



National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, D.C. 20594

June 22, 2022

Mr. Michael Mayerhofer:

Reference: **Interview Regarding the August 15, 2021, Coolidge, Arizona Pipeline Rupture and Fire - NTSB case number PLD21FR003**

Attached is a transcript of your interview on August 18, 2021 as a part of the on-going investigation of the above referenced accident. Please review the transcript for accuracy and make any necessary editorial changes.

You may either reference the relevant page and line number along with the suggested change or redline a copy of the document. Please initial any changes when marking up or redlining the original document.

When replying be sure and checkmark one of the three statements below, even if you have no changes.

Please submit replies to me via email no later than **July 8, 2022**.

I have reviewed my transcript(s) from the above referenced accident and...

I have no comments to make.

My comments are submitted herewith.

My comments are marked on the attached copy.

Please note that these transcripts must be treated as confidential at this time. These transcripts are for your use only, and not for release outside of the investigation. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone or email.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation,

Alex C. Colletti

Pipeline Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Railroad, Pipeline, and Hazardous Materials Investigations
[REDACTED], SW
Unit [REDACTED]
Washington, D.C. 20594



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

* * * * *

Investigation of: *

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NATURAL GAS PIPELINE RUPTURE *

IN COOLIDGE, ARIZONA, *

Accident No.: PLD21FR003

ON AUGUST 15, 2021 *

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* * * * *

Interview of: MICHAEL MAYERHOFER, Operations Supervisor
Kinder Morgan

Casa Grande, Arizona

Wednesday,
August 18, 2021

APPEARANCES:

RACHEL GUNARATNAM, HAZMAT Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JOHN PEARCE, Representative

TIFFANY BAKER, Program Analyst
FMCSA

DAVID CARROLL, Operations Manager
Kinder Morgan

RYAN WEIGHT, Senior/Lead Investigator and Inspector
Arizona Corporation Commission Pipeline Safety Section

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I N T E R V I E W

(1:06 p.m. MST)

1
2
3 MS. GUNARATNAM: All right. Good afternoon. My name is
4 Rachel Gunaratnam. I'm a HAZMAT investigator with the National
5 Transportation Safety Board out of Washington, D.C.

6 Today is August 18th, 2021, and the time is 1:06 p.m.
7 Mountain Standard Time. We are currently at the Radisson Hotel in
8 Casa Grande, Arizona. We are here in response to the natural gas
9 incident that occurred on August 15, 2021, in Coolidge, Arizona.

10 Today we are interviewing -- and can you say your name and
11 spell it for us for the transcriber?

12 MR. MAYERHOFER: Michael Mayerhofer, M-I-C-H-A-E-L,
13 M-A-Y-E-R-H-O-F-E-R.

14 MS. GUNARATNAM: And you are free to have a representative to
15 consult with during the interview. Who is this person?

16 MR. MAYERHOFER: I would like it to be John Pearce.

17 MR. PEARCE: P-E-A-R-C-E.

18 MS. GUNARATNAM: Thank you. Okay. The purpose of this
19 investigation is, as I was saying, to improve safety. We don't
20 assign fault or blame or liability. Our sole mission is to
21 improve transportation safety and to prevent these accidents from
22 occurring again. However, the NTSB cannot offer any guarantee of
23 confidentiality or immunity from any legal proceedings by other
24 agencies, whether local, state, or federal. And a transcript of
25 this interview will be placed in the public docket for this

1 investigation, which will be available on our NTSB website.

2 Any questions so far?

3 MR. MAYERHOFER: No.

4 MS. GUNARATNAM: Okay. Great. So now we'll go through the
5 introductions. Also present in the room, if you could please say
6 your name and spell it?

7 MS. BAKER: Tiffany Baker, T-I-F-F-A-N-Y, B-A-K-E-R. I'm the
8 program analyst with PHMSA Southern Region out of the Atlanta,
9 Georgia office.

10 MR. CARROLL: And I'm David Carroll, D-A-V-I-D,
11 C-A-R-R-O-L-L. I'm the operations manager for the Phoenix area of
12 Kinder Morgan.

13 MR. WEIGHT: Ryan Weight, R-Y-A-N, W-E-I-G-H-T. I'm a senior
14 lead inspector and investigator for the Arizona Corporation
15 Commission's Pipeline Safety Office.

16 INTERVIEW OF MICHAEL MAYERHOFER

17 BY MS. GUNARATNAM:

18 Q. Okay. All right. So, Mike -- Mike, right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. Can you just provide a little bit of background about
21 yourself, your professional background, as with, you know, how
22 many years you've been with Kinder, and basically, you know, you
23 can start from the beginning of when you started your career, or
24 either -- wherever.

25 A. Okay. I started my career with Kinder Morgan October of 2018

1 and started out as the operations supervisor in Flagstaff, Arizona
2 area, spent approximately a little over a year in the Flagstaff
3 area, and then accepted a position here in Phoenix in April of
4 2020 as a operations supervisor for the Phoenix area. And I've
5 been here ever since.

6 Q. Okay. What did you do before Kinder Morgan?

7 A. I did -- starting in high school graduation, I worked for a
8 fire equipment company from '94 to '98, so a fire equipment
9 business. And then from 1998 to 2018, United States Navy,
10 retired, and I was, in general, a diesel mechanic is what I did.

11 Q. Okay. So as far as your training with Kinder, can you tell
12 us your qualifications, your certifications, that kind of thing?

13 A. Yes. As far as OQs, I don't know every one of them, but I do
14 have OQs in compressor startup, stopping, and operation, abnormal
15 operating conditions, and I think that's, that's going to be it.
16 There might be one or two more that I don't recall.

17 Q. Maybe with valves?

18 A. Yes, I do have the valve ones, not valve servicing. I
19 believe it's valve operation, as I recall.

20 Q. Okay. And you said you were ops supervisor. And who do you
21 report to?

22 A. I report to Dave Carroll, my operations manager.

23 Q. Okay. Have you been reporting to him the whole time?

24 A. No. I reported to Joseph Simonson (ph.) in Flagstaff, but
25 here in Phoenix, yes. Actually, no, that's incorrect. When I

1 first came to the Phoenix area, I reported to -- Ray Vega (ph.)
2 was my area manager, and then Dave Carroll took over.

3 Q. Could you describe your duties as a operations supervisor
4 here in Phoenix?

5 A. My duties are to -- for the general or the greater Phoenix
6 area is to operate and maintain all the pipelines that fall under
7 my control, as well as the five compressor stations that I'm in
8 charge of.

9 Q. And what area -- you said you operate and maintain all the
10 pipelines in this area?

11 A. Yeah, greater Phoenix area. So that would include Casa
12 Grande area, Ehrenberg, Arizona out towards Wenden, Arizona, and
13 what city -- so Greater Phoenix is, is many cities, you know,
14 Mesa, Tempe, Scottsdale. That should be it. Several other cities
15 within the greater area of Phoenix.

16 Q. Okay. Great. And you said you maintain those pipelines and
17 then five compressor stations?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. Within the Phoenix area, obviously, yeah?

20 A. Yes. They're also in those areas I just talked about.

21 Q. Okay. Great. All right. And with emergency -- I wanted to
22 ask about emergency response training. When was the last
23 time -- how often do you do it and when was the last time you do
24 it -- did it?

25 A. It's annual, as I recall, and we did it within the last year,

1 but I don't know the exact date.

2 Q. Okay. What kind of training is? What do you go over? What
3 kind of --

4 A. So what we did is a emergency response. So there's kind of a
5 mock emergency response drill, and it gets kicked off usually by
6 the area manager. I think at the time when the last one we did
7 was Ray Vega, my last manager. And it's just an overall kind of a
8 walkthrough, talk-through of a scenario that could happen, an
9 emergency.

10 Q. Do you remember what kind of emergency that was?

11 A. It just -- I have a little bit of memory of it, but I don't,
12 I don't recall. I don't.

13 Q. Okay. I mean, has any of the emergency response training
14 covered, like, ruptures or, you know, that kind of major
15 incidence?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. All right. So as far as your duties, so you
18 specifically oversee line 2000?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. Since --

21 A. Not the entire line. We do have a break between Tucson,
22 Arizona and Phoenix, Arizona.

23 Q. Okay. So you oversee from -- can you say, like, from which
24 milepost or --

25 A. I can say we take over between mainline valve 37 and 38 on

1 the 2000 line all the way to Ehrenberg, Arizona.

2 Q. Okay. All right. And you've been doing that section since
3 you moved over to Phoenix, Arizona, April 2020?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. Okay. Have you had any maintenance issues over since
6 you've moved over here with line 2000?

7 A. No, none that I can recall.

8 Q. Okay. All right.

9 A. There is one thing. I'm sorry. Can I go back?

10 Q. Sure. Yeah.

11 A. There is a shorted casing that I got made aware of.

12 Q. What casing?

13 A. A shorted casing, pipeline casing. So that -- that's not
14 necessarily a maintenance issue, but that is something I am aware
15 of.

16 Q. Okay. And can you explain that?

17 A. It's -- I -- it's a shorted casing. It's in the corrosion
18 area, and there's, there's a different branch of us that, that
19 handles corrosion. So I won't be able to speak smartly to that.

20 Q. Okay. And when did you hear about that?

21 A. Oh, I'd say approximately between one and two months
22 approximately.

23 MS. GUNARATNAM: Okay. Thanks. Okay. That's all I have on
24 that topic for now.

25 Do you want to go?

1 MS. BAKER: Okay.

2 BY MS. BAKER:

3 Q. Okay. So your emergency response training, what all
4 different types of training did you receive in that? You said --
5 you mentioned a mock drill?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you said the annual training. How do you receive that?
8 How is the annual training conducted?

9 A. That is our annual training on emergency response.

10 Q. The mock drill?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Is your annual training?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So you have a mock drill every year?

15 A. Yes, we do.

16 Q. Okay. And that's all you have in relation to the emergency
17 response? You just do the mock drill once a year?

18 A. Yeah. Right now, what I recall, it's that drill, and we talk
19 about, you know, several other things throughout that whole
20 process of doing that mock drill.

21 Q. Okay. So going back to your employment history, you retired
22 from the Navy in 2018?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And then you started working at Kinder the same year. Did
25 you have -- you said you worked for Kinder October 2018, right?

1 A. No break.

2 Q. Did you have any pipeline operations experience prior to your
3 Navy career or during your Navy career before being hired at
4 Kinder Morgan?

5 A. I did not have any natural gas pipeline experience. I had
6 high pressure piping systems experience, different gases, oxygen,
7 helium, nitrox, air, air, high-pressure air systems, and piping
8 systems.

9 Q. Okay. And where did you receive that experience?

10 A. That would have been -- most of that, that was, that was
11 throughout my career, but most of it was focused when I, when I
12 was stationed with the Navy Diving and Salvage Training Center in
13 Panama City, Florida. We dealt with high-pressure gases there and
14 pipelines.

15 MS. BAKER: That was all I had.

16 BY MR. CARROLL:

17 Q. Prior to coming to the Phoenix area, were your operations
18 supervisor's duties very similar in Flagstaff than they are in
19 Phoenix, or were there any differences?

20 A. I think there were a couple differences. Just the, the fact
21 that we cover a whole lot more area in the Phoenix area than we
22 did in Flagstaff, and there's a whole lot more -- there's many
23 more pipelines and laterals and just a greater area to cover.
24 Another thing that's more in the Phoenix area would be just land
25 development around our pipelines, encroachments, that kind of

1 stuff. Obviously, Phoenix is much more populated than the
2 Flagstaff area, so that's, that's some of the biggest differences.

3 Q. Okay. When you said operate and maintain all pipelines,
4 could you give a little bit more detail about what that entails?

5 A. So it's just the, the safe gas handling in the pipelines,
6 maintaining -- my employees maintaining the valves on the
7 pipeline, the main line valves, being involved with any sort of
8 heavy pipeline maintenance like cutouts or things like that,
9 handling the gas for those cutouts or repairs to the pipe.
10 Compressor station-wise, my employees take care of both turbines
11 and recip, reciprocating engines, and making sure those are
12 operational, and then all the auxiliary equipment that goes along
13 with the operations of those engines inside of those compressor
14 stations.

15 MR. CARROLL: Okay. That's all I have.

16 BY MR. WEIGHT:

17 Q. All right. When you were at Flag -- from my experience,
18 there is normally two operations supervisors there, because the --
19 you know, the amount of distances that your area covers. Which
20 side were you responsible for, the east or the west?

21 A. I was operations supervisor for Flagstaff west. You're
22 correct. There is two supervisors there.

23 Q. Okay. And when you were in your previous position, how many
24 employees reported to you?

25 A. In Flagstaff?

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. Okay. I believe it was seven or eight. I think eight. It
3 would fluctuate depending on if an employee accepted a new
4 position, but right around eight employees.

5 Q. Okay. And since you transferred down here, how many
6 employees report to you in your current position?

7 A. It's between -- currently, we're right at about that same
8 mark, but we're, we're in the hiring process for three or four op
9 specs right now. So normally it's between 11 or 13 employees here
10 in this area working for me.

11 MR. WEIGHT: Okay. I have no further questions.

12 BY MS. GUNARATNAM:

13 Q. So you said you have, you said, seven to eight right now
14 reporting to you?

15 A. Yeah. A lot has been happening, so we've recently lost
16 several employees, so whether it be to accept a job somewhere else
17 and/or retired from the company.

18 Q. Can you tell me who currently is reporting to you now?

19 A. Let's see. We got Frank Sanchez, ^{Mick Ervien} ~~Nick Irving~~ (ph.), Robert
20 ^{Shankland} ~~Shanklin~~ (ph.), Dan Buckland (ph.), Josh ^{Pliska} ~~Palisco~~ (ph.).
21 Hopefully, I got the count right here. Josh ^{Pliska} ~~Palisco~~, Steve Phelps
22 (ph.), Del Mascarenas (ph.), Thomas Barber (ph.), Rogelio Chavez.
23 And if the number is -- I thought it was around eight, but I feel
24 like that was a little bit more. Maybe nine or so.

25 Q. Yeah.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. Yeah, nine, yeah. Okay. On the day of the incident -- and
3 so now I'm just going to move into August 15th.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. Tell us, you know, just start us off with your day, how you
6 first heard about the incident, you know, when you got first
7 notice, where were you, and so forth. Just give us a timeline
8 of --

9 A. Okay. At approximately 6:02 a.m., I was at my house in Cave
10 Creek, Arizona, and got a phone call from my manager, Dave
11 Carroll, reporting that he -- I can't recall his exact words, but
12 it appeared there was a pipeline rupture in the area of Coolidge,
13 and the line pressures and flows were acting up on the 2000 line
14 in that area. So that's when I initially heard of the incident.

15 From that point, while we were on the phone, there was a text
16 message alert that came through for a ERL call, and I believe that
17 started, as I recall, it was going to start at 6:05 Arizona time.
18 So we both got off the phone after that conversation and dialed
19 into the emergency response line phone call.

20 Q. Okay. And --

21 A. From there, I, I was not running the call, so I just listened
22 to gather information. Meantime, during that, I was trying to log
23 into my laptop at home. It's kind of a process. You have to use
24 the BIG Edge Client and get in. It takes a little bit longer, so
25 I was trying to get into ^{there} ~~their~~ -- to possibly -- I told Dave to

1 back a little bit, that I would look at schematics, pipeline
2 schematics in the area. And so when I opened up that system, and
3 it was being verified on the phone call, as well, we were
4 struggling to get into that system, which is called Geo Map, to
5 review schematics. So I kept trying that while I was listening to
6 the, the ERL call.

7 Meantime, during that -- I don't know exact times, but I
8 started to receive some, some updates and text messages from some
9 of the other employees, one of them being James Pigg letting me
10 know that he was headed to the Casa Grande area. And he had named
11 several other employees that I don't recall that were headed that
12 way, as well. I also received a text message from Dave Carroll
13 that there were employees headed to mainline valve 38 and 39. And
14 I'm going to look at my phone real quick to make sure that --

15 Q. Sure. Yeah.

16 A. Let's see. Okay. Yeah. So I got a text saying that -- and
17 I don't know what sparked ^{the} ~~en~~ text. I don't know if -- I think
18 maybe it was just an update from the manager. And he was saying
19 that it appears that it's between mainline valves 38 and 39 on the
20 2000 line and that Frank and Kenny were heading out to those
21 valves settings to isolate them.

22 Q. Who did you receive that from?

23 A. I received that from Dave Carroll.

24 And from there, still listening to the emergency response
25 line call, and just, just listening to information, there wasn't a

1 whole lot of me -- being asked of me personally during that call.
2 Let me see -- real quick -- so somewhere in there early on -- I
3 don't have the exact time, but right around the 6:15, maybe a
4 little earlier timeframe, I did receive a text message from Steve
5 Black (ph.), which is an employee with the technical group with
6 some pictures. And that came from his, his mother, who lived in
7 the area.

8 So, you know, I saw those pictures come in, and it was
9 definitely a fire. And --

10 Q. What did those pictures look like?

11 A. Let me -- I'm going to go ahead and pull the pictures up so I
12 can look at them. They were -- let's see -- they were a large
13 fire. I can't tell you how tall, but it looked like a very tall,
14 straight-up-and-down fire in the distance. Looks the sun was just
15 coming up. But yeah, definitely a very large fire. Just that's,
16 that's what it looked like. That's what the pictures look like.

17 Q. So you received that around 6:15 from Steve Black?

18 A. Well, let me see. Yeah, let me, let me take a look real
19 quick. Okay. Yes. Correction. I received that at 6:37. And it
20 came to myself and Dave Carroll. And from my explanation, it's
21 just, just a large fire in the distance.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. From there, during the -- you want me to keep going?

24 Q. Yes, yes.

25 A. Okay. The ERL call, there was -- I was getting ready just in

1 case -- I hadn't left the house. I was still at the house right
2 around somewhere between 6:30 and 7. I don't recall the exact
3 time, but it was brought up during the ERL call about making sure
4 that -- somebody on the ERL call in upper management asked if
5 there was a supervisor headed towards the scene, and at that
6 point, I believe I was told that I need to go to the scene and be
7 aware of -- just be ready and remember the media training that
8 I've had in case media was there, and to head to the site.

9 So, from there, like I said before, somewhere between 6:30
10 and 7, I left the house. And there was a gas station right on the
11 corner just down the street en route. I had to stop really quick
12 to fill up since it was, it was a pretty good distance, and I
13 wanted to make sure I didn't run out of gas. From there, I sent a
14 text message to -- when leaving there to Dave Carroll, James Pigg.
15 May have been somebody else, as well, but saying, "I'm en route to
16 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]" which was the location.

17 From there, I continued to listen to the, the emergency
18 response line call, just getting information, and -- I'm going to
19 back up. At 6:34, I received a text message from Frank Sanchez,
20 stating that mainline valve 39 was isolated at 6:29 a.m. And then
21 at approximately while I was en route to the scene, on the
22 emergency response line call, on the ERL call, somebody from the
23 Tucson area, and I didn't get the name, mentioned that there is an
24 employee from the Tucson area at mainline valve 37 in the Tucson
25 area, and someone -- he, he asked -- and I don't have the names of

1 who it was; I didn't catch any of that -- should I have him close
2 it. Somebody responded, "Close it."

3 And so somewhere around 7 a.m., between 7 a.m. and 7:05 a.m.,
4 I sent a text message out saying the Tucson area has an employee
5 at mainline valve 37, and they're closing it now, from that
6 information that I gathered.

7 Let's see. From there, I kept driving to the site, and I
8 arrived on site somewhere around 8:15, 8:20 a.m., somewhere in
9 there. From there, I did see one of, one of my employees, Frank
10 Sanchez. And I, I pulled past -- our compressor station is right
11 at the end of the street there -- pulled past the compressor
12 station. The fire was out.

13 Before, just before I arrived at the station, I don't know
14 who called me, but somebody called me and said -- you know, I
15 asked, "Is the fire out?" They were already on scene, and I
16 believe it might have been -- I believe it was the measurement
17 supervisor, Ray Garibay (ph.), with the Tucson area. I asked if
18 the fire was out. And he stated the fire was out. Shortly after
19 that, I called Dave Carroll just before I got to the area and
20 asked if he knew if the fire was out already or heard the fire was
21 out. He had stated no, and I let him know that the fire was out.

22 I arrived at the station -- not the station. I'm sorry. I
23 arrived at the scene and then realized, you know, that the fire
24 was out from a distance. I was probably maybe half a mile away
25 still, where I parked initially.

1 From there, the first meeting that I had when I, when I
2 stepped out of the vehicle was with the Coolidge generating
3 station power plant director, who was standing there. She
4 introduced herself and asked a couple questions. The two, two
5 general questions were, "I have people evacuated. Would it be
6 okay if we let them come back in?" I said, "I can't speak to
7 that." My -- and then her -- so I told her I couldn't speak to
8 that. And then the next question was, "Can I resume normal
9 operation as far as natural gas flow to the station?" And I let
10 her know that she should still be good with the other pipeline in
11 the area feeding the station, but I would have to verify with our
12 gas control center.

13 So I made a phone call to gas control, and it was, it was
14 shortly, shortly after I arrived to the site there, I made a phone
15 call after that conversation to gas control and said would it be
16 okay for them to resume normal operations with the other line
17 that's feeding that plant, and they said everything looked good on
18 their end, and I can let her know that, that, you know, that
19 they're, they're good to resume normal operations as far as their
20 equipment.

21 Q. Yeah.

22 A. That's all that was discussed during that meeting.

23 Q. And this was the Coolidge Power Plant manager?

24 A. Director.

25 Q. Director?

1 A. Yes. From there, I had jumped off the emergency response
2 line call because I was just arriving to the scene, and I didn't
3 want to -- I was going to jump back in afterwards, but I, I didn't
4 want to have that initial get out of the vehicle and dealing with
5 whatever I had to deal with at the time. So I, I ended up walking
6 with Frank Sanchez up to the scene of the, the rupture, to where
7 emergency management was all staged. They were still doing some
8 firefighting efforts on the house that was across the street. As
9 far as the pipeline goes, I could tell that definitely the fire
10 was out.

11 And my first meeting there right on the scene was with Ray
12 Garibay, which was -- he's the measurement supervisor. I had
13 dialed back into the emergency response line call to start
14 listening to information again and just being on the scene, be
15 able to provide information about the scene. I then spoke with
16 Chief Dillon (ph.) with -- I believe he's with the Coolidge Fire
17 Department -- and let him know that I was there.

18 I introduced myself as the operations supervisor and just
19 said, "I'm here if you need anything." I believe with him, I
20 requested that as far as the pipe goes in that area -- because
21 there was -- it was just the fresh exposed, you know, pipe and
22 rupture, and everything. I said we'd like to preserve that as
23 much as possible over in that area. And you know, at the time,
24 the focus was on the house. And so that was fine. And I just
25 gave him my, my phone number, my name.

1 And from there, I kind of walked over to the site of the
2 rupture and just did a quick observation kind of just to do --
3 really to do a safety check and make sure that there was nothing
4 going on further that we might be missing. And the fire was
5 definitely out.

6 I did notice that we had heavy water coming from a broken
7 canal, which was going to eventually present a problem. It wasn't
8 any immediate danger. And so I observed that flowing into the
9 ditch and going into our pipeline.

10 I then observed that the road, the dirt road next to the
11 ditch, was piled with dirt that, that blew out of the ditch. And
12 so on the phone call we were starting to discuss, okay, what are
13 we going to do immediately with this exposed ditch while they're
14 doing their emergency efforts over there, and we just started
15 talking about getting it blocked off to preserve it and to make
16 sure nobody gets hurt. And I asked specifically about the dirt
17 piles. They said don't disturb anything, and I don't know the
18 name of who it was, but it was probably somebody from upper
19 management on the, on the ERL call.

20 So also on site was a PPS, pipeline project support, a
21 welding crew lead. His name was -- his name is Adam. And I just
22 started going to him, saying we got to start setting up the
23 possibility of temporary fencing to get some fencing put around
24 the, the rupture.

25 I also -- I got asked how -- where is the pipe at -- I mean,

1 the, the ejected pipe. There was a 25-foot section of ejected
2 pipe on a bank over the irrigation ditch in the farm field, and I
3 got asked about how long that was. And originally, I said
4 approximately 8 feet, and then I told him 25 feet approximately.

5 And from there, I think I jumped off the call and started
6 working to get fencing in the area, just staying in then area as
7 long as I could in case emergency responders needed anything from
8 Kinder Morgan.

9 And then I don't know the exact time, but somewhere in there,
10 we were told to leave the area so they can commence their fire
11 investigation.

12 Q. Okay. You don't remember that time?

13 A. Let me see. I can give you an approximate time here. Okay.
14 So that was probably somewhere between -- I mean, this is going to
15 be a big thing here, but between 1 and 3. I have a time where I
16 sent an update to our vice president of 2:28, letting him know
17 that it would be a couple hours before we could get back in there
18 to -- but I don't know if that's the exact time that I got told we
19 need to stay out of the area. I believe it was just before that,
20 right around 2 p.m.

21 From there, I went back to the compressor station that's just
22 up the street and kind of just started -- you know, what I, what I
23 did start doing is looking at pipeline information for the 2000
24 line, trying to make sure that we had a milepost correct of the
25 incident, looking at how many miles in between the valve sections

1 that were isolated to kind of start thinking about the amount of
2 gas, and things like that.

3 I started looking at pipe, pipeline information, as far as
4 what size the pipe was, and then I coordinated again from there on
5 a couple other items with the PPS crew lead on getting that
6 fencing. I just stayed on that, and then also getting some
7 temporary lighting arranged pre-staged at that compressor station
8 for whenever anybody needed to look further if it went into the
9 evening. So we arranged all that.

10 That stuff eventually did show up on site at Picacho Station,
11 so as soon as we could get back in there, we were going to start
12 putting the fencing up, get the temporary lighting set up. And I
13 also -- I don't have times on this, but in the day -- it was a
14 long day -- I started thinking about security from our end, how we
15 were going to keep people from going into the pipeline area where
16 that exposed ditch was. So I worked that through corporate
17 security and through my upper management to arrange that kind of
18 stuff.

19 From there, we got -- I'm going to back up. Prior to -- I
20 think just prior to being told to leave the area for the
21 investigation to happen with the fire department, I met up with a
22 couple of the ACC inspectors, and we just had, you know,
23 introductions and brief conversations. And there were a couple
24 general questions asked. And then I had -- I think we
25 communicated with each other, saying that, you know, once, once

1 the fire department is done, we're going to go back in there. I
2 offered for them to, you know, go back to one of our offices, too.
3 I believe they remained on site.

4 So when we got the go ahead to go back in, I, I came -- I got
5 a text message from the fire chief actually, and I could give you
6 a time when that was. Okay. We, we communicated earlier on he
7 would let me know when it was safe to go back in there --

8 Q. To go back in.

9 A. -- so we could get the fencing up, and things like that. And
10 at 4:45 p.m., I got a text message from him saying they were
11 wrapping up their investigation. He let me know that we would
12 have to work with the fire marshal at that point to go back in
13 there, and he let me know that corporate -- the ACC was, was
14 already at the site of the crater.

15 And so, from there, we, we went back over to the site. I met
16 up with -- there was, there was a lot of ACC inspectors. I think
17 there was, there was several of them there, but -- so I can't give
18 you exactly who I met up with at the site there of the rupture.
19 But there was at least four or five of them there. And they were
20 taking pictures.

21 So at that time, I went ahead and took a couple pictures
22 myself, because as a normal practice, we like to have pictures
23 that, that -- you know, somebody else taking pictures of it. So I
24 do have some pictures of the, the site, the ruptured pipe on the
25 bank, and the ditch. And then from there, it was reiterated again

1 to stay out away from the site and preserve it.

2 So I think I spent the next couple of hours at that point
3 working with PPS to arrange to get the fencing set up. We had a
4 fencing company come in, and they put up the temporary chain-link
5 fencing, preserving everything all the way from the dirt spoils
6 that flew out of the ditch, and everything, and put a separate
7 fence around the pipe, and set up the lighting fixtures. And then
8 we, we just kind of stayed back at that point.

9 I did have a conversation in there with a fire inspector,
10 John, John Modge (ph.), who -- right around the time I was talking
11 with the ACC -- who asked for a pipeline schematic to help him
12 while he was out there.

13 Q. Yeah.

14 A. And I provided him that schematic through e-mail. I don't
15 know. From there, I just kind of stayed there making sure that if
16 anybody needed anything, I was there. I observed the fencing
17 going up. I got phone calls, I think, somewhere in there to let
18 me know that PHMSA may be showing up to accommodate the, you know,
19 the ACC that evening, late. So we got the lights up and running.
20 And then Dave Carroll, Phil ~~Beeka~~ ^{Baca} (ph.), my director, and several
21 other people showed up as -- towards the late evening when the sun
22 started going down, and we just again started looking at the, the
23 damage, and things like that.

24 Somewhere around just after 8, I spoke with my area manager,
25 Dave Carroll. I had been out there all day in the, in the heat

1 and sun, and everything, and I requested that I could just go back
2 to the hotel.

3 Q. And did you?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. So at that point, I, I went ahead and left and drove to Casa
'7 Grande and got a hotel. Got one more phone call in the evening at
8 about 10:00 from my director, who asked me to in the morning try
9 and get a picture of the, the muster sheet.

10 Q. What's the muster?

11 A. Oh, the, the sign-in sheet, yeah, sign-in sheet -- I'm
12 sorry -- for the -- every -- basically, for that day. And so the
13 next morning, I went and tried to get that. And I spoke with the
14 cop, and I signed into that day's, but he had already turned in
15 the, the day prior. So that was the, the whole day.

16 Q. Okay. If I could just revisit a couple things?

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. When you were on the ERL call, what kind of things were being
19 discussed? I know they didn't ask you too much at that point yet,
20 but what were some of the things that they were wondering about
21 and discussing, if you remember?

22 A. Kind of pipeline -- the pipeline integrity group was trying
23 to talk about data on the pipeline, recent maintenance on their
24 end. I don't know the details on maintenance they were
25 discussing.

1 Q. Do you know who from that group was on the call?

2 A. No. I don't recall. And then just, you know, a lot of
3 discussion of valve isolation, is the fire out, that type of
4 stuff, who's, who's headed where. We have a checklist that we
5 have to follow. I was not running that specific emergency
6 response line call, but the checklist was being ~~done~~^{gone} over by the
7 vice president, my vice president. So location, coordinates,
8 whether or not there was damage or third-party damage, loss of
9 life. That's part of the --

10 Q. Right.

11 A. I'm going to back up. I don't recall them talking about loss
12 of life. But third-party damage, that stuff I do.

13 Q. And they said that -- what did they say with regard to third-
14 party damage?

15 A. I don't recall.

16 Q. Do you recall what the pipeline integrity group said about
17 recent maintenance?

18 A. No. I think they, they were talking about -- no, I don't.
19 Sorry.

20 Q. Do you recall any -- what was discussed on line 2000 with
21 repairs or anything like that?

22 A. No.

23 Q. No? Okay.

24 A. I was driving to a scene, so I just -- I was really listening
25 to -- just listening, and I just --

1 Q. Right.

2 A. Because I was driving to the scene, it was, it was kind of
3 difficult --

4 Q. Right, to focus --

5 A. -- to keep up with all of that.

6 Q. Yeah. Did employees check in with you on their actions
7 throughout this time? Were they -- as -- when you arrived on
8 scene?

9 A. When I, oh, when I arrived on scene?

10 Q. Yeah, or driving to the scene?

11 A. When I was driving, I was getting updates on, you know, valve
12 closures, things like that, and, and we spoke about that earlier.

13 Q. You said Frank Sanchez --

14 A. Frank Sanchez, I know. James Pigg let me know that him and
15 several other individuals were, were headed to the scene early on.
16 There was some information coming from Dave Carroll about who was
17 going to mainline valve 38. So, yes, updates were coming in as I
18 was headed there. And really, when I got there, there was, there
19 was no employees -- well, there, there was Frank Sanchez that was
20 on site, but -- actually, and Rogelio Chavez. So two of my
21 operations employees were there. And they were kind of just
22 checking in with me, and that kind of thing.

23 Q. Okay. And at that point, valve 39 had been closed and --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What other valves?

1 A. Valve 37. And by the time I got to the site, valve 38 had
2 been closed.

3 Q. Okay. How did you hear about valve 38?

4 A. I'm going to go ahead and back up. I don't know if it was
5 closed or not at this point. I do know the fire was out. And I
6 don't know if that valve -- I don't recall. If I can -- I'm going
7 to look at my notes, but --

8 Q. Sure.

9 A. Yeah, I don't -- I think that was after the fact I found the
10 time, an approximately time of when that valve was closed.

11 Q. Do you know approximately?

12 A. I think it was approximately 8:10 a.m.

13 Q. Okay. Okay. You mentioned that you went back to the -- when
14 you weren't allowed to be on scene at a certain point, you went
15 back to the compressor station and started looking at information
16 on the pipe itself. You said you were looking up data on the
17 pipeline. What data specifically were you looking for?

18 A. I was actually communicating with Frank Sanchez about the
19 pipe. I don't recall if I actually got into the system looking at
20 it, but Frank being a senior employee -- he's been around a long
21 time -- I consulted with him, and we -- the data I was looking for
22 was what size line and, like, a gas loss type of thing. So I, I,
23 I had Frank actually look and, and tell me how many miles of pipe
24 was between -- oh, what was it -- I believe it was 38 and 39.

25 Q. How many --

1 A. I'm sorry, 37 and 39. And he told me it was approximately 38
2 miles of pipe. So I was just gathering information that I thought
3 might be pertinent for -- while I was, while I was sitting there.

4 Q. Did you have to use any of that for anything, any of that
5 information?

6 A. I did not. I do know that, you know, under -- some of this
7 information I was gathering is some of the normal information you
8 would, you would gather when you're reporting an incident through,
9 through our incident reporting.

10 Q. Right.

11 A. So I just started getting that, you know, exact mileposts,
12 location, things like that, and I never really -- other than
13 having it my notes, it never really went anywhere as of yet.

14 Q. So you didn't assist with the notifying NRC?

15 A. No.

16 Q. No one asked you for that information?

17 A. No. I'm going to back way up. I think on the ERL call, I, I
18 had mentioned that it's a 30-inch pipe.

19 Q. Oh, okay. Were you able to finally access the schematics?
20 You said early on, you weren't able to, but --

21 A. Not from home, no.

22 Q. Not from home?

23 A. No. And I don't remember if I got back in there during,
24 during the day or not.

25 Q. Okay. And how far away was your home from the site?

1 A. It's [REDACTED], Arizona, to the site, so I think if you put
2 it in, I don't know, directions on a good day, it's approximately
3 100 -- an hour and 20 minutes.

4 MS. GUNARATNAM: Okay. I'll stop there for now.
5 Tiffany?

6 MS. BAKER: Thank you.

7 BY MS. BAKER:

8 Q. All right. So you said Dave Carroll gave you a call, and you
9 were notified of the release at 6:05 is when you found out?

10 A. No, about 6:02.

11 Q. 6:02?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. 6:02. How long was it before you left your house?

14 A. I'm going to say approximately 6:45 is when I left the house.

15 Q. About 6:45?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. So in your emergency response training that you receive, what
18 is your role during an emergency response? Do you have an
19 assigned role or duty during emergency response efforts?

20 A. It could be anything from manage the ERL call, the emergency
21 call, to respond to the site, to go to a valve setting and
22 possibly have to close a valve.

23 Q. Okay. So what were your directions when you were leaving
24 your home at 6:45? What were you told to do?

25 A. I was told to go to the site.

1 Q. To the site?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you said you got there at what time?

4 A. I got there at approximately -- it was like 8:15 or so, 8:15
5 or 8:20, somewhere in there.

6 Q. Okay. And did you know anything about the NRC at all as far
7 as when it was put in or notifications were sent out?

8 A. No.

9 Q. No?

10 A. I mean, I don't -- unless I'm missing something. Let me -- I
11 don't recall, no, no.

12 Q. Okay. And what were you told when you arrived on the site?
13 You said you spoke with an officer?

14 A. When I arrived on site, the immediate thing that happened was
15 I was approached by the, the generating station, who was
16 generating station director, who had questions for me.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. She introduced herself. I at first was kind of stepping back
19 because of the severity of the situation, and from there, I went
20 ahead and got the information for her.

21 Q. For her?

22 A. For her, yes.

23 Q. What was she asking you specifically?

24 A. She asked me -- she introduced herself as the director of the
25 power plant. She was standing right at the entrance to the power

1 plant. And she asked me for -- if her employees can go back in.
2 And I said that was not my decision. I forgot how I worded it.
3 Those may not be my exact words, but I said that's not for me to
4 speak to. And then she asked if she can continue normal
5 operations as far as fuel flows, really, for her plant.

6 Q. Okay. SO her and all her employees were evacuated from the
7 Coolidge Plant?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Coolidge Power Plant?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And you also said you spoke to someone after that.
12 Was it an emergency response person or --

13 A. Yes, yes. That was chief, and I don't know his first name,
14 but Chief Dillon.

15 Q. Chief Dillon?

16 A. I think it's D-I-L-L-O-N.

17 Q. Who was he with?

18 A. Coolidge Fire Department.

19 Q. Okay. And did he give you any information at that time or
20 ask you for any?

21 A. What I recall is he asked me who I was. I went to give him
22 my name and introduce myself, and he said, "Oh, I already got you
23 on here." I just remembered that. I'm sorry.

24 Q. No problem.

25 A. He had already had my name and number.

1 Q. Okay. Anything else exchanged between the two of you?

2 A. Like earlier, I believe I told, I told him that we would like
3 them to just preserve the, the pipeline rupture and stay out of
4 there. I know there was some more information. I don't recall.

5 Q. Okay. Did you -- did anybody speak about the home that was
6 involved at all?

7 A. Yeah. I mean, I got to go back now. I did also receive a
8 phone call from my -- from Ken Grub (ph.).

9 Q. Ken -- you said Grove?

10 A. Ken Grub.

11 Q. Grub?

12 A. Yes. And he was asking about the livestock at the home, you
13 know, is somebody taking care of the livestock that was at the
14 home site. And so I had an employee with me who had noticed that
15 there were several -- I think it was the county and the state
16 possibly that was loading up some animals from the, from the site.
17 And so, yeah, I heard that about the, the home.

18 I did hear that there were -- there was a woman found walking
19 down the street close by with burns, and I heard that two people
20 passed away. And I don't know from who, but I did hear that.
21 Trying to think of other things I heard about the house. No, I
22 don't recall anything.

23 Q. Okay. All right. So once you got all the information and
24 you guys said that you were asked to leave the site, you said that
25 was between 1 -- about 2:28-ish that you said you sent a

1 notification or a text to someone. And once you guys left, do you
2 know when you were allowed to go back to the site?

3 A. Yes. That was at -- I got a text message from Chief Dillon
4 who said we can come back to the site, and that --

5 Q. Yeah, but was there a time associated with that?

6 A. Yeah. It's 4:45 p.m.

7 Q. Okay. And so you all actually went back at that time? I
8 know he said that you all -- he was done with the investigation,
9 but when did you go back?

10 A. I, I was waiting for that, and I'm pretty sure it was, it was
11 right around that exact time.

12 Q. Oh, okay.

13 A. Approximately 4:45, because I had guys ready to put the
14 fencing up, and they were, they were -- they'd been waiting to do
15 that.

16 Q. Oh, okay. I probably missed that the first time. I just
17 thought that he told you that they were done -- people waiting --

18 A. No, that's -- that is correct, and I'd say approximately 4:45
19 we went back to the site.

20 Q. Okay. So in between the time when you left the scene and
21 before you went back to the scene, were there any other encounters
22 that you had with some of your employees about any statuses of the
23 situation, anything, you know, pipeline-related?

24 A. Yeah. I did -- right when I got -- I think we've already
25 talked about all of it. I don't recall any additional information

1 on that.

2 Q. Okay. Okay. When you initial went to the site, was there
3 anybody from Kinder Morgan there already or were you the first
4 Kinder Morgan employee to get on site?

5 A. No, I was not the first Kinder Morgan employee. There were
6 already employees there.

7 Q. Okay. Were they from, like, operations?

8 A. There was Frank Sanchez was there with operations, and Ray
9 Garibay, with measurement, and I do not recall if Rogelio Chavez
10 was there yet and Adam ~~Zumbarro~~ ^{Zambrano} (ph.). I don't know if they were
11 there yet.

12 Q. But they were around while you were there?

13 A. Yes, they were definitely there.

14 Q. Do you happen to know who the first Kinder Morgan employee
15 was that was allowed to go into the site?

16 A. No.

17 MS. BAKER: No? Okay. I think that's all I have.

18 MR. CARROLL: Did you direct anyone to go to any of the valve
19 sites?

20 MR. MAYERHOFER: Let's see. No, I did not directly. I was
21 getting, like I said, the updates, and I could see that people
22 were being directed to valve sites.

23 MR. CARROLL: Okay. Did you direct anyone to close or
24 operate any valves?

25 MR. MAYERHOFER: No.

1 MR. CARROLL: Okay. So would you describe your role more as
2 a coordinator for the efforts that day?

3 MR. MAYERHOFER: Yes.

4 MR. CARROLL: I guess that's all I have.

5 MS. GUNARATNAM: Ryan?

6 MR. WEIGHT: Let me just write down this last thought he
7 said.

8 BY MR. WEIGHT:

9 Q. From your previous experience before this incident, do you
10 recall being on any other ERL calls for previous events?

11 A. Well, yes.

12 Q. And how, I guess, how long does the typical ERL call last?

13 A. Sometimes they're depending on the amount of questions that
14 go along afterwards. As far as how long the typical ERL call
15 lasts, I'd say maybe 30 to 45 minutes.

16 Q. And can you recall, to the best of your knowledge, how long
17 the ERL call lasted on this incident? Were you still on the ERL
18 call by the time you got to the scene?

19 A. Yes. I got off in there, as I explained, I did get off the
20 ERL call, but then I dialed back into the ERL call, and it was
21 still ongoing. And I can tell you that it was longer than 30 to
22 45 minutes.

23 Q. During the ERL call, were you given any other additional
24 instructions other than deploying to the scene?

25 A. Yes. I was given information, small information about

1 dealing with, with media and to make sure that, you know, I
2 refer -- feel free to refer media to corporate communications is
3 the way it got put to me. My -- I could say I'm pretty sure I
4 remember my vice president stating, "Remember, just remember your
5 media training."

6 Q. And what vice president are you talking about that gave you
7 that --

8 A. Mr. Ted Meinhold (ph.).

9 Q. Okay. And was he the one that told you to deploy -- that
10 instructed you to deploy?

11 A. I, I feel like it was, but I'm not 100 percent sure. I don't
12 recall.

13 Q. Okay. And I guess as far as deploying people, were, were
14 people like James updating you on where people were being sent to
15 and what sites they were deploying to?

16 A. James did send me a text early on in the day right, right
17 around the same time Dave and I were having a conversation, around
18 6:02. I'm sorry. And actually, this is -- James was with me. I
19 have to go back. I don't know why I forgot, but James was with me
20 all day, pretty much.

21 Q. What time did you meet up with James, to the best of your
22 knowledge?

23 A. I say all day. I don't recall when he showed up to the site,
24 but I -- he did end up showing up to the, to the area, and he was
25 with me throughout, throughout that day.

1 Q. Okay. Prior to James showing up, did he inform you about any
2 personnel that he was dispatching to valve sites?

3 A. Yes -- no, not valve sites, but let me, let me check my notes
4 real quick. I'm sorry. Let me back up. So, okay, so at 6:07,
5 James texted me and said, "Tommy, Del, myself are responding.
6 I'll meet them in Casa Grande and be in touch."

7 Q. And who is the second person? You said Tom?

8 A. Tommy, Del -- that's Delfino is his full name, and "myself,"
9 so James Pigg. That came from James. And deploying to Casa
10 Grande, but not any specific valve sites.

11 At that point, I gave him -- yeah, so I did get that from
12 him, and I'm trying to see if there was other valve sites he told
13 me about. That's, that's what I recall with James.

14 Q. Okay. Do you remember who was the person that told you that
15 somebody from Tucson was going to valve 37?

16 A. I could speculate who I think it was, but I don't recall who
17 that was.

18 Q. Was that received from a phone call or a text?

19 A. It was on the -- to my best understanding, I heard it from
20 the emergency response line call that was ongoing as I was
21 traveling to the site.

22 Q. Okay. So somebody, somebody from ERL, but you don't know
23 who --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- was saying, "We got a guy going to valve 37"?

1 A. Yup.

2 Q. All right. Were you informed at any time about the
3 difficulty of Ken trying to get to valve 38?

4 A. I did hear about it. I don't have a whole lot of detail on
5 the specifics of that, but I did hear about that, yes.

6 Q. And how did you hear about that?

7 A. I don't remember how I heard about that.

8 Q. Were you given any communication when Brett and/or Tom
9 and/or -- hang on just a second. I just got to find out who the
10 second person was.

11 A. Thomas?

12 Q. So, yeah, when Brett made it to the -- made it to valve 38,
13 and when Tom was dispatched to help, help Brett out starting to
14 close that valve.

15 A. Yes, I got text message from Frank Sanchez saying he was
16 sending Thomas to mainline valve 38 to help Brett close the valve
17 when the line is blowing down.

18 Q. Okay. And do you recall, to the best of your knowledge, what
19 time was it when Frank sent you that text saying that he's
20 dispatching somebody to valve 38?

21 A. Yeah, he said he's sending Thomas, and that text came in
22 right around 7:50 a.m.

23 Q. Okay. And did you receive any notification for -- when valve
24 37 and then valve 38 were closed?

25 A. Thirty-eight, I didn't receive a notification of the exact

1 time that valve was closed. Thirty-seven, I did not receive an
2 exact time when it was closed, but I heard the information that
3 somebody was getting ready to close it right around -- this was
4 between 7 and 7:05 on that ERL call --

5 Q. Did you hear that during the ERL call?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. As of right now, I don't have any further questions
8 for the time being, so thank you for being open with us.

9 A. Okay. Thank you.

10 BY MS. GUNARATNAM:

11 Q. Okay. Thanks. I kind of want to switch gears just a little
12 bit since you're the operations supervisor for this line.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. Moving away from August 15th, I wanted to ask about line
15 2000.

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. And what are the kind of maintenance activities and
18 inspections you did on it in the last year, or since you started?

19 A. I would say valve maintenance, valve servicing, pipeline
20 patrols, and the thing with the pipeline patrols and -- I'm not
21 sure if that has happened yet since I've been the supervisor, but
22 I believe it has. As far as valve maintenance, I do know that has
23 happened while I've been the supervisor.

24 Q. Okay. Any inspections on the lines?

25 A. 2000? I know we're doing on the line 2000 some anomaly

1 inspections in the Phoenix area, so that's, that's happening.

2 Q. That's ongoing or --

3 A. Yeah, that's ongoing.

4 Q. Okay. I mean, we'll probably request inspection and
5 maintenance records.

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. We'll do that formally. Okay. And so you said it's ongoing.
8 Has anything popped up for that line with regard -- in the anomaly
9 inspections?

10 A. There's been some report -- I mean, I don't have any details.
11 There's been lots of updates on the anomalies from project
12 management. Nothing that has required us to -- as operations to
13 jump into immediate action, and so I don't recall, you know,
14 any -- the exact details of things that came out.

15 Q. Okay. All right. In the last -- since you took over in
16 2020?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. All right. And so valve maintenance, servicing, you
19 don't know yet if pipeline patrols, you're not sure if it's
20 happened, and anomaly inspections are ongoing?

21 A. So pipeline patrols and leak surveys should have happened
22 since I've been a supervisor, yes.

23 Q. Oh, okay.

24 A. I just can't speak to any, any dates on that right now
25 without the data in front of me, or any of that.

1 Q. Okay. Anything notable from those?

2 A. Not that, no, not that I'm aware of.

3 MS. GUNARATNAM: Okay. Anybody else?

4 MR. WEIGHT: I got a couple.

5 BY MR. WEIGHT:

6 Q. Where do you get your notifications about anomalies from?

7 A. I'll usually -- when we, when we have the -- you know, after
8 the ILI data that comes in, it may turn up some, some anomaly
9 digs, to inspect them, and they'll assign a project manager. So
10 usually that will come from project management or pipeline
11 integrity.

12 Q. Okay. On other maintenance issues, such as measurement and
13 corrosion control, are you -- do any people from those groups
14 notify you when those tasks are completed on certain segments?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. Do you know, have you been informed by measurement
17 and/or corrosion control on any work that was done on the 2000
18 line so far up to this date this year?

19 A. There was -- the one that I recall was that corrosion
20 notification of a shorted casing.

21 Q. Did they describe where that location was?

22 A. They did, and I can't recall it at the moment.

23 Q. And was that located near the incident site or --

24 A. Right now, I'm not, I'm not aware of that. I'm not sure.

25 Q. Okay. And that came from -- did that come from Tony?

1 A. No, I think it actually came from one of Tony's employees,
2 but -- I believe it would be James Hare (ph.).

3 Q. Okay. So other than a shorted casing, you know of no other
4 potential issues or anything out of normal on the 2000 facility
5 anywhere in your area of responsibility?

6 A. I've just -- I don't have -- yeah, I don't recall anything
7 right now.

8 Q. Okay. And I guess is there anything else that you would like
9 to add to this that would help us in our investigation?

10 A. No, sir. I think you've been very thorough, and I appreciate
11 your time.

12 Q. Well, I appreciate yours for -- you know, we're just trying
13 to put the pieces together --

14 A. Yeah, I know.

15 MS. GUNARATNAM: So, okay, so no questions, nothing for us?

16 MR. MAYERHOFER: No. I don't believe I do.

17 MS. GUNARATNAM: Okay. All right. So I'm going to go ahead
18 and end the interview.

19 (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 PIPELINE RUPTURE
 IN COOLIDGE, ARIZONA
 ON AUGUST 15, 2021
 Interview of Michael Mayerhofer

ACCIDENT NO.: PLD21FR003

PLACE: Casa Grande, Arizona

DATE: August 18, 2021

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.



Danielle S. VanRiper
Transcriber