



Jackson Community Meeting:

Atmos Energy Corporation Natural Gas-Fueled Home Explosions and Fires

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Jennifer Homendy
Chair, National Transportation Safety Board

Tonight's Agenda

- **About the NTSB**
- **Investigation Briefing**
- **Other Atmos Accidents**



NTSB

National
Transportation
Safety Board

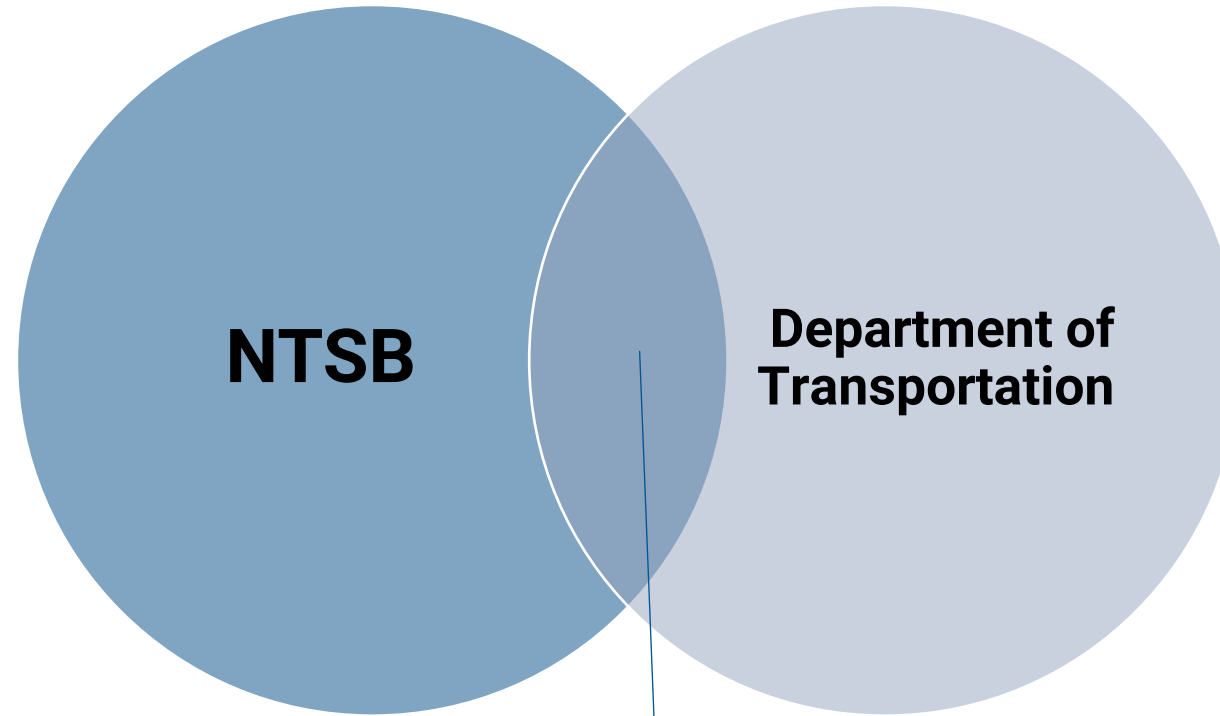
The NTSB

- Independent, fact-based investigations
- Safety is our single focus



Our Role

- Investigates Accidents
- Makes Safety Recommendations—Voluntary
- Independent
- Oversight Role



**Shared Safety
Mission**

- Sets Regulations and Standards—and Enforces Them (Mandatory)
- Conducts Safety Inspections
- Collects Data
- Distributes Federal Funds

When Do We Investigate?

The NTSB establishes the facts, circumstances, and probable cause of pipeline accidents when there is:

- A fatality
- Substantial property damage
- Significant injury to the environment

See: Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 and 49 U.S.C. Chapter 11

Investigation Process At-A-Glance



On-Scene

Fact Gathering

Analysis

Board Meeting

Final Report & Beyond

NTSB On-Scene in Jackson, MS

Jan. 27 –
Feb. 2



On-Scene

Fact Gathering

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Final Report & Beyond

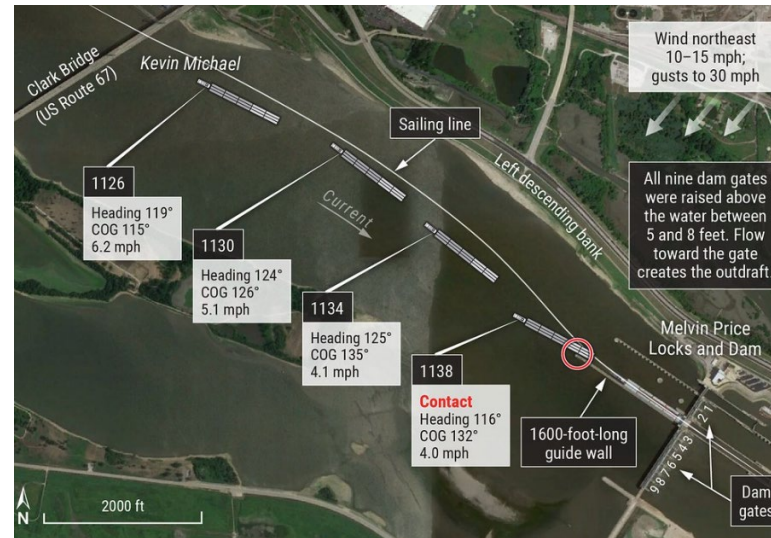
Preliminary Report
Issued **Feb. 14**

[nts.gov](https://www.nts.gov)



Analysis

- Independent evaluation of the facts



Board Meeting

- Draft report
- Prepared by staff
- Board Members vote



Final Report

- Analysis
- Probable Cause
- Safety Recommendations

...And Beyond

- Safety Advocacy



AVEL SAFETY CONCERNS
ASSESSING AIR TRAVEL CAPACITY AMID POST-COVID SURGE



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Jackson Community Meeting:

Atmos Energy Corporation Natural Gas-Fueled Home Explosions and Fires

Ashley Horton, Investigator-in-Charge

Sara Lyons, Chief, Pipeline Investigations Branch

Accident Synopsis

Home Explosions and Fires

January 24, 2024, 8:14 am

- 185 Bristol Blvd (Location 1)

January 27, 2024, 4:34 am

- 1146 Shalimar Drive (Location 2)

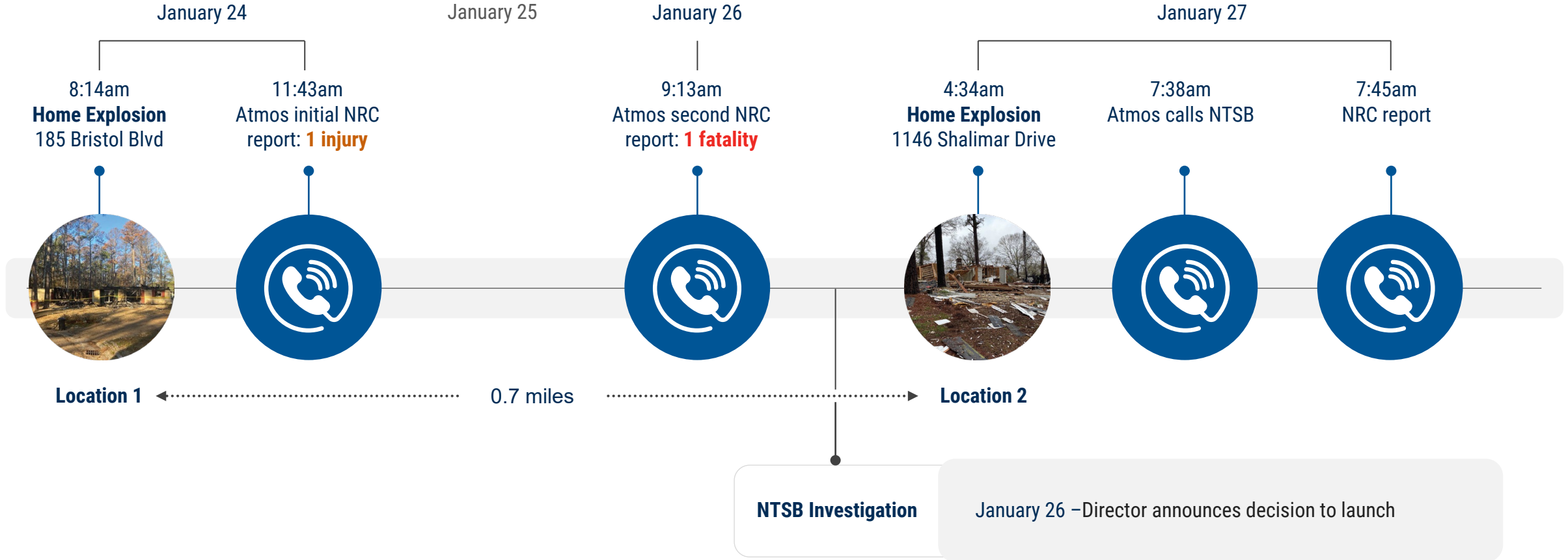
Both Locations

- Leaks found on nearby mechanical couplings
- Subsurface gas detected between leaks and affected residences
- Expansive clay soil



Photographs courtesy of MS PSC and PHMSA

NTSB Investigation: Initial Notification



All times are in local Central Standard Time

NTSB Investigation: Known Leaks

	Before the Accident	After the Accident
185 Bristol Blvd (Location 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leak found Nov. 2023• Classified by Atmos as Grade 2: Nonhazardous with potential to become hazardous	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mechanical coupling leaking• NTSB retained: section of main distribution line, service line, and coupling
1146 Shalimar Dr (Location 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leak found Dec. 2023• Classified by Atmos as Grade 3: Nonhazardous and not likely to become hazardous	

NTSB Investigation: Organization

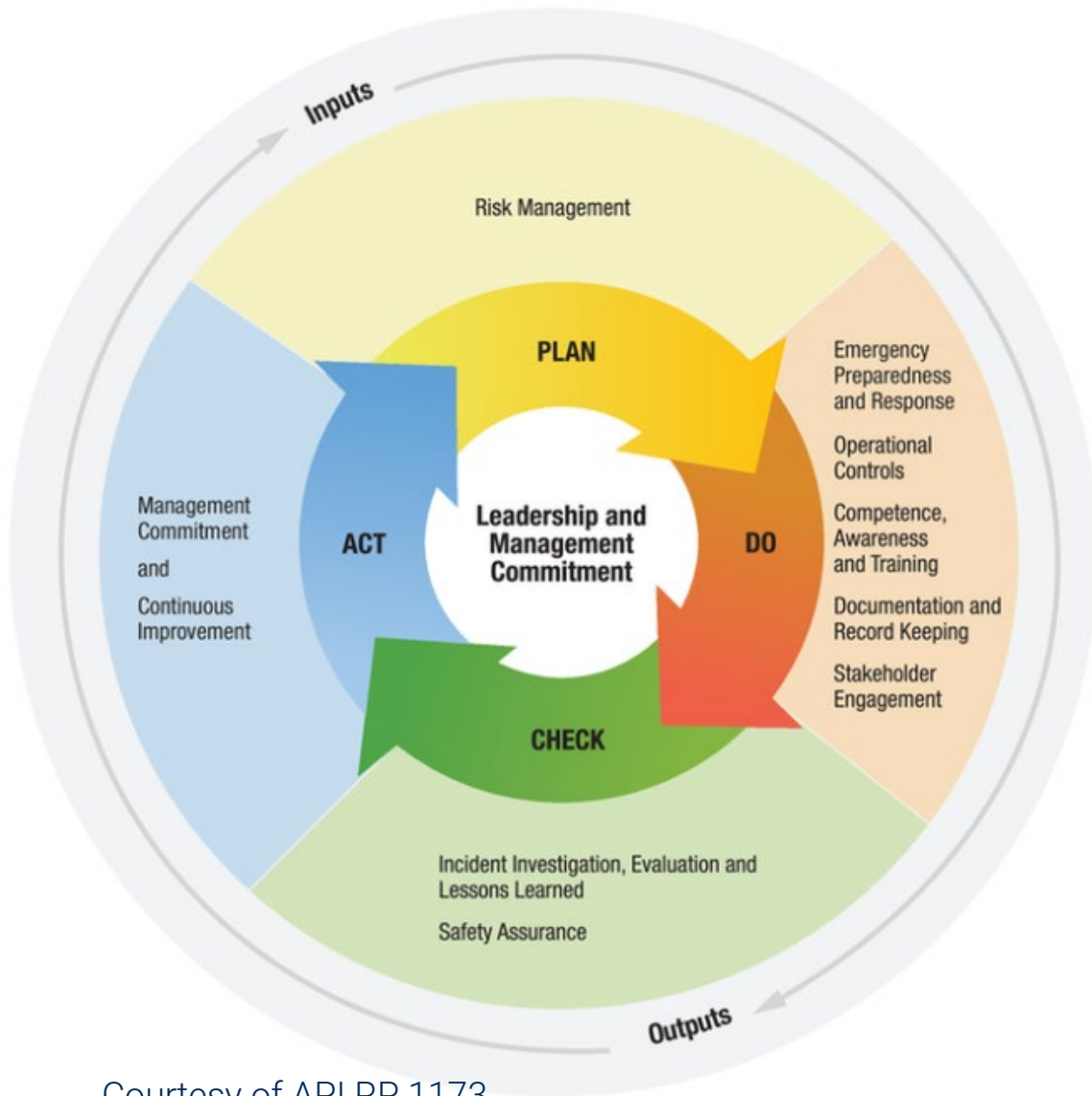
Investigative Groups

- Pipeline Operations
- Integrity Management
- Emergency Response
- Fire and Explosion
- Materials Laboratory

Parties to the Investigation

- Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
- Mississippi Public Service Commission
- Atmos Energy Corporation

NTSB Investigation: Focus Areas



Courtesy of API RP 1173

- Leak assessment methods
- Evaluation of hazards associated with known leaks
- Response to odor complaints
- Repair criteria
- Incident reporting practices
- Operator qualifications
- Integrity management
- Pipeline safety management systems

Prior NTSB Investigations Involving Atmos Energy

Event 1

February 21, 2018 – 5:49am
Explosion and fire



3527 Durango Drive
One injury – second-degree burns

Event 2

February 22, 2018 – 10:21am
Fire



3515 Durango Drive
One injury – second-degree burns

Event 3

February 23, 2018 – 6:38am
Explosion



3534 Espanola Drive
Five injuries – one fatal

Photographs courtesy of Dallas Fire-Rescue Department

Dallas, Texas – [PLD18FR002.aspx](https://www.nts.gov/PLD18FR002.aspx) (nts.gov)

Prior Investigations Involving Atmos Energy

Dallas, Texas

- Clay soil
- Significant rainfall observed prior to explosion
- High number of leaks found post-accident
- Post-accident integrity management revisions

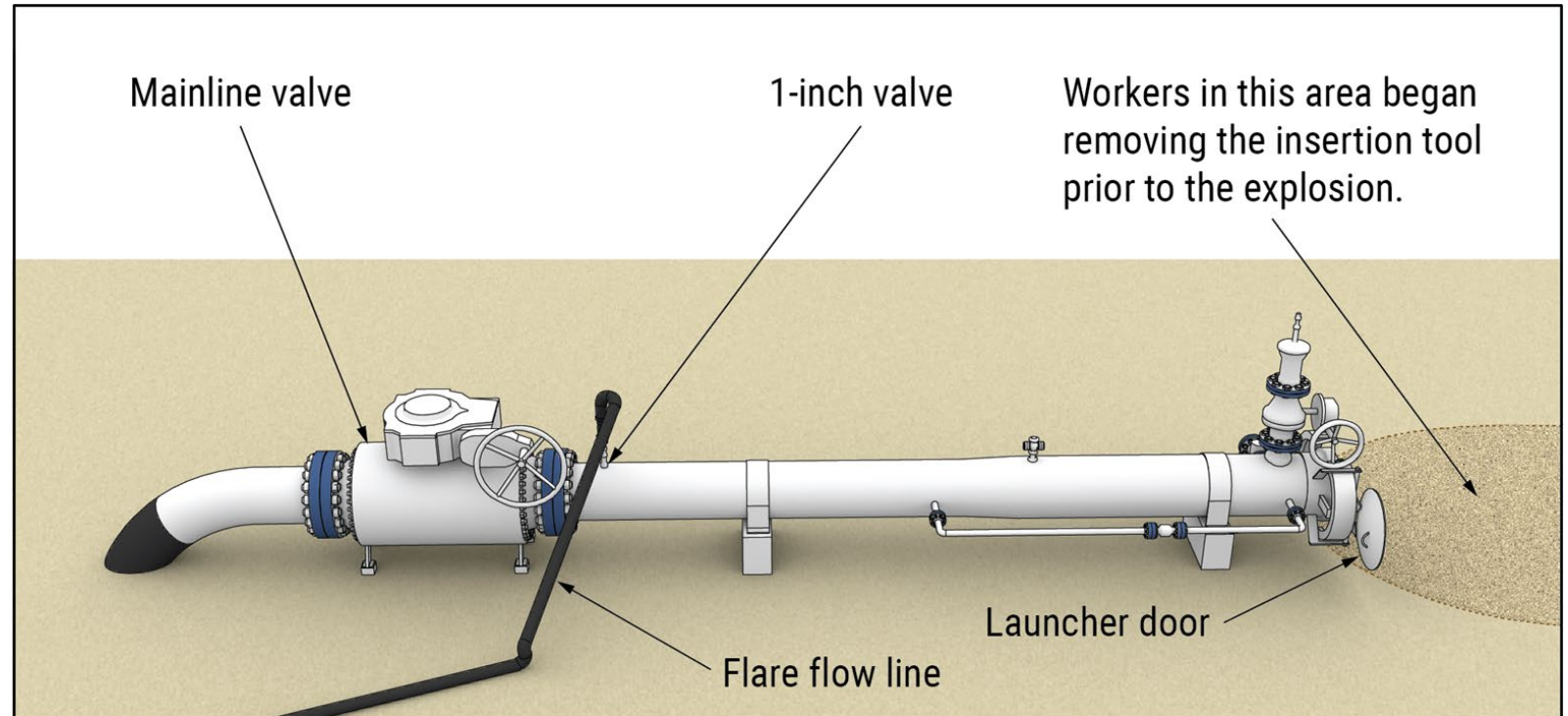


Photograph courtesy of Atmos

Prior Investigations Involving Atmos Energy

Farmersville, Texas

- June 28, 2021
- 2 fatalities, 2 injuries
- Explosion
- Routine maintenance



[PLD21FR002.aspx \(ntsb.gov\)](https://www.nts.gov/PLD21FR002.aspx)

Recent Events We are Not Investigating—And Why

Reported Information – Not Confirmed by NTSB

DATE	CITY	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
Feb. 15, 2024	Jackson, MS	No injuries; house fire, home destroyed	Not reported to National Response Center
Jan. 20, 2024	Amarillo, TX	1 Fatality; car crash into regulator station	Railroad Commission of Texas Investigating
	Carrollton, TX	1 Fatality; home explosion	
Jan. 8, 2024	Ft. Worth, TX	21 Injuries; hotel explosion	NTSB Preliminary Investigation
Dec. 26, 2023	Coppell, TX	No injuries; home explosion	Railroad Commission of Texas Investigating
Dec. 24, 2023	Rogers, TX	1 Fatality, 1 injury; home explosion	
June 14, 2023	Ft. Worth, TX	1 Fatality, 1 injury; car crash into school meter station	

Thank You



We look forward to your questions