

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

NATURAL GAS PIPELINE RUPTURE *
AND FIRE, DANVILLE, KENTUCKY *
AUGUST 1, 2019 *

Accident No.: PLD19FR002

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Interview of: JIM MCGUFFEY
Area Supervisor, Enbridge

Holiday Inn
Danville, Kentucky

Saturday,
August 3, 2019

APPEARANCES:

MICHAEL HILLER, Investigator in Charge
National Transportation Safety Board

GERHARDT BAUMAN, Inspector
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
(PHMSA)

DERICK TURNER, Project Manager
PHMSA

BILL TZAMOS, Inspector
PHMSA

GARY DIAL, Director, Pipeline Integrity
Enbridge Inc.

ANDY DRAKE, VP Asset Integrity and Technical Services
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JIM MCGUFFEY, Area Manager
Enbridge, Inc.

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I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. HILLER: Good afternoon. My name is Mike Hiller. I am
3 the NTSB investigator in charge for this accident, and we are here
4 today on August 3rd, 2019 at the Holiday Inn conference room in
5 Danville, Kentucky. We are here to conduct an interview with Mr.
6 Jim McGuffey. He's the area manager who works for Enbridge.

7 And of course, this accident is in conjunction with the
8 pipeline explosion that occurred on August 1st, 2019. This is
9 NTSB accident number PLD19F002 [sic]. And the purpose of this
10 investigation is to increase safety. So we're not here to assign
11 fault, or liability, or blame. We want to know --

12 MR. MCGUFFEY: Okay.

13 MR. HILLER: -- what happened and why it happened. And any
14 information that you're able to provide will be helpful, because
15 we were not here. You were.

16 MR. MCGUFFEY: Yes, sir.

17 MR. HILLER: So, before we begin interview questions, we're
18 going to go around the room, and everybody's going to introduce
19 themselves, and spell their last name, and that's for the record.

20 And then once we do that, I'll turn it over to Gary, and Gary
21 will start off with questions. And I'll start off with myself.
22 My name is Mike Hiller, H-I-L-L-E-R.

23 MR. BAUMAN: I'm Gery Bauman, B-A-U-M-A-N, and I'm with
24 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, just so
25 you know.

1 MR. TURNER: I'm -- this is Derick Turner, I'm with Pipeline
2 and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration/Office of Pipeline
3 Safety.

4 MR. DIAL: Gary Dial, D-I-A-L, with Enbridge.

5 MR. TZAMOS: Bill Tzamos, T-Z-A-M-O-S, PHMSA.

6 MR. DRAKE: Andy Drake, D-R-A-K-E, Enbridge.

7 MR. JAQUES: Dane Jaques, J-A-Q-U-E-S, Steptoe & Johnson on
8 behalf of the witness.

9 MR. MCGUFFEY: Jim McGuffey, M-C-G-U-F-F-E-Y, Enbridge.

10 MR. HILLER: All right. Thank you. So let's begin.

11 MR. BAUMAN: Okay.

12 BY MR. BAUMAN:

13 Q. First off, tell me about your job. What specifically are
14 your responsibilities?

15 A. Like -- as I said, the area manager. I have Kentucky and
16 Ohio, and just kind of -- we kind of direct the maintenance, what
17 goes on, keeping the horsepower running. You know, we put the
18 budget together, and number one, stay in compliance for safety,
19 kind of, you know, head over safety, and we take head first. And
20 then the compliance. And about it I guess.

21 Q. Talk a little bit more about the manpower that you supervise.

22 A. I have five supervisors, and they have the rest of the staff.
23 But we have 52 employees in the area just from Tompkinsville,
24 Kentucky to Athens, Ohio. And, you know, we do right-of-way
25 maintenance, pipe maintenance, compressor station maintenance.

1 Every day's different.

2 Q. For my own -- who was the supervisor of Mr. Clems [sic]?

3 A. Barry Howard.

4 Q. Could you explain how your process of keeping everything
5 works, and your communication channels through the 52 employees?

6 A. Well, my -- I discuss what's going on with all the
7 supervisors every morning. And then if I get any directions or
8 information from Nashville, I'll pass it on to them, we discuss
9 it. Safety initiatives, and, you know, just -- we just kind of
10 see what we've got going on today, the SAP tasks we've got to take
11 care of. Pretty busy most of the time.

12 Q. Okay. Can you talk more about SAP? How does that work?

13 A. It's for -- it holds our compliance items -- tasks. You
14 know, that -- we'll get a list of compliance items and we've got a
15 due date. And we don't make -- we make sure that we don't pass
16 that due date. We stay in compliance there. That's our --
17 whatever you want to call our mentor -- all of our stuff goes into
18 now. That might change in the next year.

19 Q. Okay. Are you continuously busy? Easy job? Hard job? Lots
20 of people calling on you? What your role in your --

21 A. It's not really a hard job. I mean, I like to stay busy.
22 And yes, we get a lot of, you know, from the field we get a lot of
23 calls, you know, about this and, you know, just a number of
24 things. You know, some of it's employees' needs, what they need,
25 what they think they need. And sometimes they don't really need

1 it, you know?

2 And we get calls from Nashville a lot on stuff. And we
3 discuss projects that we need to be looking into, and -- but it's
4 not bad. But once you do for the many years I've been doing it,
5 it's pretty easy.

6 Q. Yeah. How about your --

7 A. Of course I know who to call now too.

8 Q. Talk about your qualifications.

9 A. My qualifications?

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. Well, I don't know. I've just been working 43 years I guess.

12 Q. Oh.

13 A. You know? And I guess, you know, just learned the job as I
14 grew up.

15 Q. You started out as a pipeliner? And --

16 A. Yes, sir. Started at (indiscernible).

17 Q. -- were you an operator like Mr. Clems?

18 A. No. I never did do a station operator. I operated equipment
19 some, and just started at the bottom and worked my way up, you
20 know, learning what I knew. I had the opportunity to learn to get
21 a better job one day, and that's what I did.

22 Q. Okay. Describe your formal training for your position.

23 A. Formal training?

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. I don't really know how to explain that, sir.

1 Q. Does Enbridge have courses, or Texas Eastern have courses in
2 being an area manager?

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. So how do you --

5 A. You know, you start out, and I moved up to a pipeline
6 specialist, and I worked there. And then I worked up to a
7 supervisor, and you work as supervisor under a manager. And you
8 just learn by working with different people what goes on.

9 Q. Okay. So it's just on the job training?

10 A. Yes, ma'am (sic). Yep.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Learn our SOPs, you know, that's what we live by. You know,
13 and that's what I -- every -- about every Christmas, I used to go
14 through all of those SOPs. Everybody else was on vacation. I
15 just -- I let the other guys go on vacation for Christmas, and I'd
16 stay in and review SOPs. And then during the year, if I had a
17 question on the SOPs, I could call staff -- text staff, and they
18 would help me out. I wasn't ashamed to call somebody to ask for
19 help, you know?

20 Q. Can you -- well is there an SOP for the operation of the
21 Danville Compressor Station?

22 A. Oh sure. You know, we got -- well, we got certain SOPs, just
23 like how we start units, for instance, you know? There's a
24 requirement -- there's a step by step that we start units,
25 (indiscernible) and turbines. And -- is that what you're looking

1 for?

2 Q. Sure.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Talk some more about those --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- procedures for that --

7 A. Yeah. I mean --

8 Q. -- facility.

9 A. But that's what the operators learn about. They know working
10 with -- you know, we train them with another trained operator.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. And there's OQ requirements that -- like that's one of them
13 right there. Check and monitor pressures. There's a number of
14 things that they have to sign off on.

15 Q. Okay. What kind of responsibilities does an operator have of
16 a compressor station?

17 A. Operator has the responsibility to make sure we don't -- of
18 course, do not exceed our MAOP. Make sure the horsepower's
19 running good, and if the horsepower is not running good, call a
20 technician or mechanic out to assist him and prevent us from
21 having more damage to the units. You know? And just, he just
22 monitors pressures, and watches the units, and if he has a
23 problem, he'll call and -- for help.

24 Q. Okay. Do they have a set procedure for time in front of the
25 monitor, time out walking around? Do they have time clocks that

1 they punch --

2 A. No.

3 Q. -- as they walk around?

4 A. No. What they -- what they're supposed to do -- I'm not out
5 there at night -- they're supposed make their rounds every hour.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. You know? Kind of making a round, which wouldn't take all of
8 5, 10 minutes. Recepts, you know, he walks through the VCM (ph.)
9 building, and down through your turbines, and back up.

10 And -- what they're required to do.

11 Q. You mentioned that you're in charge of the budget?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Can you describe that process?

14 A. A big process. We have some people that sometimes always
15 like to get a red ink pen out and (indiscernible), and just -- no,
16 I mean, you look at -- just like right now, our operation's
17 completely different than it was 6 years ago with the ammonia that
18 we have to put in our (indiscernible) on the noxine (ph.).

19 And you've just got forecast what you're going to spend.
20 You've got to forecast your overhauls, and just a number of things
21 that it just comes natural to you that, you know, that you know
22 you need to forecast for and look ahead, you know? I mean, you
23 might have something you've been having problems with, so you
24 forecast of need it repaired or replace it.

25 Q. How does the budget work with CP issues?

1 A. I tell my corrosion techs, if you've got CP issues, let me
2 know. We'll make money available for you. We'll do an emergency
3 PIF to replace a ground bit if we need to. And we'll -- and
4 that's how we handle it.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. No shortcuts.

7 Q. So there are different priorities associated with your
8 expenses. How do you handle those?

9 A. Well, safety, number one. Compliance. You know, if we've
10 got a compliance, just like CP, it's high on our list. A safety
11 -- all of our safety issues is high. We don't want anybody hurt,
12 you know? And then our maintenance stuff, overhauls, stuff like
13 that, you know, we'll manage it by hours. And -- about how we do
14 it.

15 Q. Okay. Now let me take you to the evening before the pipeline
16 rupture. Can you describe what you were doing, and how you got
17 pulled into this?

18 A. Well, it was a normal day. Normal afternoon. Took -- went
19 out for lunch and dinner, you know? And I -- normally I watch the
20 news at night, and I did. It was about 11:30 when I went to bed.

21 And first I got a call. It was from of my golfing buddies
22 that drinks a little bit. And I looked down and seen who it was,
23 I said, hell, I'm not answering that. You know? And then
24 probably a minute later, Clem called me -- Mike. He said we've
25 got a problem. I said, okay. What you got? And he told me, it's

1 a line break on Line 25, it was on fire. And I said, have you
2 called Barry? He said, yes. I said, okay. I'm on my way.

3 So when I got to the location -- me and Barry got there about
4 the same time. And on the way out, Barry had sent a man to 49,
5 and I had sent a man there. They was on the road the time we was,
6 just about, going to 49, to where our next valve site is.

7 And we got to the station, and we looked around, and I told
8 Barry I was going to go down and meet with the emergency response
9 people. You handle the operations, go. We've got people going
10 where? We've got the correct valves closed.

11 He had all of that in hand, so I went and met with the
12 emergency response people, asked them what they need, and what --
13 we asked what we need of them. Told them to stay back until the
14 fire goes down at least a mile, a half mile, something like that.
15 Don't get any closer.

16 And our people done an excellent job getting there. We had
17 the valve shut in in 54, 55 minutes or something like that. And
18 while I was sitting on 127 talking to the emergency response
19 people, there was a hill right there. And I looked up and I seen
20 the flames going down. It made me feel a whole lot better. We
21 had it shut in.

22 That's what we were trained to do -- emergency response
23 training. You know, tabletop simulations. Our guys did great.
24 And we've got some young people that pitched in and helped us too.
25 And that was about -- like I said, and then we had to -- you know,

1 we had a command center set up, and I worked with the emergency
2 response team. And Barry was out at the site making sure nobody
3 got into the site, you know? And --

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. -- that's the thing. Like I said, it's something that I've
6 been trained in for years, and it come -- just, you know, I didn't
7 have to get a book out and read, you know? And we got emergency
8 response manuals that we review, and go over.

9 But, you know, pretty much I knew what to do. Barry knew
10 what to do. So we went good. It couldn't have happened a whole
11 -- I was really happy that our young people did -- knew what they
12 needed to do. We've got, you know, some young people that have
13 been there 2 to 4 years that fell right in. I mean, every
14 employee came out to help.

15 You know, at 1:00 in the morning, getting that shut in in
16 that time was super. I mean, I could never have believed we could
17 have done it at 1:00 in the morning, getting people up out of bed,
18 and getting ready. I was well-pleased.

19 Q. During Mr. Clemmon's -- Clem's interview, he talked about
20 closing 15-393. That's a valve there at the --

21 A. Yard. I don't know the right number, now. But at the fifth
22 (sic), I called Mike (indiscernible) before (indiscernible). I
23 don't know. Mike would probably know that, but I wouldn't.

24 Q. Okay. He said during his interview that he was told to close
25 the valve.

1 A. Probably Barry did -- told him.

2 Q. So this would -- Barry Howard is --

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. -- the one that told him to?

5 A. Yeah. When he --

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. He called Barry, and Barry probably told him to close that
8 valve.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Now, what is --

12 A. Now, I don't know that, but I would say he did.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. We'll talk to Mr. Howard too.

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. But what kind of authority does an operator have for his role
18 there at the compressor station?

19 A. Well, you know, in the case of an emergency, they -- you
20 know, we've got to notify gas control, he got to notice (ph.)
21 supervision. And my opinion, if he knew what to do, he could have
22 took that on his own and closed it. But he wanted to get
23 permission. You know what I'm saying?

24 And that's how Barry might have trained this individual. I
25 don't know that. But that didn't take long for him to get down

1 there and close it after he and Barry discussed it.

2 Q. Okay. Do you -- well you mentioned that you cover Ohio and
3 Kentucky. Do you do training with individual groups associated
4 with individual --

5 A. Locations.

6 Q. -- compressor stations?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Or --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And who takes care of all of that training?

11 A. Me -- myself and the supervisor. You know, we'll set up a
12 tabletop simulation.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. All right, we're going to go up and go through the tabletop
15 simulations. Sometimes we get division involved, but sometimes we
16 just do it for our own training. Yeah, I mean, I get involved.
17 And if I'm on that -- if I'm due to make that training that day
18 and I get called out, the supervisor will work go ahead and do it.
19 You know, they're good. I want them to do two trainings a year,
20 you know, if I'm there or not, but do two tabletop simulations a
21 year.

22 Q. Okay. Who was -- during the event and right after the event,
23 who was the top of the chain?

24 A. I was.

25 Q. You were the top --

1 A. I was there until Mr. Arnold got on location.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. I said, here you go, Bob. You're the man.

4 Q. Describe the communications system during that time of
5 crisis.

6 A. To whom?

7 Q. Well, that's part of it. How do you know who to call, when
8 to call --

9 A. Yeah. Well --

10 Q. -- what to direct? And --

11 A. My -- you know, Barry's first call is to me. When I get the
12 call, I'll -- when I get the details, I'll call Bobby. If I can't
13 get a hold of Bobby, I'll call Mike Greenway. Bobby and Mike
14 Greenway communicate with Houston Defensive. They do all of that
15 for us. And in the meantime, I'll give them updates. You know --

16 Q. Okay. Could you clarify that? Bobby and --

17 A. Mike Greenway.

18 Q. And --

19 A. G-R-E-E-N-W-A-Y.

20 Q. You mentioned you have five supervisors?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. The supervisors for this area are?

23 A. Barry Howard at Danville.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Harold Dockstader (ph.) at Tompkinsville. Bart Johnson

1 (ph.) at Owingsville. And these old guys work together. When we
2 have an emergency, they're talking. Where to do I send my people?
3 We send people down -- like we know we've got to close the valve
4 at milepost -- at 408. We know we want a backup location, so they
5 had their people going to the location backing up Highway 49 in
6 case it did not close.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. So that was shut -- the was on site.

9 Q. All right.

10 A. That's something that we had trained years, and years, and
11 years ago to still continue to -- our valves had always closed.
12 But only one way to make sure.

13 Q. Okay. The process of communication is by cell phones?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Is there radios in the vehicles too?

16 A. We've got radios. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Do you use those?

18 A. We'll use them some. Sometimes you can't -- don't have the
19 -- when you get down the hills there, most of the time our phones
20 are not good in the hills either, you know? Then a lot of times
21 we can use our radio talking back to the station, and then they
22 can communicate to who we need to.

23 Q. Did you use them during this event?

24 A. No, sir. We used cell phones.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. At least I didn't.

2 Q. Oh, okay. If -- do you have one in your vehicle? No. I
3 meant --

4 A. The radio? Oh, yes, sir. Every vehicle has a radio.

5 Q. Every vehicle has --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. -- a radio? Okay.

8 A. I've often wondered why we keep continuing buying them, but
9 we need to keep them for emergencies. You know, in case our -- a
10 lot of times I've been out, and we've had situations where all of
11 the phone circuits was busy. You know, a radio -- all we had, you
12 know, backup.

13 Q. Okay. In the description from SCADA operations, they
14 mentioned calling up to the Danville Station, and not getting an
15 answer.

16 A. Hadn't heard that, sir. News to me.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. You know, that operator could have been out in the station
19 making his walk-around too, but I have not heard that.

20 Q. Okay. What's the expectation for a compressor station
21 operator? Should they be by the phones, and that's the only way
22 of communication? Or should he have the cell phone communication
23 if he's out doing rounds?

24 A. He's got a cell phone, yeah.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. You know, and my expectations -- like I told you, you know,
2 most of the time they are in the control shack. But that night,
3 we was running three turbines I think, and, you know, he probably
4 made his rounds, checking his turbines, making sure all --
5 everything was all right, then he comes back in the control shack.
6 And at the time, he could have been in the restroom. I don't
7 know.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. But I had not heard -- I had not heard that.

10 Q. Okay. All right. Thank you for that. I did want to talk
11 about the gas release that happened back in May when the relief
12 valve stuck open.

13 A. That wasn't a relief valve.

14 Q. Oh. Well, better describe the situation.

15 A. We had a suction block valve that did not close. All right?
16 We -- and if that block valve doesn't close, you know, the 10 --
17 15 and 25 were closed, but Line 10 did not close. So it kept
18 feeding gas to the atmosphere.

19 And that valve, you know, we went through an investigation on
20 that. And we found out what was wrong. It was the actuator. We
21 didn't have it turned -- we didn't have it set right. How it
22 happened, we do not know. But we have stressed to the people to
23 use the tag board system.

24 When you go down and close this valve, and you close off the
25 activation, tag it. Tag -- we got a new tag board, and they tag

1 that valve out. That night you -- that day you were -- it
2 happened -- if it happened during the ESD or during
3 (indiscernible) magnets. I don't know. You know? But we have
4 put procedures in place to fix -- to make sure that doesn't
5 happen, you know?

6 Q. Okay. You described this. Is there a set of procedures
7 associated with what was --

8 A. Tagboard.

9 Q. Yeah, the --

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. -- tag board and the process that --

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. -- lead to that leak?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Okay. And --

16 A. Yeah. We went over the procedures, and made sure that our
17 people knew what the procedure said, you know, and make sure we
18 followed it.

19 Q. Okay. What is that procedure if I was to request it?

20 A. Oh, that I couldn't tell you. I can't tell you offhand what
21 that S -- that procedure number is. I can basically tell you what
22 it says. If you deactivate an emergency response valve, you tag
23 it out. You'd pull your -- you'd pull a tag off the board and put
24 it on the valve. You know, you -- that -- there's numbers on that
25 valve.

1 All right. When the next operator comes in, if he sees that
2 number's off that board, we know this valve is inoperated. You
3 cannot operate it. And that's basically what it says. You know,
4 any time you move emergency valve, you should you use that tag
5 board and show it's inoperative.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. See, I could remember that.

8 Q. Obviously you've thrown around this event in your mind since
9 it's happened.

10 A. This one?

11 Q. Yes, this one.

12 A. Yes, sir. Oh yeah. I mean, if -- yeah, I still think about
13 it. You know, I hate that we lost somebody. I hate that people
14 -- five people got hurt. But in my mind, I know we did everything
15 we could do to shut the gas off as quick as possible. So that
16 helps me.

17 You know, I'm going to tell you, when I first got out there
18 that morning in the dark, trailers were still burning. I seen one
19 trailer that had two or three bicycles, and all the cars were
20 gone. And I said, please, God, don't let those kids be in there.
21 And they wasn't.

22 So it -- that scared me there, you know? I don't get scared
23 too often, but I did then. But yeah, I thought about it a lot. I
24 feel confident that we done everything that we could do, you know?

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. And as far as inspection of the pipe, you know, I take pride
2 in our pipe. I feel like we do a good job. But I know probably
3 right now it doesn't show -- look that way. But we do. You know,
4 I'm interested to see what we got.

5 MR. BAUMAN: Okay. All right. I'm done.

6 MR. TURNER: Yeah, I have one. Derick Turner. I have one
7 follow-up question.

8 BY MR. TURNER:

9 Q. You mentioned reviewing SOPs. What -- are you called on many
10 times in the review process where your SOP -- where you get to
11 have him put that maybe they need to change, or take away --

12 A. Oh yeah. We can --

13 Q. -- or improve it?

14 A. There is a --

15 Q. Or improvements?

16 A. Yeah. There is a -- we can submit changes that we feel like
17 need to be on the SOPs, yes.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Okay. Would you say sometimes when you look at that, is it
21 site specific maybe? Or station? Or is it something more common
22 down the line of --

23 A. It's common.

24 Q. -- with the area?

25 A. Yeah.

1 MR. TURNER: Okay.

2 MR. DIAL: Gary Dial.

3 BY MR. DIAL:

4 Q. Just a clarification on when you were describing the
5 incident. You had mentioned Line 25 instead of 15.

6 A. It's 15. I'm sorry.

7 Q. Okay. That's fine.

8 A. Thank you.

9 Q. Just wanted to clarify that.

10 A. Yeah. A lot of numbers.

11 Q. Yeah.

12 A. You know?

13 Q. The other thing, any -- do you know of any work that we had
14 had planned or had done in that general area leading up to that?

15 A. No, sir. As you know, I was in Little Rock and Knoxville for
16 11 years. And since I've been back, they haven't been. You
17 know --

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. -- we don't know. I asked a guy. I said, did you all do
20 anything while I was gone out there? No.

21 Q. Okay. And nothing a week, month before? Nothing that we had
22 going on --

23 A. No, sir.

24 Q. -- anywhere out there?

25 A. Uh-uh.

1 MR. DIAL: Okay.

2 MR. TZAMOS: Bill Tzamos.

3 BY MR. TZAMOS:

4 Q. Mr. McGuffey, about 5 years ago, 2014 if I'm not mistaking,
5 you reversed flow on your line. Do you feel like you received
6 adequate training on how to operate with the change? You and all
7 your employees, I mean?

8 A. Oh yeah. We done a lot of training when -- before we put it
9 in service. And we had the management of train (sic) -- a
10 management of change we had to complete. You know, and you still
11 learn, when you put something new in, it's not like we used to do
12 it.

13 Q. Yes, sir.

14 A. But it's the same equipment, same valves. And I think so,
15 yes, sir. I mean, we marked our new valves where our employees
16 could tell it's south -- north valve, and different numbers, you
17 know? Yes, sir. I do. Yeah. I still get mixed up sometimes,
18 but I don't operate, you know?

19 Q. Well you mentioned you have 43 years' experience operating
20 pipelines, correct? And I assume that's not always with Enbridge,
21 right? You worked previously with --

22 A. Oh, it's the same company, but, you know, we started out
23 Texas Eastern, then we went Pan Eastern, then Duke, and then
24 Spectra. Same group of guys, you know?

25 Q. Same group of guys?

1 A. Different --

2 Q. Different --

3 A. -- upper management.

4 Q. Did the change of ownership change the climate of safety
5 because you --

6 A. No.

7 Q. -- mentioned --

8 A. I can't say that. No. We still have safety number one.

9 Q. Nothing you want to say about it?

10 A. Safety of our employees and our neighbors, the landowners.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Try to operate safe. And we have something like that, it
13 really digs at you, why? You know? Because we take pride in our
14 company, you know?

15 Q. No matter who's the owner?

16 A. No matter who -- whoever pays us, we take pride in it. I'm
17 easy. No, we do.

18 MR. TZAMOS: Okay. That's all I've got.

19 MR. DRAKE: Andy Drake. I've got a couple of questions.

20 BY MR. DRAKE:

21 Q. One is a follow up question to Gary's question. There was
22 some comment that one of the landowners made about flagging in the
23 area, you know, a week or 2 weeks before. Does any -- was there
24 anything out of the line marking or --

25 A. No.

1 Q. -- an MO1 call, or anything that was going on --

2 A. No.

3 Q. -- out there?

4 A. We're pulling of our One-Calls now, but no there wasn't.
5 This one lady kept saying, well you guys kept coming in there with
6 these coolers on each line. And I said, what is she talking
7 about? And then I got to thinking. It's got to be where we run
8 our tools, you know, we put our boxes there to mark the tools.

9 Q. Oh, the AGMs?

10 A. AGMs, yeah. But yeah, I didn't know what she was talking
11 about. And I couldn't understand it.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. But as far as -- no. There was no flagging that I was aware
14 of.

15 Q. Okay. For the record, AGM is above ground markers use to
16 monitor where the line inspection tool is during its transit from
17 one station to the next. A second question, you talked about the
18 budget. And, you know, the budget's a big budget.

19 A. Getting bigger.

20 Q. There's -- I mean a lot of components, not --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Not --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- dollar volume, but I mean just a lot of things go into the
25 budget. There -- are all of the things that happen in the area

1 budgeted by the area? I mean things like in-line inspection
2 tools --

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. -- or hider tests (ph.)?

5 A. No. The region staff --

6 Q. Close interval surveys?

7 A. -- budgets something, you know? They get to -- the get the
8 call from the vendors, and then they put it in our budget, yes,
9 sir.

10 Q. So some of it's done in Nashville?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Some of it's done in Houston?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. I think that -- it's a complex process I think.

15 A. Yeah. Oh yeah. No, when we put in the budget our budget,
16 what we see we're going to be doing next year. And the time we
17 get it back to the region, it's a completely different budget, you
18 know? But no, they do it.

19 MR. DRAKE: Okay. Those are the questions I had.

20 MR. BAUMAN: I did want to follow up.

21 BY MR. BAUMAN:

22 Q. If you had an odor complaint, would it be written up as a
23 work order and be in your SAP system?

24 A. It's going to be, yes. We're just now getting that set up,
25 but we got a call the other night in Winchester, that the

1 landowner was smelling gas. And we knew it wasn't us because our
2 gas is odorless.

3 But I sent the crew out, they went out, and before we got out
4 there, we knew what it was. It was right beside a Columbia Gas
5 Meter Station that is odorized. But we sent our people out, and
6 walked the right-of-way with the leak detector. And then we
7 called the landowner back, and filled out the report.

8 Emergencies, send -- more emergency situation on the pipeline
9 I think. I can't think of the form number right now, but the
10 supervisor does that. That was in Owingsville, that wasn't in
11 Danville.

12 Q. Is -- was that in -- process in place before the pipeline
13 rupture?

14 A. Oh yeah. It was --

15 Q. How long has the process --

16 A. It was last Friday.

17 Q. Oh, no. How long has the process of writing this up --

18 A. Oh, ever since I've been working.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. You know, we've always done it, sir. We get a call from a
21 landowner that they smell gas, or hear gas, you know, we go. I
22 don't care if it's 2:00 in the morning, we go check it out. We
23 take our leak detectors out and we walk the right of way, and call
24 him back, let gas control know that there's no problem here. You
25 know, we just -- something we've always done.

1 Q. And then it gets entered that you did the work in the SAP
2 system?

3 A. It's going to be, yes. We've got a -- we would do it now on
4 a form, but we have put together a work order in the SAP. Yes,
5 sir.

6 Q. So right now, you have a stack of forms?

7 A. Yeah. Well, we don't hardly ever get very many calls, I
8 asked the guys today (ph.). You know, we don't get very many
9 calls that they smell the gas, or suspect a leak.

10 Q. Okay. But there was none from the area of --

11 A. No, sir.

12 Q. -- the rupture?

13 A. Uh-uh. I asked that too this week.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. None.

16 Q. And then how are One-Calls handled in your system?

17 A. They're in SAP.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. In a -- it comes out every morning that, you know, where we
20 got a SAS list, and One-Calls, or set up, or -- I see them all,
21 but the location sees our One-Calls, and the pipeliners handle it
22 -- go out and check it out. And if they do have a -- and if they
23 do have something going on around that area, we'll have to do a
24 follow up on it, and create another work order task. You know,
25 like if there's a house, or a fence, or a barn, something like

1 that.

2 Q. Okay. Were there one One-Calls when they put the trailers in
3 the area there? Or the electric lines? Or have --

4 A. I don't know.

5 Q. -- you looked into that?

6 A. That's been years ago, sir.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. I have no idea.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. They might have been in before One-Call was here. I don't
11 know. But like I said, I was gone for 13 years in Arkansas.

12 Q. Working for the company?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay. We've asked you a lot of questions. Is there anything
15 that we didn't touch on that we should have touched on that you
16 want to talk about?

17 A. No, sir. I don't think so. You've asked a lot of questions.

18 Q. Well, you know --

19 A. No, I don't think so. No.

20 MR. BAUMAN: Okay.

21 MR. TURNER: I've got one follow up questions. You gave an
22 example of -- you got a notification about smelling gas --

23 MR. MCGUFFEY: Yeah.

24 MR. TURNER: -- but you knew it wasn't your line, but it was
25 near Columbia Gulf or --

1 MR. MCGUFFEY: Yeah.

2 MR. TURNER: -- Columbia Gas?

3 MR. MCGUFFEY: yes, sir.

4 MR. TURNER: That being the case, who notifies them if it's
5 not you guys?

6 MR. MCGUFFEY: The landowner called gas control.

7 MR. TURNER: Okay.

8 MR. MCGUFFEY: Gas control called us.

9 MR. TURNER: Right.

10 MR. MCGUFFEY: And then we looked it up on the edge, where it
11 was.

12 MR. TURNER: Okay.

13 MR. MCGUFFEY: And we knew that Columbia Gulf had a station
14 there and they'd put odor in it.

15 MR. TURNER: Right.

16 MR. MCGUFFEY: I said, no, let's go check it. And then in
17 the meantime, we also called the Columbia Gulf guy.

18 MR. TURNER: Okay.

19 MR. MCGUFFEY: So we notified him --

20 MR. TURNER: Right.

21 MR. MCGUFFEY: -- and we followed up -- went out and checked,
22 and walked the right-of-way.

23 MR. TURNER: Right. Okay.

24 MR. MCGUFFEY: And then done the form.

25 MR. TURNER: Okay. That answers my question.

1 MR. HILLER: This is Mike Hiller.

2 BY MR. HILLER:

3 Q. Jim, how long have you been working in this area?

4 A. The last time when I moved?

5 Q. Before you moved, yeah.

6 A. Oh man, 30 -- October 10th, 1975. And I started out as
7 pipeliner, and moved up to a pipeline specialist.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. And then I moved to Owingsville, Kentucky as a supervisor --
10 area supervisor. And then I moved back to Danville as a station
11 supervisor over Danville Compressor Station.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. And that's tiny. I said, I've got to get out of here. And
14 then they asked -- they gave me a job in Little Rock as the area
15 manager, spent 9 years there. And then I went to Knoxville as an
16 area manager, opened the office back up over there.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. And then I came back to Danville as an area manager.

19 Q. So you've had some experience in different type of geology,
20 right?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Is there anything unique about this geology in this area?

23 A. It's bigger. You know, we've got 30 inch pipelines over
24 here. This is a more active area. We run a lot of horsepower,
25 move a lot of gas, and where I was in Little Rock, we didn't run

1 much horsepower. And then the Knoxville area was a single-line
2 system. Here we've got a three-line system. That's about the
3 difference.

4 Q. Yeah.

5 A. Same work.

6 Q. Same work, but just more horsepower, more volume?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. What kind of risks are -- would you say that are in this area
9 as far as moving more volume and higher horsepower? What kind of
10 risks do you -- in your experience, do you anticipate?

11 A. Personally I don't see no more risks, you know? We've got
12 good people, trained people, and -- but I don't, you know -- more
13 demanding. You know, we're -- we've got bigger customers, and,
14 you know, we used to move gas completely north. Now we move it
15 both ways.

16 Q. Yeah.

17 A. And -- but as far as the risk, I don't, you know -- there's
18 always a risk in everything you do.

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. I don't care if you're driving in the car out there.

21 Q. Certainly.

22 A. Yeah. You know? And I don't --

23 Q. Would you say that the age of the infrastructure and the age
24 of the pipes are --

25 A. Personally, no.

1 Q. -- a risk?

2 A. You know, like I said, I started there as a pipeliner, and
3 we've started digging on the pipe. And what I see now, we dig up.
4 Yeah, you're going to find a certain digs you might have to be,
5 you know, concerned about. And we prepare them when we do. But
6 no, I don't think so.

7 Q. Okay. What are the common defects that you see with the pipe
8 in this area?

9 A. Dents. We used to see a lot of dents, but we got most of
10 those already detected on our tool runs. And mild corrosion, you
11 know? And sometimes that fools us and we have more corrosion, but
12 most of the time it's just mild. You know, we've been digging up
13 a lot of pipe this year, and most of it was coating backfills from
14 what I've seen.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. I feel like this is still good pipeline, yes. Not a new one,
17 but it's a good one.

18 Q. I understand.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Just because it's old, it doesn't mean it's --

21 A. I'm old, you know?

22 Q. -- not still good.

23 A. No, I don't have a risk (ph.) with it.

24 Q. Yeah. Are you able to meet the inspection intervals that you
25 need to for the pipes themselves --

1 A. Sure. Yeah.

2 Q. -- whether they be autonomous inspections --

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. -- and/or --

5 A. Yeah. You know --

6 Q. -- other type?

7 A. -- a lot -- most of the time when we run a tool there, we'll
8 have a due date. We don't miss that due date.

9 Q. Never?

10 A. At least in me area we're not going to.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Because I'll watch that due date.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. I've had my hand smacked before in my early days.

15 Q. Yeah. Would you say that those tests are revealing? Are
16 they helpful? Do they find defects?

17 A. Sure.

18 Q. Yeah?

19 A. Yeah. They're very -- there are very few times that we'll
20 dig up a piece of pipe and there's nothing there.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. No. There's something there.

23 Q. Okay. And how often are you finding defects? Have you seen
24 an increase over the last several years?

25 A. No, I don't think so. No, I think it's decreasing.

1 Q. You think it's decreasing?

2 A. Yeah. And not as severe.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. And, you know, your tools are different now than they were 20
5 years ago. And -- but no, I think our pipeline's getting better,
6 yeah. In my opinion. And I'm not an expert on it. Don't get me
7 wrong.

8 Q. Okay. Do you feel like you're -- you and your staff get
9 enough training?

10 A. Get too much. No.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. We do. We get enough training. I mean, we're constantly
13 training on something. But I -- it's like the other night, it
14 paid off. It paid off. And I feel like I get to thinking back on
15 the other training we do. Used to be out there and think, why are
16 we doing this for? But after the other night, I'm thinking
17 differently, you know?

18 MR. HILLER: Okay. No further questions from me.

19 MR. BAUMAN: I'm all done.

20 MR. HILLER: And with that, we conclude this interview at
21 1:56 p.m. Thank you.

22 MR. MCGUFFEY: Thank you all.

23 MR. DIAL: Thank you.

24 MR. MCGUFFEY: Yes, sir.

25 (Whereupon, at 1:56 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF: NATURAL GAS PIPELINE RUPTURE
AND FIRE, DANVILLE, KENTUCKY
AUGUST 1, 2019
Interview of Jim McGuffey

ACCIDENT NO.: PLD19FR002

PLACE: Holiday Inn, Danville, KY

DATE: August 3, 2019

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
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Christy Wilson
Transcriber