

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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RESIDENTIAL GAS EXPLOSION *

ON SPRINGDALE LANE, MILLERSVILLE, * Accident No.: DCA17FP006

PENNSYLVANIA, JULY 2, 2017 *

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Interview of: JOANNE SCHMIDT

Blue Rock Fire Hall
Millersville, Pennsylvania

Tuesday,
July 25, 2017

APPEARANCES:

ROGER EVANS, Investigator in Charge
National Transportation Safety Board

EDWARD KENDALL, Attorney
National Transportation Safety Board

RICHARD DOWNS, Survival Factors Group Chair
National Transportation Safety Board

TERRI COOPER SMITH, Fixed Utility Evaluation
Engineer III
Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission,

GARY MAURER, Manager, Operations Programs
UGI Utilities

ROBERT KRIEGER, Vice President of Operations
UGI Utilities

TANIA COOPER
Ms. Schmidt's daughter-in-law
(On behalf of Ms. Schmidt)

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I N T E R V I E W

(1:05 p.m.)

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2
3 MR. EVANS: Good afternoon. Today is July 25th. It is now
4 1:05 p.m., and my name is Roger Evans and I am an investigator
5 with the National Transportation Safety Board in Washington, D.C.
6 We are at the Blue Rock Fire hall in Millersville, PA. This
7 interview is being conducted as part of the investigation into the
8 residential gas explosion on Springdale Lane here in Millersville
9 that occurred on July 2, 2017. The NTSB Case No. is DCA17FP006.

10 The purpose of the investigation is to increase safety, not
11 to assign fault, blame or liability. The NTSB cannot offer any
12 guarantee of confidentiality or immunity from legal actions.

13 This interview is being recorded and may be transcribed at a
14 later date. A copy of the transcript will be provided to the
15 interviewee for review prior to being entered into the public
16 docket.

17 Joanne, and the last name again was?

18 MS. SCHMIDT: Schmidt.

19 MR. EVANS: Schmidt. Okay. Joanne Schmidt, you're permitted
20 to have one person present during the interview. This is a person
21 of your choice -- attorney, supervisor, friend, family member or
22 nobody at all. Please state for the record who you have selected?

23 MS. SCHMIDT: My daughter-in-law.

24 MR. EVANS: And daughter-in-law, can you spell your name?

25 MS. COOPER: Tania Cooper. T-A-N-I-A, Cooper.

1 MR. EVANS: And how do you spell Cooper?

2 MS. COOPER: C-O-O-P-E-R.

3 MR. EVANS: Okay. And Joanne, can you please spell your name
4 for us?

5 MS. SCHMIDT: All right. Joanne, J-O-A-N-N-E, Schmidt,
6 S-C-H-M-I-D-T.

7 MR. EVANS: Okay. And you are, are you employed?

8 MS. SCHMIDT: No, I'm retired.

9 MR. EVANS: Okay. Good. Okay. We want to start with just,
10 since this is going to be a brief interview, if you can tell us
11 about your day -- oh, I'm sorry. I forgot my introductions.

12 To my right is --

13 MR. KENDALL: Edward Kendall, NTSB.

14 MR. DOWNS: Richard Downs, Survival Factors Technical Working
15 Group Chairperson, NTSB.

16 MS. COOPER SMITH: Terri Cooper Smith, the Pennsylvania
17 Public Utility Commission. I'm the Fixed Utility Evaluation
18 Engineer III.

19 MR. MAURER: Gary Maurer, Manager, Operations Programs with
20 UGI Utilities.

21 MR. KRIEGER: Bob Krieger. I'm the vice president of
22 Operations for UGI Utilities.

23 INTERVIEW OF JOANNE SCHMIDT

24 BY MR. EVANS:

25 Q. Well, thank you again for appearing today. Just a few -- if

1 we can begin, what is your address?

2 A. [REDACTED].

3 Q. [REDACTED] -- now, can you spell it for us please?

4 A. B-U-R-R, O-A-K.

5 Q. And as far as where that is in relationship to the, where the
6 explosion occurred, how far is that away?

7 A. Jeez, not even a quarter of a mile, I would say.

8 BY MR. DOWNS:

9 Q. Can we refer to the map? Is this direction here, east of the
10 accident site which was here?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And it's the next intersection down?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So for the record, it's one block to the east of the accident
15 site.

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. And how far down that block are you?

18 A. Probably --

19 Q. A few houses?

20 A. About six houses.

21 Q. Six houses in or so?

22 A. Five or six.

23 Q. Five or six?.

24 A. So about a quarter, half a block.

25 Q. Close enough, thank you.

1 A. Yeah.

2 MR. EVANS: And that was Rick Downs speaking.

3 MR. DOWNS: Thank you.

4 BY MR. EVANS:

5 Q. So, and I guess you commonly walk from the neighborhood; is
6 that correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. So on the day of the incident, can you start from when
9 you woke up, go through what you did, and just tell us what you
10 saw, what time it was, who you saw?

11 A. Well, that was the last stretch of my walk, and I walked up
12 the sidewalk, and I got to one of the driveways and smelled like
13 the rotten egg smell.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. And I stopped and looked and I saw an SUV parked in the
16 driveway, so I thought maybe it was running and the exhaust and
17 everything. So I kept going and I got to -- can I use this?

18 Q. Yes, absolutely.

19 A. I got to -- so that driveway was probably down here, which is
20 not in this picture. So I walked up here and my usual leg is to
21 come off of this sidewalk and come around here and go around that
22 circle but I --

23 Q. I'm going to ask you to use this one instead?

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. That's the same thing.

1 A. Okay. And, so back here was where I had the first faint
2 smell and then right up in here when I was ready to go around that
3 circle, it was right back here where I had a really strong smell.
4 And I, it stopped me from my breath. It was that strong.

5 Q. And you feel as though the driveway was perhaps, which
6 address up there?

7 A. This one here?

8 MS. COOPER: So it would have been --

9 MS. SCHMIDT: Well, this is the brick house, 202.

10 MS. COOPER: 202.

11 BY MR. EVANS:

12 Q. 202, That's here?

13 A. Yeah. And where I first smelled it was around 190. I
14 believe so.

15 Q. And when you said you smelled gas at that point, was there
16 any sort of a breeze or anything that day do you recall?

17 A. I, no, I don't think so. I don't recall.

18 Q. Was that the first time you'd ever smelled gas in this area?

19 A. Yes, to the -- yeah.

20 Q. How about your entire neighborhood?

21 A. That's the first time, yeah.

22 Q. Okay. And did you continue on walking around the cul-de-sac?

23 A. No, I did not.

24 Q. So once you smelled the gas at the, at that point there,
25 which is the --

1 A. Yeah. It made me turn around and look right at the brick
2 house. And then I thought --

3 Q. So at that point you turned around and looked at number 202?

4 A. 202. Yeah.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. And then I contemplated going back around, so, but then I
7 decided not to, so I turned around and went, started back.

8 Q. And you were walking your dog?

9 A. No. I did not, I don't have a dog. But I did meet up with a
10 woman coming up this way with a dog when I headed back. And I
11 stopped her and I said, do you live up that way? She says, no, I
12 live down the other way. I said, well, I think I can smell gas.
13 I was like, I'll go home and call UGI. And she says, oh, okay.
14 She says, I -- she kept walking up towards that way. I didn't
15 know her personally. That's the first time I've ever seen her on
16 the walk and the dog.

17 Q. But you did mention to her that you were going to call UGI?

18 A. Yep. Yeah.

19 Q. Okay. And did she have any reaction to that?

20 A. She just said, oh, okay. I'll see what I can find out. Then
21 she just kept walking up. Then I went straight home and dug out
22 the phone number and called UGI.

23 Q. Yeah. We have, we had reports, or maybe rumors that someone
24 had called who was walking a dog.

25 A. She may have called, too. I don't know.

1 Q. Okay. But you were not walk, you were not walking a dog?

2 A. No.

3 Q. And you don't own dog?

4 A. I do not own a dog.

5 Q. Okay. And then where were you when the, what -- by the way,
6 what time was it when you were at that point?

7 A. I had called UGI, according to my phone it was 10:25. So I
8 imagine it was between 10:10 and 10:20.

9 Q. Okay. And what type of a response did you get from UGI when
10 you made the odor complaint?

11 A. They asked me a few questions about the location and if I was
12 still there. And she said that they would have a team out there
13 right away.

14 Q. Okay. Once the call was made -- and I trust you went back to
15 your home?

16 A. I was at home when I called UGI.

17 Q. Oh, so you walked all the way down to your house --

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. -- and made the call to UGI?

20 A. Yeah. I wasn't about to stand there.

21 Q. Okay. Okay. Understood. So were you at your home when the
22 home exploded?

23 A. Yes, I was.

24 Q. Okay. And what time do you think that was?

25 A. Close to -- oh, I'm not sure. I can't say for sure.

1 Q. Hour later, 2 hours later, 3 hours later? No idea?

2 A. I didn't make note of the time.

3 Q. Okay. So when you had --

4 A. I can guess but, you know, I don't think that --

5 Q. Yeah --

6 A. -- would be --

7 Q. Yeah, that's okay.

8 A. Yeah. No.

9 Q. No, that's all right. So at the time of the, when you heard
10 the explosion, did you kind of have in your mind, oh someone's
11 house blew up? Is that what you thought or just thought it was a
12 plane crash, or what was your first impression?

13 A. My first impression was that maybe one of the homes did
14 explode. That was my first impression because of calling UGI and
15 knowing where I smelled the smell was around the cul-de-sac.

16 Q. Okay. Had you, had you talked with anybody else when you
17 were walking down the street besides the one lady that had the
18 dog?

19 A. No.

20 Q. And did you see anybody else out that day besides --

21 A. No, I didn't. I just, I just remember here and her dog.

22 Q. Okay. And I guess you've smelled natural gas before because
23 you knew right off the bat what it was?

24 A. My home's supplied with gas, too, so --

25 Q. So you have a gas oven or something?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Yeah. Okay.

3 A. No, I have a gas water tank, so.

4 Q. Right. Yeah. Okay.

5 MR. EVANS: Any questions?

6 MR. KENDALL: I have no questions.

7 MR. DOWNS: Ms. Schmidt, thanks so much for joining us today,
8 and take a --

9 MS. SCHMIDT: Sure.

10 MR. DOWNS: -- few minutes. I'm going to just recap a little
11 bit and make sure I'm following your --

12 MS. SCHMIDT: Okay.

13 MR. DOWNS: -- path.

14 BY MR. DOWNS:

15 Q. This is a regular walk you do daily, weekly, or how often do
16 you do this?

17 A. It's sporadic. It depends on the weather.

18 Q. Okay. And other factors?

19 A. And other factors, yeah.

20 Q. And you're retired so you got lots of time to walk?

21 A. Yeah. Exactly.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Different times of the day, so.

24 Q. Very good. And you live down the side street over in this
25 area here?

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. And your normal walk is this way towards Springdale, or do
3 you start and go that way, or which way do you do your walk?

4 A. Sometimes I change it up. But this time I went up Burr Oak
5 and went --

6 Q. Up Burr Oak, Burr Oak --

7 A. Then right.

8 Q. -- north and then make --

9 A. I made a right.

10 Q. -- you made a right --

11 A. And went up --

12 Q. -- on Springdale --

13 A. -- all around, yeah, the neighborhood.

14 Q. The neighborhood to the right?

15 A. On that side.

16 Q. Meaning to the east of the accident site?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And then worked your way ultimately back to Springdale
19 Lane?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And then walked past your intersection, up Burr Oak?

22 A. Right.

23 Q. And then walked west on Burr Oak. And you were saying to the
24 effect that you thought you might have been in the neighborhood of
25 the 190 --

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. -- building here, because you thought there was an SUV in the
3 driveway there that sparked your recollection, right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And so when you first smelled the odor, distinct odor, and
6 you knew it was natural gas?

7 A. Well at that time I didn't know because it was that eggy
8 smell.

9 Q. A rotten egg smell?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And you're thinking maybe the exhaust from the car --

12 A. Because of the car.

13 Q. -- might have been contributing to it?

14 A. Yeah

15 Q. Okay, good. And you continued on kind of making a mental
16 note, would that be a fair characterization?

17 A. I can't say yes or no because I just chalked it off that it
18 was the car, the SUV --

19 Q. The car, okay.

20 A. -- and the car in the driveway.

21 Q. And as you were walking to the west, this being north at the
22 top here, was the odor continuing, got worse or less, or --

23 A. No. I didn't notice it until I got to the cul-de-sac.

24 Q. Until you actually got to the edge of the cul-de-sac --

25 A. Correct.

- 1 Q. -- here where there's a mailbox right here.
- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 Q. And that's towards the edge of the cul-de-sac. And right in
4 the area by that mailbox, kind of at the end of the sidewalk here,
5 the paved sidewalk, is that when you smelled it again?
- 6 A. I was off the sidewalk onto the street.
- 7 Q. Pavement, itself?
- 8 A. Yes, Mm-hmm.
- 9 Q. Okay. And that's when it distinctively hit you?
- 10 A. Yes. It got -- yup.
- 11 Q. Very good. And what was your thinking again? That it --
- 12 A. Well, I --
- 13 Q. -- was definitely a natural --
- 14 A. -- I was --
- 15 Q. -- gas leak or --
- 16 A. I wasn't sure if I was going to be able to continue to
17 breath, it was that strong, but --
- 18 Q. That strong and it stopped you in your tracks --
- 19 A. Yeah, it did.
- 20 Q. -- so to speak?
- 21 A. Exactly.
- 22 Q. Good. I don't want to put --
- 23 A. Yeah.
- 24 Q. -- words in your mouth but sometimes I will --
- 25 A. Yeah. This --

1 Q. -- help you along with your --

2 A. -- just stopped me right there and I just looked around and I
3 thought, well, I'm not going any further. I'm turning around and
4 going home. So --

5 Q. And you indicated you went, started to go across the street
6 thinking maybe you were going to go around this way?

7 A. No, the opposite way. I was thinking of going clockwise.

8 Q. This way?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay, so you stepped out in the street thinking you were
11 maybe going to go this way?

12 A. Right.

13 Q. But you didn't want to go any further?

14 A. Right.

15 Q. Then you turned around and walked east?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. And about how far did you get before the odor started
18 to dissipate or disappear? Do you have any landmarks you can
19 refer to?

20 A. After that first initial whiff, I didn't smell it after that.
21 I didn't notice it after that.

22 Q. So after you stepped off the sidewalk in this area here, it
23 really got strong?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Then you turned around and headed east, and then it, you

1 didn't notice it?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Good. Okay, good. And did you continue in the road? Did
4 you get to the sidewalk or how did you continue your walk?

5 A. I continued my walk on the road a little bit because I saw
6 the woman coming up with the dog on the sidewalk. So I don't
7 always meet people like that on the sidewalk. I stay on the road.

8 Q. It sounds like you're a fairly sociable person in your
9 neighborhood, is that --

10 A. I try.

11 Q. About where was the lady with the dog? Was it near the 190
12 building, 186 do you think? Best guess?

13 A. I would, I would say between the 190 and 198, yeah.

14 Q. Somewhere in this area --

15 A. With that, in there, right around --

16 Q. -- here, between --

17 A. -- in there, yeah.

18 Q. -- 190 and 198.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And she was on the sidewalk with a dog?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you approached that person. You had a little chat?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And you mentioned the odor?

25 A. Yes. I said, I think I smell gas. I think I'll go home and

1 call UGI.

2 Q. And the lady said?

3 A. I remember her saying, oh, okay. I'll see what I can find
4 out. And she continued up the street.

5 Q. Continued, and you continued on back and you went directly
6 east on Springdale to your side street?

7 A. Yup.

8 Q. And continued down your side street directly to the house?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And you arrived at the house and what happened?

11 A. I went to my filing cabinet to dig out the 800 number.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. To find out which one to call -- about because you say, if
14 you smell gas call such and such, so that's what I did.

15 Q. Great. And you used your cellphone?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And your cellphone is nicely time stamped, it sounds like?

18 A. It is, yes.

19 Q. So you got the 10:25?

20 A. 10:25 a.m.

21 Q. Right. 10:25 call. And you described the call and the folks
22 at UGI were very helpful and amenable? No trouble there, right?

23 A. Oh, oh no, none at all.

24 Q. Okay. Did they tell you to take any action?

25 A. No. She, they just took, asked for my name and phone number

1 and said that they would have a team out there right away.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. And that was it.

4 Q. That was it?

5 A. That was the end of the phone call.

6 Q. Okay. Great. Let me ask you this, Ms. Schmidt. How did you
7 know to call the gas company? UGI?

8 A. Well, if you smell gas and you're not sure where it's coming
9 from --

10 Q. Let me, let me, let me be a little clearer here. Did you
11 receive anything that provided you instructions on what to do if
12 you smell gas?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you receive anything in your gas bill, for example?

15 A. Just the little blurb in there that says, if you smell gas,
16 call.

17 Q. That's what, that's what --

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. -- I'm getting at. You received --

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. -- something. I don't, I don't want to prompt the answer
22 here.

23 A. Okay. That's all right. That's all right

24 Q. I'm just trying elicit the --

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. -- the answer.

2 A. Yeah. Right.

3 Q. So you did get something that you recall in your gas bill?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Was it a little flier, a big flier, what was it?

6 A. No. It was my actual utility bill, where in the section
7 there's, you know, a little information. But then, I think it's
8 on, maybe on the back. I can't remember now because I'm paperless
9 now.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. So I kept one of the paper ones.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. So it might be in the back where there's a statement that
14 says it.

15 Q. On the back of the envelope?

16 A. No, the --

17 Q. Or back of the bill?

18 A. -- bill, yeah.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I think so.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Of --

23 Q. And you kept this bill from a ways back and it just happened
24 to be filed away in the drawer?

25 A. Yes, that was when I first moved in --

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. -- that I kept it.

3 Q. Let me ask you the \$64 trick question.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. If you didn't keep the paper copy, how would you know to
6 call?

7 A. I probably would have Googled it on my phone.

8 Q. Googled it up?

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. And you feel fairly confident you'd be able to get their
11 number from there?

12 A. Sure. Yeah.

13 Q. Okay, that would have been your backup process, --

14 A. Yes, correct.

15 Q. -- in other words.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. I want to be careful not to prompt an answer here.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. So we want to --

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. -- learn the process here.

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. Okay. And you were, you were at your house after you made
24 the phone call to UGI, doing whatever you needed to do and then at
25 some point later on you describe hearing a noise, an explosion, or

1 what was that?

2 A. Yeah, I just heard a big boom.

3 Q. Big boom?

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. Okay. Did you happen to look out the window and see anything
6 or no?

7 A. I was out on the back deck at that time.

8 Q. Back deck? Is your back deck kind of got a view of the east
9 or no you can't see that far over?

10 A. The view is east.

11 Q. East. Oh, you're on the other side of the street?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You're on the --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- east side of the street?

16 A. Yes, I am.

17 Q. Okay. Okay. I'm thinking you were on the west side, but --

18 A. No.

19 Q. -- you're on the east side of the street?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Okay, good. So you wouldn't of seen it anyways?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Okay, very good. Okay, and what did you do when you heard
24 the boom? Did you dial 911 or anything, or --

25 A. No, I did not. I did, like -- I went through the house and

1 ran to the front door and, like, everybody else was doing and --

2 Q. Was it your thinking that it's not my house thank God or --

3 A. Oh, hell -- oh, sorry.

4 Q. That's quite all right.

5 A. No. I would say, I was just hoping that my phone call to UGI
6 was enough.

7 Q. Helpful?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Very good. And you were saying your neighbors were all
10 looking outside about the same time when you went out to look?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. And everybody was wondering the same thing?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. And then what happened after that? Everybody's
15 talking amongst themselves, amongst the neighbors or so, or -- did
16 you happen to hear fire trucks or anything arrive?

17 A. When I was sitting out on the back deck, I heard one of the
18 fire trucks coming in.

19 Q. You heard the siren coming up --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- coming up Springdale?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that was after the explosion?

24 A. Yes. No, no, no. That was before.

25 Q. Before the explosion?

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. Okay that -- my second trick question.

3 A. No, that was before.

4 Q. Very good. So you heard it with the siren coming up before.
5 About how much before? Best guess? I realize you're not watching
6 the clock necessarily.

7 A. Well, I remember sitting there thinking, oh, thank goodness,
8 you know, they got people there checking it out, and then the, I
9 would say, it wasn't very long, maybe 10 or 15 minutes.

10 Q. Ten or 15?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Okay, very good. Okay. Is there anything else that you can
13 think of you'd want to add to the discussion, that we're not
14 asking you the right question, maybe? Let's put it this way. You
15 do -- anything here that you'd do maybe differently now that you
16 know what you know?

17 A. Now that I know what I know, I wish I had called 911, as
18 well.

19 Q. Back when you were near the gas odor you mean? Or?

20 A. I wouldn't have done it near the gas odor. I maybe, I
21 probably should have used my cellphone on the way home.

22 Q. Did you have phone with you at the time?

23 A. I did, yes.

24 Q. Okay. But in retrospect you're thinking now maybe 911. But
25 the instructions on the gas bill, does it say call UGI or does it

1 say call 911?

2 A. Call to UGI.

3 Q. UGI?

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. Definitely UGI, huh?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Very good.

8 MR. DOWNS: Okay. I'm good on questions. Let me pass it
9 down to Ms. Terri?

10 BY MS. COOPER SMITH:

11 Q. Hi, Terri Cooper Smith, Pennsylvania Public Utility
12 Commission. Ms. Schmidt, on the day, when you're walking, I just
13 want to make sure you're walking on this side of Springdale,
14 right?

15 A. The sidewalk side.

16 Q. On the sidewalk --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. -- side of Springdale, so that's the south side of
19 Springdale. Thank you. You're walking on the south side of
20 Springdale. You get up to about, to somewhere between 198 and 202
21 when you encounter someone with a dog? Am I correct? Or was that
22 further back? I'm sorry, between -- where did you encounter the
23 person with the dog? What address --

24 A. I --

25 Q. -- is that? Between 190 --

1 A. Between --

2 Q. -- and --

3 A. -- 198 and 190, on the way --

4 Q. On to --

5 A. -- back.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Like on my return.

8 Q. On your way back? Okay. And that person was walking towards
9 the cul-de-sac?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. And you've never seen this person before in your
12 neighborhood?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Are you a dog person?

15 A. I was. I have been.

16 Q. Can you, can you describe to me what type of dog she was
17 walking? Was it a she first of all? Or was it a he?

18 A. The person?

19 Q. The person.

20 A. That was a woman.

21 Q. That was a woman? What type of dog was she walking? Do you
22 remember?

23 A. I don't know. It was like a middle, mid-size dog, seemed to
24 have long hair.

25 Q. Long hair?

1 A. On the blondish side.

2 Q. Okay. And, you take this route regularly?

3 A. Not on a regular basis, but --

4 Q. Not on a regular basis?

5 A. Yeah. I think that was probably the first time I was up
6 there in over a week.

7 Q. Okay. And there was no one else you saw on the street or
8 even out, coming out of their houses at all while you were
9 walking?

10 A. No.

11 MS. COOPER SMITH: And that's it for my questions.

12 MR. MAURER: Nothing.

13 BY MR. KRIEGER:

14 Q. Robert Krieger, UGI. Just one question. You said that you
15 walked there on a fairly regular basis and that you were there the
16 week prior?

17 A. Probably.

18 Q. Probably?

19 A. I'm saying probably --

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. -- because I don't log my walks so I can't say for sure.

22 Q. Understood. On that, on that prior trip, you did not smell
23 gas on the prior trip that you had walked up there?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Okay. You didn't speak to anybody other than the, when you

1 called into UGI, you didn't speak to anybody else from UGI?

2 A. Correct. That's correct.

3 MR. KREIGER: No further questions. Thank you.

4 BY MR. EVANS:

5 Q. This is Roger Evans. As far as the dog walker, would you
6 recognize that person if you saw her again?

7 A. That's hard to say because it was the first time.

8 Q. How about the dog? Would you recognize the dog?

9 A. That's hard to say as well, so.

10 Q. Okay. But you, but you haven't --

11 A. I could try, let's put it that way.

12 Q. So you haven't seen that person since then?

13 A. No, I haven't.

14 Q. Okay.

15 MR. EVANS: That's all I have.

16 MR. DOWNS: I'm good.

17 MS. COOPER SMITH: I'm good.

18 MR. MAURER: Good.

19 MR. KRIEGER: I'm good. Thank you.

20 MR. EVANS: Thank you very much.

21 MR. DOWNS: Thank you much.

22 MS. SCHMIDT: Okay.

23 MR. EVANS: That concludes the interview.

24 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: RESIDENTIAL GAS EXPLOSION
 ON SPRINGDALE LANE, MILLERSVILLE,
 PENNSYLVANIA, JULY 2, 2017
 Interview of Joanne Schmidt

ACCIDENT NUMBER: DCA17FP006

PLACE: Millersville, Pennsylvania

DATE: July 25, 2017

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



Romona Phillips
Transcriber