



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

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Name: JAY REIM

Department: COLLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Title: SERGEANT

Date of Interview: 6/30/21

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.

Reim Interview Errata

Page 5

Line 8 – Sherriff's Office needs to be changed to Sheriff's Office

Line 17 – Sheriff's Office

Line 19 – Richmond needs to be changed to Richardson

Page 14

Line 2 – need to add he in between if and had

Page 15

Line 25 – Sheriff's

\*\*\*This interview appears very choppy in parts with – in several areas. I do not know if that is meant to delete content or what the purpose is, but makes the interview hard to read.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of: \*

\*

NATURAL GAS-FUELED EXPLOSION \*

DURING ROUTINE MAINTENANCE, \* Accident No.: PLD21FR002

FARMERSVILLE, TEXAS \*

ON JUNE 28, 2021 \*

\*

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: JAY REIM, Sergeant  
Collin County Sherriff's Office

Collin County Sheriff's Office  
McKinney, Texas

Wednesday,  
June 30, 2021

APPEARANCES:

RACHEL GUNARATNAM, Hazmat Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

GREG SMITH, Director of Pipeline Integrity & Compliance  
Atmos Energy

I N D E X

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I N T E R V I E W

(9:15 a.m. CDT)

1  
2  
3 MS. GUNARATNAM: Good morning, my name is Rachel Gunaratnam,  
4 and I am a hazmat investigator with the National Transportation  
5 Safety Board out of Washington, D.C.

6 Today is June 30th, 2021, and the time is 9:15 a.m., Central  
7 Daylight Time. We are currently at the Collin County Sherriff's  
8 Office in McKinney, Texas, and we are here in response to the  
9 natural gas incident that occurred on June 28th, 2021, in  
10 Farmersville, Texas. And today we are interviewing --

11 SGT REIM: Jay Reim.

12 MS. GUNARATNAM: Jay Reim, do you mind if I call you Jay?

13 SGT REIM: That's fine.

14 MS. GUNARATNAM: Okay, great. And you're free to have a  
15 representative to consult with during the interview, is there  
16 anyone you wanted before we begin?

17 SGT REIM: No.

18 MS. GUNARATNAM: Okay. Just so you know, the NTSB  
19 investigation, we're not here to assign blame or anything like  
20 that, we're just here to get your testimony, we're here to figure  
21 out, for safety purposes, what happened. So -- and just so you  
22 know, for the purpose -- our purposes are to improve safety, not  
23 to assign fault, and the NTSB cannot offer any guarantee of  
24 confidentiality or immunity from any legal proceedings by other  
25 agencies, local, state, or federal. And, as I said before, a

1 transcript of this interview will be place in the public docket  
2 for this investigation, which will be available to you. So, why  
3 don't we go ahead and start the interview.

4 MS. GUNARATNAM: If you could just start off with telling us  
5 about yourself? Also, can you spell your name for the  
6 transcriber, and your title?

7 SGT REIM: Sure, I'm Sergeant Jay, J-A-Y, Reim, R-E-I-M, and  
8 I am a sergeant with the Collin County Sherriff's Office. I serve  
9 as the sergeant of the Criminal Investigations Division.

10 INTERVIEW OF JAY REIM

11 BY MS. GUNARATNAM:

12 Q. Okay. R-E-I-M, right?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Okay, and how many years -- could you give us a -- just  
15 background on who you are professionally?

16 A. Okay. So, I've been a peace officer for over 27 years, I've  
17 been with the Sherriff's Office for almost three years. I've  
18 spent -- my earlier career I spent 20-and-a-half years at the  
19 Frisco Police Department, and I worked at the Richmond Police  
20 Department, and Farmers Branch Police Department prior to that.

21 Q. What were the titles? Was it all peace officer?

22 A. Yeah. I was a sergeant in Frisco for 16 years.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And then I was an officer everywhere else.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. And then I retired from Frisco Police Department and then  
2 came here; I want to say next month will be my three years here.

3 Q. Great, and what kind of -- can you give me a description of  
4 your training and what kind of training you've had?

5 A. Lots --

6 Q. Current training?

7 A. Accident reconstructionist, I've attended a lot of crime  
8 scene, you know, death investigation classes, homicide  
9 conferences, search warrant classes, lots of varied training. I  
10 don't know how many hours of training I have, but quite a bit.

11 Q. Okay, and so basically that was all for the criminal  
12 investigator position?

13 A. Yes, just throughout my career. I've been in investigations  
14 several times throughout my career, I've worked in narcotics, like  
15 I said, I worked as an accident reconstructionist in Frisco for a  
16 while.

17 Q. Got it.

18 A. I've spent time as an SRO in the schools -- school resource  
19 officer in the schools, I've spent time in patrol, days, and  
20 nights, and then here I've been primarily in criminal  
21 investigations.

22 Q. Okay, great. So, can you -- did you get any natural gas  
23 training at all throughout that time?

24 A. No.

25 Q. No? Okay, and -- okay. So, let's go back to -- on June



1 28th, tell me about how you started your day, and then how you  
2 heard about the incident and everything?

3 A. Was that Monday?

4 Q. Yeah.

5 A. Okay. So, Monday I got at, like, 6:30 in the morning and  
6 started assigning the cases from the weekend, which is my normal  
7 duty to assign my cases. And then -- I'm trying to remember what  
8 all we did. It's been a busy couple of days, we've had five dead  
9 bodies in two days. And so, we're -- I know I was working a lot  
10 with -- we worked a case the night before, and I was helping clean  
11 up another case that I worked the week before -- a drowning that  
12 we worked the week before, and some other -- working on my cases  
13 and getting stuff situated.

14 And then I had something -- I had some kind of meeting, and  
15 then I left here, and I went and picked up some evidence, and then  
16 went home. I got home about 3:30, and then about 4:00 I got a  
17 page from Captain Fontana advising me of this incident and to  
18 respond. So, I got dressed and headed to the scene.

19 Q. That was 4:00 p.m.?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Okay, and then tell me what -- when you came on scene what  
22 you saw and everything?

23 A. So, I was briefed about the incident, I had my investigators  
24 respond, and the news helicopters were flying overhead, I learned  
25 that there was two deceased on scene and we weren't sure who they

1 were or anything like that. So, I had my investigators figure  
2 out -- work on figuring out who the people were that were on scene  
3 that -- the injured and the deceased and worked on the next of kin  
4 notification because we didn't want them to find out by a news  
5 helicopter.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. And found out that the company had -- one of the companies  
8 had already notified one of the families, and then I know one of  
9 the deceased, his dad worked for the same company, and he found  
10 out as well. So, he actually ended up showing up on scene.

11 Q. Right. So, you were brief by several people or just  
12 Captain Fontana?

13 A. It was kind of a conglomeration of -- I mean, there was  
14 obviously a bunch of people out there.

15 Q. Yeah.

16 A. So, getting kind of bits and pieces from everybody.

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. And then learned that it was, you know, the fire -- we  
19 originally thought that it was a fire, and so, that would fall  
20 under the jurisdiction of the Fire Marshal's Office.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. So, I had to talk to the fire marshal, and once we kind of  
23 get -- got an understanding of what actually happened, we talking  
24 to the Fire Marshal's Office and say hey, we'll take this since  
25 it's not, like, a fire -- like a house fire kind of a deal, it's

1 a -- you know, it was a brief fire.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. So, then we said that we would take the lead in the  
4 investigation.

5 Q. So, even though it was a brief fire is because it was  
6 an -- wasn't continuous, so --

7 A. Right.

8 Q. Okay. All right.

9 A. And we had more experience in investigating, like, these  
10 types of instances than the Fire Marshal's Office. They deal  
11 with, like, the house fires and somebody dies in a fire, that kind  
12 of stuff, not, like, an industrial type setting job of a deal.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. But prior to us -- the fire marshal was actually there very  
15 quick, and he actually started putting out the little number  
16 markers we use, the little tents -- numbered tents --

17 Q. Uh-huh.

18 A. -- at the various places prior to us getting there because he  
19 was actually right around the corner when the call came out. So,  
20 he was able to put that stuff in place.

21 Q. Where the bodies were?

22 A. And where the -- the bodies stayed where they were, but the  
23 injured, he marked where they were, and other things as well. So,  
24 those were all marked.

25 Q. Do you guys have pictures of that?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. Okay. They were removed by the time I was on scene.

3 A. Yeah, we removed them that night.

4 Q. Oh, okay.

5 A. Because we were going to get more storms and they were going  
6 to blow away.

7 Q. Oh, got it.

8 A. They're just -- I don't know if you -- the little plastic  
9 tents deal, so they'll just -- a good breeze will blow them away.

10 Q. Right, I got it. Yeah -- where the injured are -- okay,  
11 great. Yeah, I definitely would like a copy of those. So, did  
12 the fire marshal tell you anything about what happened?

13 A. Yeah, he explained that they were working and then the pig, I  
14 guess is what it's called, the pig flew out the -- and then there  
15 was, like, an expelling of gas, and then a quick flash of fire and  
16 then that was it, and then everything kind of stopped. And  
17 obviously medical personnel arrived, there was two transported to  
18 the hospital, the two deceased stayed on scene.

19 And there was a fifth person that was actually operating the  
20 bobcat, and he was still on scene, but obviously very shaken up.  
21 I didn't talk to him until -- I talked to him more about hey --  
22 you know, I wanted somebody to be there with him, but he wasn't  
23 from this area. We're trying to find somebody for him, and we  
24 could talk to him later if we need to or whatever, but I wasn't  
25 too concerned about getting an interview with him right then and

1 there --

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. -- based on the circumstances because it wasn't -- we knew it  
4 wasn't going to be criminal at that point. So, I knew we could  
5 get him later, and then when all this started, I figure you all  
6 would just take care of it and there wouldn't be any need for us  
7 to sit down for a formal interview with him.

8 Q. So, you didn't interview him because we --

9 A. Not about the incident.

10 Q. Right, okay. Did you see the injured?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. No.

14 Q. So, when you arrived on scene, what did you see exactly?

15 A. So, I saw the bobcat, the pipe that they were working on,  
16 they had closed the pipe, and we were told the scene was secure  
17 by -- somebody on scene said that it was -- everything was secure.  
18 There was sheets over the bodies that were there, and then  
19 everything else was left in place. The tent markers were done,  
20 and then our crime scene responded and photographed, took  
21 measurements, made a sketch.

22 And then we -- in the middle of that a storm blew through so  
23 we ended up having to -- we got some tarps and had to put tarps  
24 over the bodies. And then we had to run and get a bunch of monkey  
25 wrenches from somewhere outside of that fenced in area, I'm not

1 sure where they came from, to weigh down the tarps, and then we  
2 waited out the storm and then went back in.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. So, if you see all those -- I don't know if they're still in  
5 there, but all those monkey wrenches --

6 Q. Yeah, we did.

7 A. -- they aren't part of anything.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. So, nobody was using those, those are complete 100 percent  
10 us, and those blue tarps that are off to the side by the bobcat,  
11 those were brought in by us as well.

12 Q. Okay, that's good to know.

13 A. But everything else stayed the way it was. We didn't move  
14 anything, we didn't manipulate anything, the only thing we removed  
15 was the bodies.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. And then we -- like I said, we left everything there.

18 Q. Okay, great. So, when you -- when all that activity was  
19 going on, what did you observe the condition of the bodies?

20 (Verbatim)

21 A. We didn't really -- we briefly looked at the bodies, but we  
22 waited until the medical examiner got there -- the field agent,  
23 and then when we rolled him we noticed that one of them had some  
24 pretty severe, it looks like, burning or something on the face.  
25 The other one, period, was kind of covered in mud it almost looked

1 like, the face, and then he had a severe wound to the back of his  
2 head.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. It looked like, just a guess on my part, but like the  
5 pipe -- the steel pipe, you know, caught it on the head, and there  
6 was fragments of skull and brain there on the ground as well.

7 Q. Okay. That was the second one -- the second body?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Okay, the first one was burned?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. Were they facing down -- how were they facing down?

12 A. They were both kind of in a -- put in awkward positions, like  
13 they fell.

14 Q. Backwards or forwards?

15 A. I believe more backwards, it looks like. But almost -- one  
16 of them was laying kind of like this because you couldn't really  
17 see the back of his head very much.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. And then the other one, he was kind of more on his back.

20 Q. Okay, so --

21 A. We have photographs of all that.

22 Q. I'm just -- would you -- in your opinion, do you think they  
23 were facing the pipe when it -- when all this happened? It would  
24 weird (ph.) --

25 A. I'm not so sure about the one with the head wound because

1 it's -- the front is all good, it's the back. So, I almost wonder  
2 if had his back turned --

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. -- and that happened, I don't know.

5 Q. I see.

6 A. We'll obviously know more once, you know, we talk to the  
7 medical examiner, and that's what I would be waiting for as well  
8 before I made any type of --

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. -- you know, judgement.

11 Q. And when you were -- so, how long -- what time did -- you got  
12 notification of it at 4:00 p.m., what time did you actually arrive  
13 on scene?

14 A. I was probably there about 4:30.

15 Q. Okay, and did you speak to Atmos at all? Was Atmos on scene?

16 A. Yeah, Atmos was there, Bobcat was there, FESCO was there, the  
17 Railroad Commission was there. I don't remember names of who I  
18 talked to.

19 Q. That's fine. And did you smell anything when you arrived on  
20 scene?

21 A. Every so often we got some hints of gas, and I know when the  
22 Railroad Commission got there they were walking around as well,  
23 and they smelled it and they stopped everybody and said hey, so,  
24 we all backed out. Atmos brought in -- I don't know what it is,  
25 some kind of -- looked like a laser gun, and started doing some



1 stuff, and they said that it was safe. So, we went back in and  
2 continued.

3 Q. Okay, and that was around the time you arrived at 4:30, they  
4 did that?

5 A. No, we --

6 Q. Oh.

7 A. They did that much later. We were told the scene was safe,  
8 we didn't know any better. We kind of -- we would smell it every  
9 so often, just a whiff here and there as they were walking around.  
10 They walked the whole facility, I mainly concentrated on where  
11 everything happened.

12 Q. Right.

13 A. But farther over they were smelling it more and so, they were  
14 like hey, let's just get this checked just to make sure there's  
15 nothing else.

16 Q. And when you say they --

17 A. The Railroad Commission. So, I would say that was probably  
18 several hours into it.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Because I know it took them a while to get there as well.

21 Q. Did the -- which responders were you interacting with  
22 specifically when you arrived?

23 A. Mainly my team.

24 Q. Your team?

25 A. From the Sherriff's Office.

1 Q. Okay. But you also said you spoke to the state fire marshal?

2 A. The county fire marshal.

3 Q. County, sorry. County fire marshal.

4 A. Yes, he was there initially, and then -- he stayed for a  
5 short time, and then after, you know, we told him we would take  
6 the lead then he left the scene.

7 Q. Okay, and then he handed it over to you guys?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Okay, and how many of your investigators were on scene?

10 A. Three.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. And then my crime scene person.

13 Q. What's the crime scene person, is it a photographer or --

14 A. She's a criminalist.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. So, she does forensics and stuff like that.

17 Q. Okay. So, you have four all together?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And then you?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Okay, great. So, you -- so, tell me how you go about your  
22 investigation with the -- when you come on scene?

23 A. So, generally, like, in this type of situation with this  
24 being hurried with the media, our -- obviously our concern was  
25 next of kin first, so, we worked on that, also trying to figure

1 out who was who. And then I sent my other criminalist to the  
2 hospital where the injured were to have those photographs of the  
3 injuries and to figure out who they were as well so that we  
4 were -- if we started missing names, we knew where people were and  
5 we could kind of fill in the blank. Because, again, there was a  
6 lot of people there and a lot of people kept arriving and so  
7 forth, so we did that; that was our main goal. And then at that  
8 point, the medical examiner came out, we looked, didn't see  
9 anything criminal from it, so at that point it was more of us just  
10 documenting for whoever else was going to continue the  
11 investigation.

12 Q. Okay. So, you didn't see anything criminal, then what  
13 happens after that?

14 A. We -- I mean, we'll initiate a report, we'll put all of our  
15 findings in there, and then we'll all type a supplement up of what  
16 we did, and how we did it, and everything else, and then it'll be  
17 in our files if, you know, anybody needs it or whatever.

18 Q. Is that report done?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Not yet? Oh, okay. When would it be done? I mean,  
21 ballpark? I know you're balancing other cases, so --

22 A. Yeah, we just got something big this morning too, so --

23 Q. Yeah.

24 A. So, today's Wednesday -- I would hope by early next week.

25 Q. Oh, okay. Yeah. Would we be able to have a copy of that?

1 A. Sure.

2 Q. Okay, and if anything is confidential just stamp it, like, or  
3 just tell me this is -- you know, pages such and such are  
4 confidential.

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. Or if you don't want it -- you don't want to give it to us,  
7 if you don't think it'll help the investigation don't -- you don't  
8 have to give it to us.

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. And it's confidential. So, okay. So, you -- how long were  
11 you on scene?

12 A. I was there from -- I would say approximately 4:30 until  
13 about 9:15.

14 Q. Okay. So, after you sent the two -- a couple of  
15 investigators to the hospital, what else were you doing as part of  
16 your investigation?

17 A. Just waiting. The FBI was notified and so they were sending  
18 their evidence crew and bomb technicians. So, we were pretty much  
19 concluded with our part, and then waiting on the FBI to show up.

20 Q. When did you make your conclusions -- like you were pretty  
21 sure you were -- what happened?

22 A. I would say probably within an hour into it, you know,  
23 looking at everything.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. And, you know, determining that it wasn't criminal --

1 Q. Sure.

2 A. -- and then clearing, you know, there wasn't any tampering or  
3 anything else, it appeared it was routine maintenance that went  
4 wrong is what it appeared from everything that we were, you know,  
5 gathering from the scene.

6 Q. Right. Did you get any -- did you talk to anyone on scene  
7 about what they routine maintenance was specifically?

8 A. Not specifically from any of the companies, but I did talk to  
9 the Railroad Commission people and just asked them. Because I had  
10 no idea what a pig was, and everybody kept -- so, I'm looking for  
11 a four-legged pig and I'm like I don't know what you're talking  
12 about. So, they finally pointed that out to me, and I was like  
13 okay, what are we doing here and how -- in a perfect world, how is  
14 this supposed to happen?

15 And so, they explained it to me how, you know, they shut off  
16 the one valve and then the pipes attach to the flare or whatever  
17 it's called, and that burns off the gas in between. And then once  
18 the gas is burned off, they can -- they run tests to make sure,  
19 and then they can insert the pig with the pipes and do what they  
20 need to do. They can use the bobcat sometimes, and then -- but  
21 apparently, I guess, it was inserted and there was some back-up  
22 gas and it shot it out is what we're assuming. And then the gas  
23 came out, and then sparked and ignited quickly and then --

24 Q. Did they by any chance point to you where the sparking  
25 happened?

1 A. No, I don't. I don't remember that. Just --

2 Q. They just told you?

3 A. -- based on what, you know, what I was -- what I saw on  
4 scene, I didn't see any burn areas or anything like that. I don't  
5 know if that happened -- you know, if it ignited in the pipe and  
6 came out, I don't know. Again, I'm not the expert in that field  
7 or that part, so --

8 Q. Who would look at that if there was any burn issues, like,  
9 burn patterns or anything?

10 A. I'm believing that would be, like, you all or --

11 Q. I'm saying, like, locally, like, would it be the Fire  
12 Department or --

13 A. I mean, they could.

14 Q. Okay. Yeah.

15 A. But like I said, there was no fire on scene, and, like I  
16 said, it was deemed safe by the Fire Department so --

17 Q. Okay. So, Farmersville Fire Department declared it safe?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. They were there, and I believe Wylie Fire was there as well.

21 Q. Okay. So, once you -- Railroad Commission explained all this  
22 to you, what happened next after you understood kind of what was  
23 going on?

24 A. We waited for the FBI, they showed up, they looked, they  
25 didn't see anything that met their criteria, and the medical

1 examiner came out, and then the transport came out and we loaded  
2 the bodies.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. We did show the father of one of the victims the body, and  
5 then we cleared the scene.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And then turned it over to Atmos security who'd hired a  
8 couple of off-duty officers to secure the scene until --

9 Q. Right. So, have you ever seen anything -- have you ever been  
10 to that facility before?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay, and have you ever been to a gas incident like something  
13 like this?

14 A. Not like this, no.

15 Q. Not this? Okay. Is there anything you'd like to share with  
16 us that you observed on scene? Maybe anything unique or that you  
17 thought was different?

18 A. No. I mean, it just -- like I said, it just looked like a  
19 tragic accident to me. It didn't -- you know, and I -- like,  
20 safety protocols, I have no clue --

21 Q. Right.

22 A. -- of any of that stuff. But whatever transpired was, you  
23 know, from our aspect, it was, you know, nothing that we would  
24 continue to investigate.

25 Q. Okay. Were -- you weren't on scene when Farmersville was

1 there -- the Fire Department?

2 A. The Fire Department was there, yes.

3 Q. When you were there?

4 A. Yeah, there -- I mean, there was a fire truck there --

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. -- when I was there, and there was several firemen running  
7 around, I don't know exactly which agencies they're from because a  
8 lot of times when that happens, we get a big response.

9 Q. Right.

10 A. And there's a lot of volunteer out here in the county,  
11 Volunteer Fire Departments. So, if they hear it come on and  
12 they're close, then they respond. So, I don't know exactly how  
13 many fire agencies responded, all the ambulances were gone by the  
14 time I got there.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. So -- but I don't know which fire agencies and all were  
17 there.

18 Q. Right. Did the -- did you see the Farmersville Police?

19 A. I saw Chief Sullivan at one point during --

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. But, I mean, I think that was much later.

22 Q. Okay. So, you saw -- did you see one engine or multiple  
23 engines?

24 A. I saw one engine there.

25 Q. One engine? Okay.



1 A. Can you just give me one second?

2 MS. GUNARATNAM: Sure. We're going to pause the recording.

3 (Off the record)

4 (On the record)

5 MS. GUNARATNAM: All right, we're returning.

6 BY MS. GUNARATNAM:

7 Q. Okay. So, there's one name and all the ambulances had left,  
8 fire department declared it safe for you to go in before you went  
9 in?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Okay. Was -- did you have to -- when you came in there was  
12 the gate there, did you have to, like, check in with anyone?

13 A. When I got there, we hadn't -- it hadn't been really  
14 established, I established the crime scene, put the tape across  
15 when I got there to the scene.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Everything was still kind of -- hadn't settled. I don't know  
18 if you've been to those, but, you know, once you get -- when you  
19 get police and fire together, everybody gets in there and is doing  
20 things. And then when we show up it's kind of like everything  
21 is -- it's time for everything to settle down now. And so, I  
22 roped it off and made -- basically where that folding gate is,  
23 that was my crime scene.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. And then we ended up having to make another one because the

1 media started showing up. So, we made another row of tape back  
2 farther, which is common in those instances because you could look  
3 straight in and see the bodies so --

4 MR. SMITH: You had to back it up farther.

5 SGT REIM: Yeah, we didn't want the media, you know, having  
6 access to the bodies.

7 MS. GUNARATNAM: Okay.

8 SGT REIM: So, while we were in and out trying to do our  
9 stuff --

10 MS. GUNARATNAM: Okay.

11 Do you have any questions?

12 MR. SMITH: A couple now that we're about through it.

13 BY MR. SMITH:

14 Q. The -- were there any forensics or samples taken from any of  
15 the equipment?

16 A. No.

17 Q. The pig, the backhoe, anything collected from your team?

18 A. No, sir.

19 Q. Okay. What's the typical role of the FBI in these kind of  
20 situations?

21 A. I'm not real sure, this is the first time that I've had that  
22 response.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. So, my understanding is basically, I guess, because the  
25 initial reports were explosion -- gas explosion, not supposed to

1 happen, obviously, everybody automatically switches to the  
2 terrorism end of it.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. So, I think what the FBI response was, was basically let's  
5 rule this out as a terrorist act.

6 Q. It hit them right on because of --

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. So, literally they came out and spent a very short amount of  
10 time, looked, and said there's no bomb, there's no shrapnel,  
11 there's nothing here for us, there's nothing we can do, you know.

12 Q. You mentioned the father of one of the deceased showed up?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And you all eventually gave him access to the body, but was  
15 he allowed in the -- was he allowed access to the site?

16 A. He did walk into the site because we had two bodies and we  
17 loaded one. So, we walked him in -- he was escorted by us, and --

18 Q. That's where he viewed?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. We had the body loaded in the bag and just unzipped just the  
22 head part so he could view that, and then he was not -- he knew he  
23 was not allowed to touch anything or do anything else --

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. -- and then was escorted back out of the scene.

1 Q. And then just finally, what time did you release the scene  
2 back over to Atmos energy?

3 A. Probably around 9:15.

4 Q. Okay. Right before you left?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So, 9:15?

7 A. Yeah, because when I was walking out of that fenced in area  
8 for the last time, the off-duty officers showed up and they were  
9 asking if we were done, and I was -- then I was wrapping up a few  
10 things and I said yeah, we're done in there, and then we were  
11 turning it over to them.

12 Q. And at that time, we already had security arranged to --

13 A. Correct. And then I think they were doing one more -- like  
14 dealing with the laser gun --

15 Q. Sort of that --

16 A. -- did that one more time to make sure the gas levels were  
17 okay, and then everybody was going to clear out. And they  
18 were -- whoever that was from Atmos was escorted as well by  
19 somebody.

20 Q. While they were doing the survey inside, they were escorted?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. From somebody in your team?

23 A. Not my team. I believe either the Railroad Commission or it  
24 may have been somebody from the security that was assigned.

25 Q. Just to have a witness they were --

1 A. Yes.

2 MR. SMITH: Okay, thank you.

3 SGT REIM: Uh-huh.

4 MS. GUNARATNAM: I'm sorry, I meant to introduce you. Can  
5 you just say your name and title?

6 MR. SMITH: Yes. I'm Greg Smith, director of pipeline  
7 integrity and compliance with Atmos Energy.

8 MS. GUNARATNAM: Okay, thank you. I meant to do that in the  
9 beginning. Okay.

10 BY MS. GUNARATNAM:

11 Q. Just one last question. When you were speaking with Railroad  
12 Commission, did they have any -- did they explain -- after they  
13 explained the whole process to you about, you know, pigging, did  
14 they say anything about any discussion about what they think may  
15 have gone wrong?

16 A. They didn't have any -- I mean, to discuss with me, they were  
17 waiting on other people as well.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. So, it was -- everybody just kind of understood what  
20 should've happened and then, you know, nobody knows what went  
21 wrong at that point.

22 Q. Got it.

23 A. It's not like anybody went oh, well that, you know --

24 Q. Right.

25 A. -- that was this or that was that. That was -- there were

1 none of those discussions that was privy to me.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. So --

4 MS. GUNARATNAM: All right. Before I conclude, any last  
5 questions?

6 MR. SMITH: No.

7 MS. GUNARATNAM: All right, thank you very much. We'll end  
8 the interview.

9 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

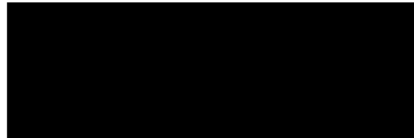
IN THE MATTER OF:           NATURAL GAS-FUELED EXPLOSION  
                                  DURING ROUTINE MAINTENANCE,  
                                  FARMERSVILLE, TEXAS  
                                  ON JUNE 28, 2021  
                                  Interview of Jay Reim

ACCIDENT NO.:                PLD21FR002

PLACE:                         McKinney, Texas

DATE:                         June 30, 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.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn Hanna  
Transcriber