focusing on
3 this as I'm driving out there. Colonial Pipeline, the
4 Exxon, something bigger. A bigger tank, a bigger
5 supply of product has to be leaking into this area.

6 But so anyway, that's what we do. We go out
7 there. And once we get there, it's pretty much a
8 cordoned off area. We've got more people coming.
9 There's quite a few folks from Colonial there. Our
10 HazMat unit is back, fire department units are on
11 scene, our HazMat battalion chief is there. And
12 they're doing their thing. They're still collecting
13 product.

14 I think at the time maybe Miller was there,
15 the contractor for you folks. I believe they were.
16 Atlas, I believe, was downstream collecting here.
17 Maybe Miller had taken over up here. I could be wrong.
18 But definitely Miller, they had another truck there,
19 and it wasn't Atlas. It was a blue truck. It was
20 Miller's.

21 So anyway, who else was there. DEQ was
22 there. State's there. We're beginning to set up
23 operations in the parking lot right across the way
24 here. That's going to be our command post. It's
25 already kind of set up. Colonial Pipeline is setting

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1 up as well, and it looks like it's going to be just a
2 joint operational command post right here.

3 We do a quick recon. We want to see what's
4 going on. This is Tim's first time to the scene so he
5 does his own walk around. As a matter of fact, he
6 comes right from home. He never does even come here.
7 So he gets here at 6 o'clock, and he's already walked
8 this area to see what's going on.

9 We focus on the gas station. The manager's
10 en route. We've talked to him. We start focusing our
11 efforts here. We're checking the Veeder-Root. We've
12 got Exxon's service tech coming. We've dipped the
13 tanks. We watch him dip the tanks. We take
14 measurements, compare them to the Veeder-Root system,
15 and they're pretty much right on target.

16 There's also a monitoring well on this site,
17 which is locked, which most of them are. Service techs
18 have that key, have the ability to dip it and check it.
19 So again we're still focusing here. So we have that in
20 place. That investigation is ongoing. But again, and
21 again, just kind of understanding what's going on here,
22 you have an appreciation for something else is going on
23 despite the way this is wrapped up.

24 That's really it. We assist. We do what we
25 can. DEQ is, I wouldn't say taking over here, but

1 assisting with the Exxon gas station. They've got one
2 of their technicians coming up as well who has a better
3 understanding of these tanks and the Veeder-Root
4 system. So they were coming to assist that service
5 tech.

6 We go back. We get our lab, which is kind
7 of our mini command bus for us. We go pick that up.
8 We bring it back here. We set it up for our command
9 post. And that's it. There's really not much we can
10 do. Trice is already there. And everything from our
11 perspective, from our office is being handled. We're
12 the on-duty shift. We're still responsible for the
13 whole county. Anything that happens fire-wise, HazMat
14 wise, I mean, we're the on-duty shift. So we leave.
15 Trice has got this call. We're good.

16 We go back in service around maybe noon,
17 noon to 1:00, 1:30, and we head to McLean to look at a
18 cold fire from a prior shift, from a different shift
19 just to give them a second set of eyes.

20 So that's the two day shifts, the 21st,
21 22nd. And then the 23rd is an evening shift. By that
22 time we come on shift we realize obviously that it's
23 not the gas station. It's a Colonial Pipeline, a
24 breach somewhere in their line. So we're going to
25 staff our lab and provide assistance here throughout

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1 the shift, and we do. We immediately go out there
2 right at shift change. We just shoot right out there,
3 and we're onsite for any assistance. We're onsite. We
4 staff the lab. We walk the area, you know, we check
5 out the excavation and dig site up here. That's really
6 it.

7 Tim staffs a unit throughout the night. We
8 take periodic just drives to him, see if he's okay.
9 But I think around 1:30 or 2:00, could have been a
10 Colonial Pipeline technician asks him, and a HazMat
11 unit which was staffed here at the time as well, to
12 take a sewer sample, and he assists them with that.

13 So they dip, pop open a manhole cover, which
14 was already opened, as all of them were. And they take
15 a jar of sample that night based on their request. We
16 don't --

17 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Just for clarification --

18 MR. ALVARO: Yes.

19 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: -- what night specifically -
20 -

21 MR. ALVARO: The 23rd.

22 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: -- and time? 23rd. Okay.

23 MR. ALVARO: 23rd. Actually it would have
24 been the 24th, early morning after midnight. So 23rd
25 and the 24th. Approximately I think you said around

1 maybe 2:00, between 2:00 and 3:00 in the morning. Yes,
2 there was actually product flowing. Well, there was
3 liquid flowing. We don't know what it is. No one knew
4 what it was. It was probably 30 feet down, 25 feet
5 down to the manhole. And he just assists them with
6 getting a jar off the lab. They hook it to one of
7 their poles, and they draw a sample for them. Did the
8 same thing 24th and then at 25th, same time frame, 2:00
9 to 3:00.

10 So that takes care of the 23rd, evening
11 shift. Same thing on the 24th. We go out there. This
12 time we're a little bit late. The unit is unstaffed
13 till about 10 o'clock. But the HazMat unit is up here.
14 We're at the range qualifying with our weapons. As
15 soon as we're done, we shoot right down.

16 Instead of going to the command post, which
17 would have been here, which is our lab, we go directly
18 to the excavation site. And we stay there for a good
19 hour, hour and a half, just talking with, you know,
20 with actually everybody, Colonial Pipeline folks.
21 There's a few NTSB folks that were there. Just
22 watching the operation. After that we leave. We head
23 back to the lab. Tim staffs the lab again. John and I
24 leave. John's the other lieutenant on my shift.

25 Same thing. Tim, between 2 and 3, is asked

1 to take another sample. I believe it was from the same
2 manhole. This time the HazMat unit wasn't here to
3 support them so I think Tim did the whole operation by
4 himself or with whoever was there. I think it was
5 Colonial Pipeline folks that had asked them to draw
6 that sample. And that's the end of the four day tour.
7 That's what we did, in a nutshell anyway.

8 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay. For a quick
9 clarification.

10 MR. ALVARO: Yes.

11 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: The samples that you folks
12 were involved in collecting, was there product noticed
13 in the samples? Do you know that at all?

14 MR. ALVARO: I think Tim did say that there
15 was some product in there. I believe the first sample
16 there was. Second sample, I didn't ask him. He just
17 told me that he assisted them taking a second sample on
18 a second night.

19 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay. And the first sample
20 was the 23rd --

21 MR. ALVARO: Yes.

22 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: -- and the 24th? Okay.

23 MR. ALVARO: Yes, 23rd into the 24th, which
24 would have been the 24th early morning between 2 and 3.
25 And Tim can elaborate more.

1 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

2 MR. ALVARO: Yes.

3 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay. All right. Let's
4 see.

5 MR. ALVARO: And they did have monitoring
6 equipment with them so they were monitoring whatever
7 spaces, you know, they were going around and checking.

8 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: So on the 21st and when you
9 arrived, I know there was a lot of discussion of the
10 Exxon gas station.

11 MR. ALVARO: Yes.

12 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: And you said folks went over
13 and talked to the -

14 MR. ALVARO: The HazMat folks.

15 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

16 MR. ALVARO: I would assume they -- what?

17 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Were you involved in --

18 MR. ALVARO: I did not.

19 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: -- any discussions when you
20 went to them?

21 MR. ALVARO: I did not talk to them at all.
22 I was going based on what they said, that they'd
23 already been over here. They've checked for any
24 surface leaks. Everything was okay. They did have a
25 damaged pump which they did not tell us. No one told

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1 us until the next day when we walked over there we
2 noticed that they had a damaged pump.

3 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

4 MR. ALVARO: It was actually gone. There
5 was a plywood box built over the space. In talking to
6 the on-duty manager, this would have been the morning
7 of the 22nd. Because again, the 21st never walked over
8 there. I just took what they told me at face value.
9 No surface leaks. Everything looks good. No vehicles
10 had been over there leaking. Pumps are in great shape.
11 Talked to the manager. Everything matches up. No
12 signs of any leaks. Everything looks good. Great.

13 So when we go over there on the 22nd we
14 notice that a pump is gone. So when we ask, a vehicle
15 hit it. No leaks. Everything worked as normal. They
16 just removed the pump because they're waiting for a new
17 one to come in. In its place they just dropped a
18 plywood box.

19 MR. BURGESS: Trice Burgess, Fairfax County.
20 Rocco, do you remember, do they sell diesel and
21 gasoline or just gasoline at that station?

22 MR. ALVARO: I believe it's just gasoline.

23 MR. BURGESS: Okay.

24 MR. ALVARO: I could have sworn I actually
25 looked for a kerosene pump, and I did not notice one.

1 I think it was just the three grades of gasoline. I
2 really did not look that close. But actually, you know
3 what? I take it back. We only dipped, we dipped three
4 tanks so that must be only the products that they sell
5 are three grades. I hope I'm correct. I didn't see
6 any other tanks. There were three tanks, three vapor
7 ports, and three tanks that we dipped. So six ports,
8 three vapor and three dips. So, yes, there should have
9 been just three products of gasoline.

10 MR. BURGESS: Okay. Next question from me.
11 On the first day out did you meet with any Colonial
12 Pipeline reps on the site? Were they there when you
13 got there, or had they already left?

14 MR. ALVARO: I don't believe so. I didn't
15 talk to everyone that was in the huddle. I assume
16 everyone that was with Stormwater in the huddle I was
17 talking to was with Stormwater. I didn't notice any
18 identifiers, badges, IDs from Colonial. It was all
19 Stormwater folks, and, of course, our own folks from
20 our fire department, HazMat unit, and our operations
21 folks.

22 MR. BURGESS: Okay.

23 MR. ALVARO: The Stormwater was great. I
24 mean, they had maps on their tablets and were able to
25 see, you know, exactly where the sewer pipes were and

1 where a potential for entry could have been, but they
2 were already reconned. They were already scouted out
3 by our operations unit. There was no reason for me not
4 to take at face value what they're telling me, you
5 know. No staining, no residual product anywhere in the
6 immediate area.

7 MR. BURGESS: Okay. Did you get relieved on
8 duty out at the site, or did you just -- or were you
9 cut loose and not have anybody from the night shift
10 relieve you?

11 MR. ALVARO: I was cut loose. Allen
12 actually came here. He called me. And I'd pretty much
13 stayed right up until 7:00, just until Atlas got up and
14 going.

15 MR. BURGESS: Okay.

16 MR. ALVARO: There was no reason for me to
17 be there.

18 MR. BURGESS: Okay.

19 MR. ALVARO: I mean, everything was, I felt
20 was, I felt comfortable in what they were doing.

21 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Going back to the Exxon gas
22 station, you mentioned that there was a pump that was
23 hit.

24 MR. ALVARO: Yes.

25 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: And that they had replaced

1 it. Did they tell you when the pump was hit and --

2 MR. ALVARO: You know, no.

3 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: -- any of that information?

4 MR. ALVARO: I think what he said, that pump
5 was hit a couple days ago, and I didn't get into
6 specifics, but I did ask them specifically was there a
7 leak. Did you have a surface leak of any kind and did
8 anyone inspect it. He said it was inspected.
9 Everything's been capped off, and it did not leak.

10 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

11 MR. ALVARO: Okay. And that's the first
12 thing I thought, well, there it is. You know, there's
13 your smoking gun.

14 MR. BURGESS: That was your smoking gun.

15 MR. ALVARO: Yes. I think that's perfect,
16 that's the one.

17 MR. BURGESS: If only.

18 MR. TITUS: If only.

19 MR. ALVARO: I know, if only. But he said
20 he had no leaks, and we had no calls here either. So I
21 asked the HazMat unit, I said in 38 one of the first
22 two units that respond to this area was a firehouse
23 that was just up the road here.

24 I asked them, I said you guys must have been
25 here before because Sweetwater said it's been going on

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1 for two weeks. He said, Rocco, we haven't been here at
2 all for any gas odors, any gas leaks, nothing. And
3 they would have said we had a car hit a pump, you know.
4 Of course, you know, what's the severity of a car
5 hitting a pump. You know, is it just enough to damage
6 the actual, you know, body to that pump, or did it
7 actually knock it over, he never got into it, the
8 manager did.

9 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Jeff, if you have any
10 questions, feel free to go ahead.

11 MR. TITUS: I really don't have that many
12 honestly. You're very thorough in terms of your
13 fantastic memory. A lot better than mine. But at what
14 point, it sounds like, you know, in terms of your
15 investigation, a lot of us, especially in the early
16 stages, really focused on the gas station. Is that
17 correct? And other sources.

18 MR. ALVARO: Yes.

19 MR. TITUS: An illegal dump and the gas
20 station seemed to be it.

21 MR. ALVARO: Right.

22 MR. TITUS: At what point did you really
23 kind of -- I know your testimony said when you ruled
24 out the illegal dumping. At what point did you really
25 rule out the gas station as being a likely source? Do

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1 you recall about when that was?

2 MR. ALVARO: It would have been the next, it
3 would have been as shift change on the 22nd. And
4 again, keep in mind I've been working for the county
5 for 21 years. In my time with the county, we've never
6 had an issue with the pipeline. So it's not at the
7 forefront. Of course, next time I have an issue it's
8 going to be at the forefront.

9 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: You also have Jeff's contact
10 number.

11 MR. ALVARO: Yes. He's supporting this area
12 of the county. But it's just something that doesn't
13 happen every day. What happens every day is gas
14 stations, service stations, illegal dumping, mechanical
15 failures, accidents. Those happen every day. And we
16 had one in the county this morning on the beltway.
17 Tanker tips over, 200 gallons of diesel on the side of
18 the road. Every day in this county. Literally every
19 day. That's the norm. That's what you expect, and
20 that's what you rule out by process of elimination, you
21 know, when you get to these calls.

22 And to me, you know, it's two things right
23 away just based on their description of the product and
24 the gas station just a proximity. You know, it's one
25 of these two. You know, illegal dumping, gas station.

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1 And the gas station confirmed guy's going to be here
2 tomorrow. No big deal. Got it. Trice can follow-up
3 with them. We can do a thorough examination tomorrow,
4 eliminate them. And we can all do some research here
5 just to make sure that the gas station is permitted,
6 its tanks, you know, were inspected by us when they
7 were installed. We can go back and do some
8 investigation on our inspection side to see what is
9 involved in this gas station. So there's more we can
10 do physically here the next day obviously.

11 MR. TITUS: And this is Jeff Titus again.
12 Just one more quick question. I'm just trying to make
13 sure I piece together the time line correctly. So you
14 arrived onsite around I think it was 4:15 you said,
15 something like that?

16 MR. ALVARO: Approximately, yes.

17 MR. TITUS: Yes. And then it was right
18 there is when you have your huddle? It sounds like you
19 had a huddle meeting -

20 MR. ALVARO: Yes.

21 MR. TITUS: -- where the Stormwater folks
22 and --

23 MR. ALVARO: Yes.

24 MR. TITUS: -- the firefighters --

25 MR. ALVARO: And the battalion chief.

1 MR. TITUS: Yes.

2 MR. ALVARO: The Stormwater folks.

3 MR. TITUS: Okay. So that's --

4 MR. ALVARO: Two supervisors, our battalion
5 chief, and the officer from the HazMat unit. Just had
6 a quick little huddle.

7 MR. TITUS: Yes. Yes, I'm just trying to
8 just piece together the time line.

9 MR. ALVARO: Yes, right around 4:15 to 4:30,
10 right in there.

11 MR. TITUS: Okay.

12 MR. ALVARO: Yes.

13 MR. TITUS: That's all I have.

14 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: This is Muhamed. So for
15 clarification, did the battalion chief, I believe was
16 it Chief Knerr?

17 MR. ALVARO: Yes, it was. Yes, it was Joe
18 Knerr.

19 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay. And Lieutenant Woolf
20 as well?

21 MR. ALVARO: Yes, Kelly Woolf.

22 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay. Did they communicate
23 what their findings were directly to you that --

24 MR. ALVARO: They did.

25 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: -- they had eliminated

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1 certain sources or, you know --

2 MR. ALVARO: Yes. Yes, they told me they
3 did a recon. And I asked them, you know, how far they
4 had gone. And they had all these stormwater drains
5 here, look for any sanitary, look for any manhole
6 covers. And they were out with meters. They were
7 physically checking with meters. They were checking
8 for the LEL Of the area.

9 They found really nothing significant,
10 nothing that piqued their interest at the time. And
11 again, no residual product, no staining. And they'd
12 already spoken, told me they'd already spoken to the
13 gas station attendant, I won't even call him a manager,
14 the manager was there the next day who knew a lot more
15 than the attendant on that day.

16 And just talking with Stormwater. And, you
17 know, with Stormwater is, you know, to me the first
18 thing is control the leak, which HazMat had already
19 done. There's nothing going downstream. Everything
20 seems to be in this basis. So right there you're
21 thinking, well, then it just happened or recently
22 happened, illegal dump or something popped here
23 recently because there's no product down here.

24 So it hasn't been going on. You know, two
25 weeks, okay, I get it. Three or four weeks, a month,

1 two months, six months, no one goes back that far time
2 line. So I'm thinking something recent. And that's
3 what we're all talking about, something recent happened
4 here.

5 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

6 MR. ALVARO: Just because no one's been here
7 for any other calls. That was my first question.
8 Well, you guys been here yesterday, day before? No,
9 nothing.

10 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Did they mention that they
11 had detected any LEL readings in storm drains --

12 MR. ALVARO: They --

13 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: -- along I guess, and I'm
14 pointing right here past Sweetwater Tavern on Multiplex
15 --

16 MR. ALVARO: I'm not sure how far --

17 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: -- near Centerwood Drive?

18 MR. ALVARO: And again it all is coming
19 together because the days we were there after the 21st
20 everybody had a meter. Everybody was walking around
21 with a meter. So they did have their meters out on the
22 21st, and they did detect readings, but I don't know
23 how far away from the basin those readings were.

24 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

25 MR. ALVARO: But there was no precautions

1 being taken because the readings were so low or so
2 insignificant.

3 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

4 MR. ALVARO: At least that's what I recall,
5 you know.

6 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: And is it safe to state
7 that, I guess at the point when it was being
8 transitioned over to the contractor that they had ruled
9 out or basically zeroed in on illegal dumping? Is that
10 where they were?

11 MR. ALVARO: I wouldn't say we'd ruled.

12 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

13 MR. ALVARO: We had -- well, we hadn't ruled
14 anyone out yet.

15 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

16 MR. ALVARO: We still kind of included
17 everyone. We just knew that we had the site contained.
18 We knew that there was no additional product coming in
19 anywhere else. Our concern was, and we were checking
20 the radar maps every five minutes, is how much rain are
21 we going to get.

22 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

23 MR. ALVARO: And our concern was to get
24 Atlas here as quickly as possible, drain this basin,
25 and then pick up again in the morning.

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1 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

2 MR. ALVARO: And again, you know, they
3 couldn't determine, even looking in here, how far that
4 liquid surface went. How far back did it go, the
5 actual true depth of it, the scope of it, they just
6 weren't sure. But they felt at one point that they
7 could recover it with one over-pack drum. We quickly
8 realized that's not going to happen.

9 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

10 MR. ALVARO: Either way Atlas was still
11 coming. And one vacuum truck looking at the basin
12 itself, you're thinking, yes, that will get it all to
13 include, you know, whatever normal water product they
14 take up as well. Obviously we were a little bit off on
15 truck size.

16 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay. Trice, do you have
17 any additional questions?

18 MR. BURGESS: I guess when you sent out an
19 email later that night saying that you thought Atlas
20 had got everything set up correctly.

21 MR. ALVARO: I think I did.

22 MR. BURGESS: Because I think I'd sent out
23 an email trying to get a, I can't remember.

24 MR. ALVARO: Yes, I think I tried to -- did
25 I? Yes, I think I did. I also --

1 MR. BURGESS: You did, yes. Your status
2 report.

3 MR. ALVARO: Yes, when was it. When did I
4 enter it into -- we have obviously a database here. I
5 think it was the next morning I may have generated our
6 first entry into our database.

7 MR. BURGESS: Okay.

8 MR. ALVARO: Just trying to begin that, and
9 especially after a shift change talking to Allen and
10 his crew that, you know, this was going to be something
11 bigger. I wanted to begin the documentation process
12 right away, at least what I had done and what our
13 findings were.

14 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: So two other, two questions.

15 MR. ALVARO: Sure.

16 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: One is so you heard what the
17 fire department had done with the gas station. In your
18 assessment that it meant you didn't want to rule them
19 out. It just didn't seem like it was an apparent leak
20 directly from them, or a visible leak, or I mean I
21 guess -

22 MR. ALVARO: Yes.

23 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: -- you still had them as a
24 suspect.

25 MR. ALVARO: Absolutely.

1 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

2 MR. ALVARO: Absolutely.

3 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: At what point did you feel
4 comfortable to sort of eliminate them as a potential
5 suspect?

6 MR. ALVARO: I think the very next day when
7 I went out there, and we physically, we physically, all
8 of us, we went with the manager, and we dipped the
9 tanks.

10 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

11 MR. ALVARO: We looked at the conditions of
12 the piping. Everything looked good. The actual site
13 itself looked like it was well maintained. The Veeder-
14 Root system. He checked his receipts. Everything
15 matched up where he was not losing product, and he was
16 very adamant that I check. I would know right away if
17 I was losing product.

18 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

19 MR. ALVARO: He was very adamant. But I
20 think that morning. And then knowing that DEQ and then
21 a service tech was coming from Exxon, I think we were
22 pretty much covered knowing that we were going to rule
23 out the gas station that day. Yes.

24 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

25 MR. TITUS: Excuse me. Jeff Titus. Just

1 for clarification, this was the morning of the 22nd?

2 MR. ALVARO: Yes, sir. Yes.

3 MR. TITUS: Okay. And at that point
4 Colonial people were on site?

5 MR. ALVARO: Absolutely.

6 MR. TITUS: In force?

7 MR. ALVARO: In force.

8 MR. TITUS: Okay.

9 MR. ALVARO: The beginning stages were
10 there, and you kind of knew, I mean, that something
11 else was going on. Because even a slow gasoline leak
12 from a gas station, it was just too much product. From
13 what Allen was telling us, you know, and again I'm not
14 sure where he got his information from, but they had
15 already collected a truck full of liquid, you know.

16 And liquid as a combination of water and
17 whatever else was coming out of that basin. There's no
18 way you're going to get that much gas out of a gas
19 station unless that tank has a catastrophic failure.
20 And then that's a lot of gas.

21 MR. TITUS: Yes.

22 MR. ALVARO: And it's going to go everywhere
23 at that point. Here it was just, it was just here.
24 There was nothing here, here. If you had a ground leak
25 here from this gas station, I mean, it's sitting up

1 high here, it's going to go elsewhere from a ground
2 leak. Here we had a concentrated leak.

3 MR. BURGESS: Just to point out, I think
4 that is your service station right there.

5 MR. ALVARO: Oh, I'm sorry.

6 MR. TITUS: Yes, this is the service
7 station. This is Sweetwater here.

8 MR. ALVARO: Yes, Sweetwater. That's
9 Sweetwater, yes. Yes, because it's right up from the
10 road. So here's the service station here just at the
11 corner of Multiplex and Centrewood Drive. Yes, so
12 right here. And we dipped the tanks right there, just
13 right along here.

14 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: The tanks are located, are
15 they on the Centrewood Drive, along Centrewood Drive?

16 MR. ALVARO: They're on, yes. Yes, they're
17 on Centrewood Drive, and the actual dip ports
18 themselves are right here on the concrete pad.

19 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

20 MR. ALVARO: And again, same thing. I mean,
21 it sits up high. It's an elevated site. It definitely
22 would have gone elsewhere if it was originating. If it
23 was a catastrophic failure from these tanks, it would
24 have gone everywhere.

25 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: So that's why I'm wondering

1 what made, what indicators were there that the gas
2 station could still be a suspect?

3 MR. ALVARO: Could still be?

4 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Yes, on the -

5 MR. ALVARO: You can't rule them out until
6 DEQ says, their technician.

7 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

8 MR. ALVARO: And the technician from Exxon
9 says -

10 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

11 MR. ALVARO: -- that their tanks are okay.
12 And I believe that was done later that day.

13 MR. TITUS: It was.

14 MR. ALVARO: Yes. We had left. We had set
15 up our lab knowing that this was going to be eliminated
16 or included later on if it was found to be leaking.

17 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

18 MR. ALVARO: But word we got later on was
19 that both technicians were there from DEQ and Exxon,
20 and they had confirmed the tanks were stable.
21 Everything was okay. And they were able to access
22 that, I believe, that one well, observation well.

23 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Regarding that well, was
24 that -- do you know if that was examined on the night
25 of, or let's say on September 21st?

1 MR. ALVARO: I'd probably say no.

2 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: No.

3 MR. ALVARO: If anything, knowing our folks,
4 they probably just did a quick recon. I'm going to say
5 quick. They did a thorough recon of the area. They
6 walked it. I'm sure they checked this whole area
7 looking for any signs of leakage. I doubt they opened
8 any of the ports, the dip ports --

9 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

10 MR. ALVARO: -- or the actual vapor ports.
11 And the observation well itself, even if they did open
12 it, which it didn't look like it was open --

13 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

14 MR. ALVARO: -- because it had so much
15 debris on it when we opened it. We physically opened
16 it. It wasn't bolted down. And once you did open it,
17 the PVC piping was locked with a padlock.

18 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

19 MR. ALVARO: So it was untouched.

20 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Untouched. Okay.

21 MR. ALVARO: It was untouched. Looking at
22 the gas station, you know, there was no notable
23 deficiencies, you know, until you obviously get there
24 and see one pump missing. But I mean it's well kept.
25 It was well maintained. The grounds are well

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1 maintained. It's not a rundown gas station.

2 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

3 MR. TITUS: Yes. I have no questions.

4 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: As you know, we do a safety
5 investigation, and, you know, we're always interested
6 in learning lessons learned. Are there -- is there
7 anything that you would like to share with us, lessons
8 learned or things that anyone can learn from this type
9 of experience that you'd like to share with us?

10 MR. ALVARO: No, I'll tell you what. I
11 think we worked well together initially. We had a, I
12 mean, we've got a great communication system set up
13 with Stormwater. That's something Trice has done over
14 the years. There's no communication at all. Once we
15 got there, Stormwater was what do you need, how can we
16 help. We're the same way. What do you
17 need, how can we help. Let's fix the problem first.
18 We'll get the responsible party later. But the problem
19 was already stopped. Cleanup contractor, it was just a
20 matter of calling someone once we determined who the
21 responsible party was.

22 And working with Stormwater was great. But
23 we've got good intercounty interagency networks where
24 we have no problem calling anyone for service or for
25 assistance, you know. I think our county contract, is

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1 it still with Atlas?

2 MR. BURGESS: Still with Atlas.

3 MR. ALVARO: So let's say we didn't
4 determine who a responsible party was. I would have
5 called Atlas. I mean, plain and simple it was that bad
6 where it's going to get cleaned up tonight, period.

7 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Okay.

8 MR. ALVARO: There's no way it was going to
9 stay there because it was that bad, you know, the odor
10 was. And again, we're all thinking, you know, it's an
11 inch or two of some type of product. Yes.

12 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: All right.

13 MR. ALVARO: Our HazMat folks, I mean, I'll
14 be quite honest with you, they're the best. I'm not
15 just saying that because I worked for their department.
16 I used to be a HazMat technician on the team, and
17 they're the best hands down. Very good.

18 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Well, great. Is there
19 nobody? Last round? No takers? Okay.

20 MR. ALVARO: Perfect.

21 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: I'd like to thank you for,
22 you know, giving us your information.

23 MR. ALVARO: Sure.

24 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: And --

25 MR. ALVARO: My pleasure.

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1 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: -- with that, I will
2 terminate the recording. All right.

3 MR. ALVARO: Sure.

4 MR. EL-ZOGHBI: Thank you.

5 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went
6 off the record at an undisclosed time.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

MATTER: Colonial Pipeline Leak in
Centreville, VA, Sept. 21, 2015
NTSB Accident No. DCA15MP002
Interview of Rocco Alvaro

DATE: 09-30-15

I hereby certify that the attached transcription of page 1 to 48 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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