

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION PIPELINE

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LEAK AND MULTISTORY STRUCTURE

\*

EXPLOSION IN HARLEM, NEW YORK

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MARCH 12, 2014

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Interview of: DENNIS DELANEY

Con Edison  
 4 Irving Place  
 New York, New York

Wednesday,  
 August 6, 2014

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RAVI CHHATRE  
 Investigator-in-Charge

## APPEARANCES:

RAVI CHHATRE, Investigator-in-Charge  
National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, D.C.

KALU KELLY EMEABA, Accident Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

MATTHEW NICHOLSON, Accident Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

FRANK McCARTON, Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Emergency Management  
New York, New York  
(Party Representative)

ANASTASIOS GEORGELIS, Director of Field Operations  
Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations  
Department of Environmental Protection  
New York, New York

LEONARD SINGH, Chief Engineer  
Gas Distribution Services  
Con Edison  
(Party Representative)

CHRIS STOLICKY, Utility Supervisor (Safety)  
New York State Department of Public Service  
(Party Representative)

BELINA ANDERSON, Esq.  
(Representative on behalf of Mr. Delaney)

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## I N T E R V I E W

MR. CHHATRE: Good afternoon. Today is Wednesday, August 6th, 2014. We are currently in Con Edison's facility located at 4 Irving Place, New York. We are meeting regarding the investigation of natural gas distribution pipeline leak and multistory structure explosion that occurred on March 12, 2014 in Harlem, New York.

My name is Ravi Chhatre. I'm with the National Transportation Safety Board located in Washington, D.C. and I'm Investigator-in-Charge of this accident. The NTSB investigation number for the accident is DCA-14-MP-002.

Also, I'd like to start by notifying everyone present in this room that we are recording this interview and we will transcribe it at a later date. The transcripts will be provided directly to the interviewee for review and identifying any typographical errors. The transcripts may be posted in NTSB's public docket.

Also, I would also like to inform Mr. Dennis Delaney that you are permitted to have one other person present with you during the interview. This is a person of your choice: a supervisor, a family member, friend, or nobody at all if you choose.

Please state for the record your full name, spelling of your name, organization you work for and your title, business contact information such as mailing address, and whom you have

1 chosen to be present with you during your interview.

2 MR. DELANEY: My name is Dennis Delaney, D-e-n-n-i-s,  
3 Delaney, D-e-l-a-n-e-y. I'm chief of maintenance and repair for  
4 Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island. I work for the New York City  
5 Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water and Sewer  
6 Operations, Division of Field Operations. The address is 155917  
7 Junction Boulevard, Corona, New York 11368.

8 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. And whom you have chosen to be with  
9 you?

10 MR. DELANEY: No one. No one.

11 MR. CHHATRE: No one?

12 MR. DELANEY: Oh, I chose -- I'm sorry. I forgot your  
13 name.

14 MS. ANDERSON: Belina Anderson.

15 MR. DELANEY: I chose Belina.

16 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

17 MS. ANDERSON: Everyone (indiscernible) today.

18 MR. CHHATRE: Now I'd like to go around the room and  
19 have each person introduce themselves. Please state your name,  
20 the spelling of your name, your title and the organization that  
21 you represent, and your business contact information. Starting  
22 from my right.

23 MR. NICHOLSON: Matthew Nicholson, NTSB investigator,  
24 M-a-t-t-h-e-w, N-i-c-h-o-l-s-o-n, [REDACTED].

25 MR. EMEABA: Kalu Kelly Emeaba, K-a-l-u, K-e-l-l-y,

1 E-m-e-a-b-a. I'm an NTSB investigator. My e-mail address  
2 [REDACTED].

3 MR. McCARTON: My name is Frank McCarton. I'm the  
4 Deputy Commissioner in the Office of Emergency Management. I am a  
5 New York City party member on the investigation. My e-mail  
6 address is [REDACTED]. If I had a dollar for every  
7 time I said that, I'd be rich.

8 MR. GEORGELIS: Anastasios Georgelis,  
9 A-n-a-s-t-a-s-i-o-s, G-e-o-r-g-e-l-i-s. I'm here with Frank. I  
10 work for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.  
11 My title is Director of Field Operations, Bureau of Water and  
12 Sewer Operations. My e-mail address is [REDACTED].

13 MS. ANDERSON: My name is Belina Anderson, B-e-l-i-n-a,  
14 last name A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n, and I am an assistant counsel in the  
15 New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and my e-  
16 mail address is [REDACTED].

17 MR. SINGH: Leonard Singh -- L-e-o-n-a-r-d, S-i-n-g-h --  
18 Chief Engineer, Gas Distribution, Con Edison; also Con Edison's  
19 party rep on the NTSB investigation. It's [REDACTED].

20 MR. STOLICKY: Chris Stolickey, S-t-o-l-i-c-k-y. I'm the  
21 New York State party rep. I'm a Utility Supervisor (Safety) for  
22 the New York State Department of Public Service. My e-mail  
23 address is [REDACTED].

24 MR. CHHATRE: Thank you very much.

25 INTERVIEW OF DENNIS DELANEY

1 BY MR. CHHATRE:

2 Q. Mr. Delaney, for the record, please tell us your  
3 education background, formal/informal training related to your  
4 work and what your current responsibilities entail.

5 A. So my education consists of high school. I have worked  
6 for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection in  
7 field operations in various roles for the past 33 years. I -- on-  
8 the-job training. I also have a Grade D distribution license.

9 Q. And what is that license again? Grade?

10 A. It's a New York State Health -- Department of Health  
11 license.

12 Q. And what does the license allows you to do?

13 A. Let's me, you know, be an operator of the water supply.

14 Q. Okay. So as chief of maintenance what are your  
15 responsibilities?

16 A. I'm responsible for maintenance and repair in the Bronx,  
17 Manhattan, and Staten Island.

18 Q. Of?

19 A. Of the water distribution and the sewer collection  
20 system. Public water system operator certification.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. That's, that's what it is.

23 Q. Okay. So maintenance and repair of water distribution  
24 system, what does that involve? What do you do on a daily basis?

25 A. So we have in-house field operations forces consisting

1 of mostly laborers and supervisors, and they respond to water and  
2 sewer complaints. And after they investigate, they'll also -- we  
3 have a repair section that will make repairs. So I'm responsible  
4 for the maintenance and repair facilities.

5 Q. Okay. So how would they know about a complaint?

6 A. So, we -- we're in the 311 system. You would -- if  
7 you're a complainant you would call 311. 311 would take the call  
8 and ask a series of questions. And then, depending on your  
9 answers to their questions, they'll direct your complaint to  
10 either a water or sewer maintenance facility.

11 Q. Okay. And so you guys look at that input every day or  
12 do they just come to you automatically? How does that work?

13 A. It's done electronically, yes. We have facilities -- we  
14 always have someone on staff responsible for addressing a water or  
15 sewer complaint.

16 Q. So, a 311 operator will send you an e-mail or they send  
17 you an e-mail address or --

18 A. So 311 inputs it into their system. Their computer  
19 system interfaces with our system. Our system will auto generate  
20 a customer service request. The customer service request,  
21 depending on the location, will be routed to the appropriate  
22 responding maintenance personnel.

23 Q. Okay. And which area do you cover, all five boroughs or  
24 just Manhattan or --

25 A. So, I'm responsible for Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten



1 Island. I'm also acting chief of Brooklyn and Queens.

2 Q. Okay. So once a request comes from 311, either for  
3 water or sewage, what happens to that request next?

4 A. So the 311 operator will input it into their system.  
5 Their system will interface with our system. That complaint,  
6 depending on what borough it's in and if it's a sewer -- if it's a  
7 sewer maintenance complaint, it could be directed in Brooklyn and  
8 Queens to one of two different facilities, but it'll be directed  
9 to a maintenance facility to be investigated.

10 Q. So it will go to the maintenance system of the region's  
11 computer?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So who is looking at the computer? How -- I'm looking  
14 for a timeline, what happens when 311 sends -- generates a ticket  
15 or information? Who looks at those tickets when it goes to  
16 different computers?

17 A. So it'll -- well, it'll generate into one of our  
18 facilities. There will be a clerical person there who's watching  
19 the screen and seeing when a complaint comes in. And also there's  
20 a supervisor and a district supervisor usually in the facility.  
21 And depending on the complaint and the type of complaint, it will  
22 be routed.

23 Q. Is it 24/7, or is it just dayshift only and all the  
24 night complaints would be handled during the day?

25 A. So what happens is that during the day all of our

1 facilities are open. And depending on the evenings, most of our  
2 facilities -- the sewer maintenance facilities close down.  
3 They're only open during the day. The water maintenance  
4 facilities, depending on the borough, are open -- some are open 24  
5 hours, some are open two shifts, some are open till midnight. But  
6 -- so, if you have a water complaint in the Bronx after midnight,  
7 the responding personnel will be coming from Manhattan.

8           So there's always somebody to respond to your complaint.  
9 So it's different -- responsibilities change depending on the time  
10 of the day or the day, whether it's a weekend, but there's always  
11 somebody to respond to you -- to a complaint citywide.

12       Q. And then what happens when somebody responds to the  
13 complaint? What does that person do then?

14       A. They'll investigate the -- whatever the complaint is,  
15 whether it's a noisy manhole cover or a leaky fire hydrant,  
16 they'll go to the location and they'll look for what the  
17 complainant is complaining about.

18       Q. And is there a priority list? You get 20 complaints and  
19 -- how do you handle those? Is there a priority list based on the  
20 description or -- what's the basis?

21       A. So -- yes. Depending on -- a water main break would be  
22 a priority; a sewer backup would be a priority, sewer maintenance.  
23 We have various sets of priorities.

24       Q. Now, is the leak survey also part of your responsibility  
25 that leak survey is done, or there is a described time frame?

1           A.    Yes.

2           Q.    And is sewer maintenance also a part of your  
3 responsibility?

4           A.    Yes.

5           Q.    Now, the water line, water main leak surveys, how do you  
6 train the people to do the leak survey?

7           A.    We have on-the-job training.  So we have supervisors  
8 that learn from other supervisors, and supervisors teach their  
9 laborers to do what they need done.

10          Q.    And so how does a supervisor decide that, okay, John Doe  
11 and Jane Doe now is qualified to go and do the job on their own?  
12 Is there an exam or some sort of a certification or --

13          A.    No.  It's strictly on-the-job training.

14          Q.    Okay.  Maybe to clarify, who decides that a person is  
15 now able to go and do the survey on their own rather than being  
16 buddy with a person with experience?

17          A.    It will be a supervisor.

18          Q.    Okay.  A supervisor decides that, okay, now you are good  
19 to go on your own?

20          A.    Yes.

21          Q.    Are the water leaks on the main -- do you always get  
22 those complaints from 311 or private citizens can call directly to  
23 you guys or that's the only source for any complaints, water or  
24 sewer?

25          A.    So the large majority of our complaints would come

1 through 311. If for some reason, not normally, someone calls us  
2 or has our number or sends us an e-mail, we'll tell them to call  
3 311. The only exception that I'm aware of to that would be is if  
4 one of the other agencies, like the fire department or OEM, if  
5 they are alerted to a transit or somebody is aware of a problem  
6 before us, we have an emergency call center that they can contact  
7 the emergency call center, and the emergency call center could  
8 direct a crew right away or also the emergency call center would  
9 then make sure that there's a Hansen work order or customer  
10 service request.

11 MR. CHHATRE: That's all I have.

12 MR. SINGH: Ravi, on that note, before -- can I  
13 interject?

14 MR. CHHATRE: Sure, you can go.

15 MR. SINGH: If we can start -- it's relevant.

16 MR. CHHATRE: Yeah, go ahead.

17 BY MR. SINGH:

18 Q. So, Dennis, once -- let's say you get a referral from  
19 the DOT for either sunken street, broken hole, what is the process  
20 to go through that and how do you close that out?

21 A. So, if DOT -- they have a HIQA, so -- they have a HIQA  
22 division that will inspect for roadway defects. HIQA will then --  
23 their system will auto generate and then interface with our  
24 system, and then we'll receive a complaint through the Hansen  
25 system directly from DOT.

1 Q. Right. And what do you do with that? I mean, do you go  
2 out and do an investigation?

3 A. Well, it depends on what the complaint is. If it's a  
4 defective hardware --

5 Q. Surface street.

6 A. Same thing. We investigate, yes.

7 Q. So you find something or you don't find something; two  
8 options, two paths. Let's say you find something. You find a  
9 sound in a water main or a defective sewer. What actions --

10 A. So, the HIQA is mainly -- we're talking about roadway  
11 defects.

12 Q. Yeah, if it's --

13 A. If it's hardware or a street cave-in or a hole in the  
14 street or something that they feel is related to DEP  
15 infrastructure. So we'll go and investigate it and if we find  
16 something, we'll take corrective action or we'll generate work  
17 orders to make corrective action.

18 If we feel that they're sending us this by mistake,  
19 we'll file an appeal with DOT saying we -- this is -- we shouldn't  
20 have this; this isn't really our problem; this is somebody else's  
21 problem. And then we set up a joint investigation with HIQA and  
22 usually with DOT roadway maintenance, and we come to some  
23 resolution as to what -- who's responsible for the condition.  
24 Sometimes it involves Con Edison or -- and probably the city or  
25 someone else.

1 Q. Do you know -- and I'll get specific to Park Avenue  
2 between 116 and 117 -- if over the last several years there were  
3 multiple reports of potential issues there? Was there ever a  
4 combined agency meeting to address that issue?

5 A. I don't know. I've heard that there was a complaint of  
6 a roadway defect in Park Avenue and 116th Street, but I don't  
7 really have any detailed knowledge about that.

8 Q. I have some records that showed '04, '07, and maybe some  
9 others. But it looks like there was some ongoing issue there with  
10 referrals back between the DOT and DEP. So I guess my question,  
11 was there anything done to resolve that, to find an issue that  
12 could potentially be leading to the situation that's been, you  
13 know, going on over time? But apparently you don't have the  
14 knowledge.

15 A. So this HIQA appeal process that I'm discussing, I'm not  
16 sure when it was actually initiated, right. So '04 sounds like it  
17 was before that was initiated. I'm not sure exactly sure when.  
18 There was a pilot program for a while and I don't know when it was  
19 formally adopted, but I don't have the exact date.

20 Q. The other question I had relates to a -- let's say a new  
21 building is going up and somebody wants to connect to your sewer  
22 system. Is there a requirement that you do an inspection of that  
23 sewer and document that before they connect?

24 A. So it's not really my area of expertise. I believe  
25 there is, but it's not my -- I'm in maintenance and repair.

1 Q. Okay. So let's say --

2 A. That would be a different -- that would be connections  
3 and permitting.

4 Q. So let's say connections and permitting, there's a  
5 requirement, and they find a -- the contractor finds a defect in  
6 the sewer. Does that get reported to you for repairs?

7 A. I would think so, but I'm -- you know, I would think we  
8 would get it.

9 Q. Do you recall in October of '06 and August of '11, where  
10 two defects were reported regarding defects in the sewer on Park  
11 Avenue between 116 and 117?

12 A. No.

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

14 MR. CHHATRE: Kelly?

15 BY MR. EMEABA:

16 Q. Well, Lenny has spoken -- he did some of the things I  
17 wanted to say. There has some -- been mentioned Mr. Lenny, and  
18 it's of interest. You said every work you do has to be called in  
19 through 311. And even if another agency finds it, they have to  
20 call in to the emergency contact center.

21 A. So -- yes.

22 Q. You stated that. Okay.

23 A. For customer complaints to us. So if there is a problem  
24 and somebody's alerting us to a problem, the proper procedure is  
25 that that complaint is listed into our system as a customer

1 service request.

2 Q. Through 311?

3 A. Either through 311, or at the emergency call center they  
4 have the ability to input it direct.

5 Q. Okay. You --

6 A. And, as Lenny said, we have our -- DOT interfaces with  
7 our system. I also believe now the fire department interfaces  
8 with our system. So, you know, inter-agencies are starting to  
9 have the ability to go right into our system and generate -- the  
10 fire department, I think they generate work orders for -- the fire  
11 department inspects the fire hydrants. So if they find a  
12 defective hydrant, they can actually generate a work order. They  
13 skip the customer service part and generate a work order right to  
14 the repair section to fix the hydrant.

15 Q. You work for the DEP, correct?

16 A. Yes,

17 Q. Okay. And what department are you in?

18 A. I'm in the Department of Environmental Protection,  
19 Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations. And it's the Division of  
20 Field Operations, and I work in maintenance and repair section.

21 Q. Okay. Do this department have a number that members of  
22 the public may or could call you directly to report any situation?

23 A. No. We might have a -- we had a legacy number prior to  
24 there being a 311 system, yes; after 311 came, no.

25 FRANK MCCARTON: Dennis, may I ask? That was -- they



1 took all the numbers, the city -- this is Frank McCarton -- they  
2 took all the numbers that the city of New York had for customer  
3 service for the city and created one interface, which is called  
4 the 311 system.

5 So, from noise complaints to parking conditions to water  
6 conditions to road conditions to complaining that "My street is  
7 dirty" goes into one system, one generalized system, called the  
8 311 system, and it's categorized and dispatched to the proper  
9 agency for the city of New York to be handled.

10 So you even can go online on your -- you can even go on  
11 your smartphone, take a picture of a location, e-mail the picture  
12 to 311 and get a complaint number. And the complaint number now  
13 is your number when you call back to see what the status of that  
14 complaint is. So there's no more, you know, sewer and water  
15 number and, you know, you have to call him because he's got a  
16 problem with his sewer or you have a problem with your water.  
17 There's one centralized number now for the entire city of New  
18 York, and that's known as 311, 24/7, 7 days a week, and operators  
19 are always standing by to take your call.

20 MR. EMEABA: Okay. Thank you so much. I didn't ask it,  
21 but I thank you for the clarification.

22 BY MR. EMEABA:

23 Q. However, your sewer line -- at least you mentioned  
24 that's part of your responsibilities. How often are sewer main  
25 inspected?

1           A.    So, we inspect -- from maintenance and repair, we  
2   inspect sewers when we have a problem.  So if we see a roadway  
3   defect or a street depression or something, our maintenance people  
4   will go to that location and they'll inspect the sewer.  They'll  
5   pop open the manhole covers and they'll look down.  They'll see  
6   does the sewer looks like it's functioning properly.  You know, is  
7   it backing up or is it coming up in a manhole; is it being  
8   surcharged?  We investigate it.

9               We also have those pole cameras.  They're cameras on an  
10   extendable pole that we drop down and we can get a visual look  
11   inside the sewer, see if we see anything wrong with it.  We also  
12   have the ability to do a confined space entry, although the pole  
13   camera kind of eliminates a lot of that now.

14              And if we don't find the problem or we think it needs  
15   additional investigation, we have a sewer analysis group or which  
16   is now the CMOM is their name, the Capacity Management and  
17   Operation Maintenance.  And we'll forward that issue to them and  
18   they have contracts to TV the sewer with robotic cameras and, you  
19   know, they'll clean the sewer and TV it and look for defects that  
20   maybe we can't see from the manhole.

21           Q.    Okay.  Do you have a standing relationship with DOT  
22   requiring them to inform you anytime they have -- they repave a  
23   roadway that is depressed, as to ask you to check if in that  
24   general area there is a problem with your sewer main?

25           A.    So that would really be a question for DOT.  Now, I know

1 that they forward -- when they have roadway defects they forward  
2 them to us. But every time they pave something -- you know, the  
3 issue always comes up, is it a pothole, is it a roadway condition,  
4 or is it some underlying cause? And when you're talking tens of  
5 thousands of complaints it -- the reason we have this agreement  
6 with HIQA, DOT HIQA is because we really need to focus on the  
7 sewer maintenance and they need to be focusing on roadway  
8 conditions.

9           So, you know, we get the -- when their inspectors go out  
10 and feel there's something underlying, more than just a pothole or  
11 something, they'll forward it to us. But I don't know about every  
12 time they pave the street.

13       Q.    Okay. That is not the question I'm asking. I know you  
14 throw it back and say that question belong to the DOT. But in  
15 this situation it's not. The reason we're asking, based on what  
16 you just said, is the road depressions that enable you to know  
17 there may be a problem with your sewer main, okay, and then prior  
18 to you seeing them, some other person sees it before you do, which  
19 is the DOT, okay, to do -- that's why they do the repaving. They  
20 observe it before you do. Probably if it become much, not taken  
21 care of, comes a point that you see. If it's a cave-in, complete  
22 cave-in, maybe that is the time you come in to see if it affects  
23 sewer then. That's why I ask you. And I want to repeat that  
24 question.

25           Knowing that you depend on DOT observing the roadway for

1 you to know if something is wrong with your sewer, that's why I  
2 ask the same question, should -- okay, let me put it this way.  
3 Should there not be a relationship, an order or a requirement from  
4 them or agreement within -- between you and the DOT to be feeding  
5 you any time they do repaving so that you can also go to check  
6 your own system, your sewer main? Shouldn't there be such a  
7 situation in place?

8 A. So, again, this is really you have to ask them. But  
9 it's been my experience that most of what DOT does is fill in  
10 potholes. So, and you can probably check to see how many potholes  
11 DOT has filled in this year. I'm not going to guess how many, but  
12 I'm going to say tens of thousands of them. So if you're taking  
13 sewer maintenance and you're going to ask them to respond to those  
14 tens of thousands of complaints, you're going to need -- you know,  
15 you -- I mean, when they feel there is an underlying cause, and  
16 it's really, I think, based on if this is something that their  
17 roadway crews can take care of or something that's large or  
18 there's a hole in the street that appears not to have a bottom,  
19 something -- they'll refer it to us.

20 Q. Okay. Let me ask this question because you move -- you  
21 gave me a different answer. If you go to a roadway, are you able  
22 to differentiate a pothole from depression?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. Can you describe a little bit what you would call  
25 a depression on the road?

1       A.    So, a pothole is going to be -- it's isolated.  It's  
2   clearly the asphalt is broken up and there's a hole with a fixed  
3   bottom.  And I can look down and I can see it's 8 inches deep; it  
4   needs to be filled with asphalt.  A roadway depression could be  
5   something that goes the length of a block with the street  
6   oscillating up and down.  That might be a -- that would be a  
7   roadway depression.

8       Q.    Well, you're going for a block.  That's even just --

9       A.    Well, yeah, but we have them, we have them.

10      Q.    Yeah, is there much possible -- we're at least looking  
11   at an area of about 18 feet and by 12 feet, you see that the  
12   roadway depressed, made a concave shape, you know, sliding and  
13   come up, that just -- so in a situation like that, you know, the  
14   DOT people comes to do the repaving, but under it could be a sewer  
15   main.  So a situation like that, that's what I'm asking.

16      A.    See, but, now, that -- what you're describing I would  
17   think that we would get as a complaint.

18      Q.    Get as a complaint.

19      A.    We would get that.

20      Q.    Okay, that's why I'm asking the question.  Do you have  
21   an agreement or a relationship with them whereby they must or  
22   should always feed to you when such road pavement is done -- or  
23   repaving is done so that you can go and check your sewer --

24      A.    So if they found what you are describing, they wouldn't  
25   pave it.  They would refer it to us to do an investigation

1 typically. They would say, oh, that's DEP's issue to -- you know,  
2 and then we would investigate and we would -- you know, sound the  
3 water main. We'd inspect the sewer. We would sound the water  
4 service connections, the sewer service connections from the  
5 buildings. Because just because it's a roadway depression -- I  
6 mean it could be the sewer, it could be the water main, but it  
7 could also be the house lines servicing the properties. So it  
8 could be -- and it could also be an underground stream. It could  
9 also be that when the street was constructed it was not  
10 constructed to -- you know, it doesn't have any base concrete.  
11 You know, and what's the life -- how old is the street we're  
12 looking at? Is it -- I think they said the average street as  
13 constructed in New York City is supposed to last 35 years. You  
14 know, so how -- was that street constructed more than 35 years  
15 ago? Probably.

16               So, you know, this could be -- just because there's a  
17 depression in the street doesn't always correlate to water or  
18 sewer. We didn't even talk about it could be Con Edison. It  
19 could be KeySpan. It could be MTA. It could be, you know, a bad  
20 backfill. You know, we have these things called trench  
21 restorations where, you know, back -- they put -- they used to  
22 leave the sheeting and shoring in the trench; they used to leave  
23 the wood shoring in the street, then they'd pave the street. Now  
24 it's not -- now the standard is you have to take it out. But way  
25 back in the '40s, '50s, and '60s, they used to leave the wood in.

1 So that's why I was giving you that whole block. There are  
2 neighborhoods in Brooklyn and Queens where the whole street is  
3 doing the wave, and it's because the shoring has since rotted away  
4 and the street's depressed.

5 Q. Okay. One more question. Were you informed -- you  
6 mentioned that DOT will not just pave it, they will inform you if  
7 there is such a depression on the road. Was your department  
8 informed when 1646 Park Avenue had depression and twice they were  
9 repaved? Whereas, on underneath it your sewer main had loss of  
10 bricks and there were ingress into your sewer main. Were you  
11 informed when those repaving were done on these two occasions?

12 A. So --

13 Q. Do you know?

14 A. I don't know.

15 MS. ANDERSON: By whom? By DOT?

16 MR. EMEABA: DOT, yes. And we've spoken to those who  
17 were actually involved.

18 MR. DELANEY: Right. So, I don't know. But if we were  
19 informed, we should be informed through our Hansen complaint  
20 system.

21 BY MR. EMEABA:

22 Q. Do you know why you people could not have been informed  
23 about it if you expect that they should inform you before they  
24 repave the roadway?

25 A. So I don't know that we weren't informed. We might have

1   been informed, but I didn't look at -- you know, I didn't research  
2   this and I don't know. But -- so, we might have been. I just  
3   don't know. And, you know, I would think that if it was a roadway  
4   defect, a street depression, they would send it to us to do an  
5   investigation.

6       Q.   Which is the reason that I have asked the question twice  
7   if there is an agreement between you and them to let you know when  
8   that situation is. And your answer is that they're supposed to  
9   tell you?

10      A.   Yes.

11      Q.   That's why I say, is there an agreement? The answer --  
12   you're not giving me an answer to say, yes, there is an agreement  
13   between them and us -- they and you, DOT and you, for that.

14      A.   I think there is.

15      Q.   Okay. It's something that need to be looked into.

16      A.   I believe that there is and that we get those complaints  
17   from --

18      Q.   Can you find out for -- after this, you know, if there  
19   are documentation to show there is such relationship requiring  
20   them to inform you when there are a cave-in -- not just cave-ins,  
21   depressions on the roadway, either before they do repaving or  
22   after they do it, to inform you people, you know, so that you can  
23   go and check your sewer main? Is there an official --

24      A.   I think there is, but I can't say that they didn't  
25   consider what you are referring to as something that was a roadway



1 defect that they paved. They might have said, oh, this is our  
2 problem, and paved over it, you know.

3 Q. Thank you.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I go off the record?

5 MS. ANDERSON: Yeah, let's go off the record.

6 MR. NICHOLSON: Let's go off record.

7 MR. CHHATRE: Yeah, off the record. Off the record.

8 (Off the record.)

9 (On the record.)

10 MR. CHHATRE: Back on the record.

11 MR. EMEABA: Thank you. And I pass on.

12 MR. CHHATRE: Any questions, Frank?

13 MS. ANDERSON: So, you -- so they already do have the  
14 NIQA [sic], a description of NIQA already?

15 MR. NICHOLSON: Why don't we go off the record to  
16 clarify what we've been talking about? Why don't you just tell us  
17 there's a system in place?

18 MR. CHHATRE: Off the record.

19 (Off the record.)

20 (On the record.)

21 MR. CHHATRE: Back on the record.

22 MR. NICHOLSON: The question has gone back and forth for  
23 a long time, so it's helpful.

24 MR. GEORGELIS: So there is a procedure where HIQA, who  
25 works with the New York City DOT, transfers roadway issues to us

1 for further investigations.

2 MR. NICHOLSON: And that process is called what? I  
3 thought I heard NIQA?

4 MR. GEORGELIS: No, HIQA, is the group.

5 MR. NICHOLSON: HIQA. She was saying it wrong. Okay.

6 MR. GEORGELIS: HIQA is the group. I don't know if  
7 there's a formal name for the procedure, but they have a method of  
8 sending the jobs to us for full investigation.

9 MR. NICHOLSON: Terrific. Thank you.

10 MR. CHHATRE: Lenny?

11 MR. SINGH: I'm good. Thank you.

12 MR. CHHATRE: Chris?

13 MR. STOLICKY: I'm covered. I'm all set.

14 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. I only have one question.

15 BY MR. CHHATRE:

16 Q. You mentioned a term that really caught my attention.  
17 You said underground streams somewhere during your back and forth  
18 going on. I, frankly, lost track as to where it was said, but you  
19 said something about underground streams?

20 A. Right.

21 Q. Can you just elaborate a little bit --

22 A. So, Canal Street, there was a canal. So Manhattan  
23 Island had natural artesian springs and creeks, and they've since  
24 been paved over or covered over and built on. So we have this  
25 map. It was made by a guy named Viele, okay? So he drew the map

1 of Manhattan Island as -- I don't know the date, but it was  
2 basically before it was developed. And someone superimposed the  
3 street grid on top of that map, so it shows you areas that used to  
4 be marshlands, it shows you areas that were creeks, it shows you  
5 -- so it's something we use looking for possible underground  
6 streams in the area. You know, it comes into play with the  
7 subways and the sub-basements.

8 Q. And that was done for which area? Long Island, is it?

9 A. Manhattan.

10 Q. Manhattan.

11 A. Manhattan.

12 MR. EMBEABA: Manhattan Island.

13 MR. DELANEY: Yes, the island of Manhattan.

14 BY MR. CHHATRE:

15 Q. Okay. Do you know if something like that exists for  
16 this region here in the Park Avenue? Is that covered in that --

17 A. So I think it covers the whole borough of Manhattan, you  
18 know, the whole island of Manhattan. But it's called the Viele  
19 Map. That's the guy's name who made it.

20 Q. How do you spell that?

21 MR. GEORGELIS: V-i-e-l-e.

22 MR. DELANEY: I'm sure we could get it.

23 MR. GEORGELIS: If you Google it, it should come up and  
24 the map should come up.

25 MR. CHHATRE: V-i-e-le?

1 MR. GEORGELIS: I believe it's V-i-e-l-e.

2 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

3 BY MR. CHHATRE:

4 Q. And it's of Manhattan?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Interesting. Okay. Well, we'll try. If we have  
7 difficulty, we'll get back to you, but that's -- thank you.  
8 That's all I have.

9 MR. NICHOLSON: I just want -- I did have a follow-up.

10 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

11 Q. There was an earlier question about sewers and surveying  
12 them. Is there a -- we've heard about surveys that are conducted  
13 on the water lines. And this might not be your area, but are  
14 there annual surveys or some other frequency of surveys done on --  
15 to look for breaches in the sewer system?

16 A. So maintenance and repair, we're basically, you know,  
17 reactive to complaints. But if, for instance, the city is going  
18 to reconstruct a street, they're going to reconstruct Fifth  
19 Avenue, or whatever, they often ask us to video inspect or inspect  
20 a sewer and see if there's anything that needs to be done as --

21 Q. So it's on an as-needed basis?

22 A. Right. So if they're going to reconstruct a street, put  
23 all new curbs and sidewalks and everything, they say, what about  
24 your sewer, you know, see if the sewer needs to be inspected. So  
25 that --

1 Q. Okay. There's no regular recurring survey that --

2 MR. EMEABA: No schedule.

3 MR. DELANEY: Not that I'm aware of, no.

4 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

5 Q. -- shoots work to you? Okay. Terrific.

6 MR. CHHATRE: Any other questions, anyone?

7 MR. GEORGELIS: Dennis was also there the day of the  
8 building collapse, so I don't know if you have any questions  
9 regarding that that you want to ask.

10 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. You were there on day one?

11 MR. DELANEY: I was there, yes.

12 MR. CHHATRE: I didn't realize that.

13 MR. DELANEY: Sure. I said hello to you. You don't  
14 remember?

15 MR. CHHATRE: No, you -- I wasn't there on day one.

16 MR. DELANEY: Oh. Maybe it was the next day.

17 MR. CHHATRE: Yeah. So that day on, I know what  
18 happened. I wasn't -- I'm going to see that scene through other  
19 people's eyes on day one. So if you were there on day one,  
20 describe to me what you saw.

21 MR. DELANEY: So I got there about 5:00.

22 MR. CHHATRE: In the evening?

23 MR. DELANEY: Yes. You know, and it looked like, you  
24 know -- you know, it looked like there had been an explosion.  
25 There was a bunch of debris in the street and, you know --

1           MR. CHHATRE: Okay. You're a little later than what I  
2 was looking for. I was looking for something, really, earlier,  
3 really.

4           That's all I have. Thank you so much, though. I  
5 appreciate you coming by and spending the time with us and helping  
6 us on this accident.

7           Off the record.

8           (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION PIPELINE  
                                  LEAK AND MULTISTORY STRUCTURE  
                                  EXPLOSION IN HARLEM, NEW YORK  
                                  MARCH 12, 2014  
                                  Interview of Dennis Delaney

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-14-MP-002

PLACE:                    New York, New York

DATE:                     August 6, 2014

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.

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Linda L. Brown  
Transcriber