

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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NATURAL GAS BUILDING EXPLOSION &
FIRE NEAR WEST READING,
PENNSYLVANIA, ON MARCH 24, 2023

Accident No.: PLD23LR002

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Interview of: CORY REEHL, 2nd Shift Custodian
RM Palmer

Wyomissing, Pennsylvania

Thursday,
April 20th, 2023

APPEARANCES:

SARA LYONS, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

KIM WEST, Investigator in Charge
National Transportation Safety Board

GARY BAUMAN, Engineer
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

SHERYL HARLEY, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board.

CHRIS WHITEASH, Engineer
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Gas Safety

LOGAN SMITH, VP of Operations
RM Palmer

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Wilson Elser

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I N T E R V I E W

(10:21 a.m.)

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2
3 MS. LYONS: Good morning. Today is April 20th, 2023. It's
4 now 10:21 Eastern Time. My name's Sara Lyons, and I'm the
5 National Transportation Safety Board's Pipeline Operations and
6 Integrity Management Group Chair for this accident.

7 We're holding this interview at RM Palmer's offices in
8 Wyomissing, Pennsylvania. This interview is being conducted as
9 part of the investigation into the explosion that occurred on
10 March 24th, 2023, in West Reading, Pennsylvania. The NTSB case
11 number for this accident is PLD23LR002.

12 This interview is being recorded and may be transcribed at a
13 later date. A copy of the transcript will be provided to you for
14 review prior to being entered into the public docket. You're
15 permitted to have one other person present during the interview.
16 This person -- this is a person of your choice. It can be an
17 attorney, spouse, supervisor, friend, family member, or no one at
18 all. Please state for the record who you've selected.

19 MR. REEHL: Corey Wright.

20 MS. LYONS: For the record, please state the spelling of your
21 full name and your job title.

22 MR. REEHL: Cory, C-O-R-Y, Lee, L-E-E, Reehl, R-E-E-H-L. I'm
23 a second shift custodian.

24 MS. LYONS: Okay. Now, I'd like to go around the room and
25 have each person state their name with spelling, title, and the

1 agency or organization you're representing. I'll begin and then
2 we'll go around the room, starting with the person to my left.

3 So, my name's Sara Lyons, S-A-R-A L-Y-O-N-S. My title is
4 Pipeline Accident Investigator, and I'm with the National
5 Transportation Safety Board.

6 MS. WEST: And I'm Kim West. That's K-I-M W-E-S-T. I'm the
7 investigator in charge for the NTSB.

8 MR. BAUMAN: Hi, I'm Gary Bauman. G-A-R-Y B-A-U-M-A-N. I'm
9 an engineer with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety
10 Administration.

11 MR. WHITEASH: Hi, I'm Chris Whiteash, C-H-R-I-S W-H-I-T-E-A-
12 S-H. I'm a gas and safety investigator for the Pennsylvania
13 Public Utility Commission.

14 MR. SMITH: Logan Smith. L-O-G-A-N S-M-I-T-H. VP Operations
15 at RM Palmer. I'm the party coordinator.

16 MR. WRIGHT: Corey Wright, C-O-R-E-Y W-R-I-G-H-T with the
17 Wilson Elser firm representing the witness today.

18 INTERVIEW OF COREY REEHL

19 BY MS. LYONS:

20 Q. So, Corey, thanks for talking with us today. To get started,
21 I was wondering if you could just give us a summary of your
22 education and experience that led you to your position with Palmer
23 and what your responsibilities are in your role there?

24 A. I graduated 2002 (indiscernible) High School, four years, got
25 my GED, went to Photech (ph.) for a little bit for culinary arts.

1 Basically, just got into jobs with cleaning. And obviously what
2 led me up to Palmer, you know, with cleaning and stuff. Something
3 I enjoyed -- that I enjoy doing. And then just talk about what I
4 do then, right?

5 Q. Yeah. So, how long have you been with Palmer?

6 A. It'll be a year and six months.

7 Q. A year and six months. And what are your responsibilities?

8 A. Basically, I'm in the office setting on the second floor,
9 Building 1. So, office cleaning, vacuum, collect trash,
10 recycling. And I do the learning center, which is the big
11 conference room on that side, the stairwells in the front
12 bathrooms, the lunchroom, the kitchen area. If anybody needs
13 anything that I can help them out with, I help them out with stuff
14 like that, whether it's copy paper, you know, something that
15 they're -- they can't lift up that needs to be thrown away. I
16 throw it away from.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Just any other, you know --

19 Q. So, are you mostly in Building 1?

20 A. Correct. Yeah.

21 Q. Okay. Do you ever go into Building 2?

22 A. Only when I do drains, which is once a month. I do -- every
23 Monday I do drains. And then, like, each Monday, like I might do
24 third floor. The following Monday, the fourth, the third one
25 would be, like, down in the basement. And then the last Monday of

1 the month would be like say the Building 2 or whatever. And then
2 every month I'd start back over again. So, that's only once a
3 month I'm over in Building 2. And then another time I go over, is
4 I do vending machines for my monthly assignments, which is just
5 spraying them off, wiping them off. And that's the only time I'm
6 ever over there.

7 Q. Okay. All right. Great. Thank you. So, on the day of the
8 accident, can you go over like when your shift started, what your
9 plan was that day? What you were going to do that day before the
10 events related to the accident started.

11 A. Basically, like I've been saying, it was just another day.
12 It was Friday. It was like, woo-hoo, the weekend's here. Clock
13 in. Nothing out of the ordinary. Didn't smell anything. Nothing
14 weird or anything. Just another day. Clocked in. I had the
15 stairwells and the learning center, and they were -- for some
16 reason I had them done early, which is unusual. Because when I
17 start that it's like after 4:00 and for some reason had an opening
18 where I could knock them out.

19 So, even at that point, there was nothing in sight. I didn't
20 smell anything, nothing out of the ordinary. I know at 3:30 I had
21 gone over to Building 2 to talk to Elias (ph.). He was one that I
22 just -- I wanted to go over and just shoot the shit with him for
23 like five minutes. And again at 3:30, there was no smell, nothing
24 out of the ordinary.

25 I just remember talking to him and behind me, I know they

1 were breaking machines down. I guess they were doing like a
2 changeover and that. So, I guess when they do that, they tear
3 everything down and clean everything and then they put it back
4 together. So, for five minutes just talking to him. And then I
5 went back over to Building 1 and continue to do my work.

6 Like I said, the learning center and stairwell was done and
7 then there's a back room next to the learning center across from
8 the elevator. So, before I went in there, there was still no
9 smell. I went in there -- and when I go in there, like that's a
10 thing I do every day, like check for product. There's a conveyor
11 belt in the back there. So, I go in there every day, and if
12 there's product, whether it's open or not, I just grab the boxes,
13 put them back on the conveyor belt, and they go down to the
14 basement area where there's a guy down there that puts them on the
15 pallets.

16 But on a Friday is when I do my cleaning where I dry mop, wet
17 mop, and I'll dust. I got my dry mop in and -- dry mopping and
18 dusting, I got that done. I didn't get the wet mopping done, but
19 the time I was in there for six to seven minutes from when I went
20 in and came out, when I came back out, that was my first encounter
21 with the gas.

22 Q. Okay, so around 3:30 you went into Building 2 and talked to
23 Elias. Where in Building 2 were you?

24 A. Literally like when you go into the door off from outside,
25 you go to the left, you go in to another door. And we were right

1 there.

2 Q. Okay. On the first floor --

3 A. Yes. Like --

4 Q. When you walk up the --

5 A. -- yeah. Kind of -- yeah, there's a basement. Yeah, the
6 first floor. Right. Were literally right there by the door.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. So, I mean --

9 Q. And you were there, and you didn't notice any --

10 A. Nah, literally there for like five minutes. And at that
11 point at 3:30 there was no smell of gas.

12 Q. No smell. How do you know it was 3:30?

13 A. Because I looked -- at that time, I did look at my watch for
14 that.

15 Q. Okay. So then, if you could go through when you first
16 noticed something was unusual that day, and then in as much detail
17 as you can, like, did you smell anything? What did you smell?
18 Where were you? If you smelled something, was there a location
19 where that smell was stronger? Did you hear anything? You know?
20 What did you do? Who did you talk to?

21 A. Didn't hear anything. I just, like I said, when I came out
22 of that back room, when I was in there, I was six to seven minutes
23 clean. And so, when I walked in, there was nothing -- no smell.
24 I was in there for that amount of time. And then when I walked
25 out, like I felt like somebody dropped a gas bomb, opened one up

1 and just dropped it right there. That particular area by the
2 elevator, it stank so bad.

3 Q. Okay, so this is just like a picture off of, off of the
4 internet of the buildings. So, this is Building 1.

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. This is Building 2. I'm going to number this Page 1. This
7 is Building 2. This is Building 1. So, where were you?

8 A. Like I said, I'm over here in Building 1, and that's where
9 I'm at most of the time.

10 Q. Where in Building 1? When you say the back room, where is
11 that?

12 A. So, that would be like, like the learning center would be
13 here, it's like right behind the learning center. When you come
14 out of the learning center, the elevator is to the right, the back
15 room would be to the left. So, I was in that little back area
16 there and cleaning. And then when I walked back out in that
17 little lobby area by the elevator that's where I first
18 encountered --

19 Q. So, is that like around here?

20 A. Yeah, I'd say more like around here.

21 Q. Towards the front?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Or around here. And what floor is that on?

24 A. It'd be the second floor.

25 Q. So, you -- just want to make sure I understood you correctly.

1 So, you were in the back room.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And you didn't smell anything.

4 A. No, prior to me going in there, there was no smell of gas.

5 Q. But when you walked out, where did you, where did you walk
6 out?

7 A. As soon as I opened up the door and came in that little lobby
8 area by the elevator, that's when I first encountered the smell.

9 Q. Okay. And can you describe the smell to us?

10 A. Rotten eggs. It was like -- like I said, somebody like just
11 dropped something right in that. And at that moment when I walked
12 in there, that's where I just assumed, was it just in this area
13 here until I walked out in our front lobby area where Deena (ph.)
14 sits, it still smelled out there. And then I noticed in the
15 stairwell it was really bad. So, it was that whole like general
16 area there in the front.

17 Q. On the second floor.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. So, you exit -- if you could just like kind of really
20 walk me through like piece by piece, just the whole sequence. So,
21 you exit the back room. And then can you just walk us through
22 like, where did you go? You went to Deena's desk. Or you went
23 down the stairs?

24 A. So, I went out, I went out when I noticed the smell, it was
25 out there in that lobby by the elevator, went through the other

1 door, the front lobby there, like I said, with Deena's office, I
2 noticed it. And that's when I went in. I noticed Deena was
3 sitting at her desk. She and she was the first one that I told it
4 about. She came out.

5 Now, I understand everybody's noses are different. You know,
6 she did -- when she came out, she said, yeah, I can smell
7 something. So, then we went back. She sat at her desk. I don't
8 know what she was doing at that moment. I don't know if she was
9 trying to call somebody. But we noticed on the TV above her desk
10 there were three people out there. So, it was Elisa, Ziamara
11 (ph.), and then there was another girl out there, out by the open,
12 too.

13 So, I said to Deena, do you want me to go out there to see
14 what's going on? She said, if you don't mind, you know, can you
15 please? I said, yeah, that's fine. So, I went out, went down
16 outside, and then just to kind of see what was happening. Like I
17 said, Elias was sitting outside and then -- so I -- Elias was just
18 sitting there on the stoop in front of Building 2 by the steps,
19 and then I'm in the middle. And then Ziamara was to my right --
20 my left, and then the other girl, the girl I don't know her name,
21 I just remember she had -- Spanish girl, clear glasses. She was
22 to my right. And then Big Mike (ph.), our maintenance guy, was in
23 the alley looking at something. I don't know. The meter, I don't
24 know.

25 I just remember standing there for a few minutes. I remember

1 Elias was saying -- he was complaining about the smell. He's
2 like, this is why I'm outside. I don't know what's happening. I
3 said, yeah, it smells over here in a little bit. I kind of just
4 stood there for a moment, and then I overheard Big Mike say, I'm
5 going to go in and page Sue.

6 So, then me and Mike went in. Mike went into the right. So,
7 when you go into the front there, you go to the right. There's a
8 door to go in on this side. So --

9 Q. Oh, in the front of Building 1?

10 A. Yeah. So, we were -- like, Mike -- so Elias would have been
11 like right around here, like on -- near the stoop, just sitting
12 there.

13 Q. Like around here?

14 A. Yeah. And then I'm more, I was in the middle. Zia (ph.)
15 would have been here. And then the other girl was to my right and
16 then Mike would have been wherever, you know, right around here
17 where the meter was. And I don't -- at that point just looking at
18 him, I don't know, because I don't know anything about this stuff.
19 I don't know if he even knew what to do. He was just looking at
20 the meter.

21 And even standing out there, you can still smell something.
22 Something was off. So, he said, I'm going to go in and page Sue.
23 So, he went in. I followed him, but when we went in, he went to
24 the right. There's a door when you go in. Because H.R. would be
25 over this way. There's a middle door where it's like a like a

1 dock area where like if somebody is picking up something, we open
2 those doors and --

3 Q. The double doors there?

4 A. Yeah. He's here, and then there's another door which would
5 be H.R. But when you go in, go into that door, and you go to the
6 left and go through that door, and then there's the first floor
7 and there's an elevator and then there's a gray phone on the left
8 of that elevator. So, I did hear Mike Page for Sue. As I'm going
9 upstairs, I heard him page for Sue.

10 So, as I walk through to come back into the office, I didn't
11 look at anybody. So, I don't know if Deena was sitting there at
12 the moment. I just walked in. And as I walked in and came around
13 the corner, Mark's (ph.) office would be here. So, as I'm coming
14 around the corner, we have a bunch of mailboxes to our left. And
15 as I came around the corner there, I met up with Sue. So, she was
16 already coming up as he was already paging her. So, we met at the
17 mailboxes, and I looked right at her, and I said, you probably
18 know about the gas smell outside. She said, yeah, I'm going out
19 there to see what's going on. I said, okay.

20 And then as she went by me, I noticed in the corner I saw Amy
21 come around the same corner where I just came, and I just remember
22 her having a piece of paper in her hand. She looked at Sue and
23 said, I need a -- I was looking for you. And she mentioned the
24 gas smell. And my last encounter with them was them two walking
25 out where I just came in from outside.

1 So, after that I went down the hallway and then that's when I
2 let my boss, Kelly Sherman (ph.), know. And I asked her, are you
3 leaving any time soon? She says no. And I said there's a strong
4 odor of gas out front. And she just said, you know, thank you for
5 telling me, and just kind of stood there for a second. And I
6 walked away.

7 I went back up the same hallway where I just came down and
8 something inside me told me to get out. So, I went back out the
9 same way I just came down to let them know, went out the front
10 door, down the stairwells, went out, out this door. I went to my
11 left, took three steps and that's when it blew up. As soon as it
12 went, for some reason, I -- because I just thought someone dropped
13 something down on it. Somebody shooting, I don't know. And it
14 went like that. And I ran this way down 2nd Street to Franklin as
15 fast as I can.

16 And like I told everybody, it just felt like it was a big
17 wave of just debris. And it just like -- I felt like it was never
18 going to end. I'm just, like, running as hard as I can and, like,
19 felt like this big wave was right over top of me and I didn't
20 know, am I going to go, like, sucked into it? You know, I just
21 didn't know what was happening.

22 Get down to the corner there. I remember there's a white
23 car. They stopped. They looked at me and said, are you okay? I
24 said, I guess so. I don't know what the fuck just happened. And
25 then they were gone. And then I stood there and that was the

1 moment that I first turned around to look to see what happened.
2 And I'm just like, total shock, disbelief, upset, anger. Like
3 what just happened here. And all I can remember seeing was the
4 dust, the smoke, the wires down, just non (ph.) craziness. And
5 then I just stood there just because I just didn't know what to
6 do. I just was stone cold.

7 I just -- and I remember the production people ran out on the
8 side there at the employee entrance down on Franklin. They ran
9 across the street, and I remember the office people ran out the
10 same door I came out of. They ran across the street. Remember, I
11 said Elias was sitting there. So, when I -- the moment I saw him
12 get out of the debris, he walked across, kind of one knee and he
13 fell down and he was laying on his back. That's when I ran over,
14 and I remember running over.

15 And then Tracy Q. (ph.) who is a lady who works in the office
16 with us, she came over. Doesn't even know who -- I don't think
17 she knew who he was. She looked at me and said, who is this? I
18 said, it's Elias. I said, I was literally just talking to him a
19 few minutes right there before this happened. And he just had
20 that look like he was alert, but like out of it. Like his eyes
21 were just like stone, like and you can just, like, try to tell him
22 it's okay. Just keep breathing. We're here. She put her bag
23 underneath his head for support.

24 I remember just him just lying there and just like just in
25 shock and can't believe this happened and why. And like, how did

1 he just, like, walk out of that debris? Like, where did he come
2 from? So, I just remember sitting there with him, and then I
3 heard somebody say, Mark, I think there's an employee of yours
4 lying here on the sidewalk a couple of feet away on the same side.
5 And all I remember was seeing a barefoot sticking up. I don't
6 know -- at that moment, don't know who it was. It just was like,
7 there's debris, there's stuff on, and all you see is a bare foot.
8 Like -- so, like, did they get blown out of their -- literally get
9 blown out of their shoe?

10 So, I don't know who it was at that point. But over time of
11 -- once this processed more with myself, I can probably tell you
12 who it was. Zia. Because if she's standing there, I'm in the
13 middle -- because once I left to go inside, when me and Mike went
14 inside, I don't know where they were at. I'm assuming they were
15 still outside. So, once I went in, I don't know where they -- if
16 he's in the debris, he had to be sitting there yet as this went
17 off and then she was standing there. So, that had to be -- had to
18 be her going from one side to the other and literally landing on
19 your back and then your foot is sticking up.

20 So, the other girl, after all this happened, I remember at
21 one point I did see her running around. She had her glasses off.
22 She was crying, screaming, you know, as anybody would be doing,
23 you know. So, that was the last time I saw her. I don't know.
24 After that, I don't know anything; where she's at, how she's doing
25 or anything.

1 So, back to with Elias lying there. Then we were advised --
2 when someone said, Mark, I think that's one of your employees,
3 they went over to check on her, see who it was, you know, to help
4 her out. And then we were advised to back away because they
5 didn't know if the other one was going to go. So, the business
6 across the street, we had gone in the parking lot. I remember
7 standing there and just staring at what happened. And like I
8 remember it was just a huge fireball. Just remind you like a big
9 fire pit. It just one spot where there's this big flame and --
10 just right there. And then like over time there was -- over time,
11 there was more spots. You can see where there's a little bit of
12 flames. It was just that one spot where it was just a big
13 fireball.

14 So, again, we stood there. Some of the office -- obviously,
15 you can tell, like, they were upset. They were on the phone,
16 trying to tell people, I guess, they're (indiscernible) others
17 what's happening, you know, to keep in -- to get a hold of
18 somebody.

19 And I remember my back -- then I remember standing there and
20 like I felt wetness on my back, but I thought it was sweat. And
21 then Jeremiah (ph.) told me that, Cory, you're bleeding. And I'm
22 like, oh, I didn't even know because I didn't feel anything. I
23 just felt wetness. I just thought it was sweat. So, we were
24 advised to go away and go down the street. So, we went down to
25 the corner at 2nd and Franklin. Jeremiah grabbed gauze, a wrap,

1 and wrapped me and just said, hey, just -- I know it's going to be
2 hard to kind of calm down, you know, just try not to move around.
3 Maybe just sit here, just kind of take a breath, you know? So, it
4 was him and some lady. They -- I don't know who she was, but he
5 helped me. He wrapped me up, told me, you know, hey, it's okay,
6 just try to chill out.

7 So, trying to get hold of somebody to see me obviously was a
8 little difficult. But I kept saying, like, I'm okay, I'm okay.
9 There's people worse than me. Like, help them, you know, I'm
10 okay. You know, I've dealt with worse. Not -- you know, the
11 adrenaline's going, so you're in the moment where, I'm fine. And
12 then eventually there were people looking at me and coming over to
13 me and they're like, did anyone see you? I'm like, not yet. I
14 just had Jeremiah wrap me up. And then they're trying to get a
15 hold -- because there were like, I've never seen so many
16 ambulances and EMTs in my life. So, like it was difficult to try
17 to get somebody because they're trying to deal with other people.

18 So, I had -- some guy, again, I don't even know, came over to
19 me and said, hey, I'm going to get you an EMT like as soon as
20 possible. Please hang in there. Said, that's fine, you know, and
21 then -- so then I did get a hold of an EMS person from Reading.
22 They did check me out, offered, you know, do you need to go to the
23 ambulance -- you need to go to the hospital? I'm like, no, I'm
24 okay. Like, I'm fine.

25 So, like, they took, you know, gave me some tests. I signed

1 something on their tablet. Again, we were told, you guys might
2 want to move away. So, I remember Tracy Q. and I went down -- we
3 went across the street there at the Mecca (ph.) restaurant, which
4 is at the corner of 2nd and Franklin. Me and her sat on the step
5 for a moment. I seen, again, more people from production coming
6 up.

7 I didn't say anything to them because I'm just like dealing
8 of my own stuff, what I just encountered. So, I was just kind of
9 sitting there. I remember telling Tracy, like, I'm cold, like I'm
10 freezing. I was shivering. She took her flannel off her back and
11 gave it to me to warm me up. And then I remember her being on the
12 phone. I don't know who she's talking to, but all I remember her
13 kept saying was, Sue, Sue. I'm like, so worried about Sue. I
14 don't know if she's okay, where she's at. And she was crying, and
15 we sat there, maybe for like five minutes.

16 And then a cop came over to us and said, I'd advise you --
17 again, we don't know what Building 1 -- can you guys move up the
18 street? So, we got up and then there was a lady, don't know,
19 never met her in my life. She lived halfway up the block on the
20 left-hand side on 2nd Avenue there. She offered me a blanket and
21 a bottle of water and sat on the porch for a couple of minutes.
22 I'm not a big dog person, especially pit bulls, but this dog came
23 over to me, put his head on my leg and he let me pet him for a
24 moment. So, I was -- you know, a cool moment there with that.

25 So, we sat there for maybe like three minutes, and then a cop

1 came over and said -- told the owner of the house, again, advise
2 you -- I know it's your house, but we really don't need to be
3 finding more people. Can you go up the street? So, the lady kind
4 of fought him there for a moment, then realized, okay, you're
5 right. And, you know, so then we went up the street, we went up
6 to 2nd and Chestnut.

7 So, I sat again at the corner, just stood -- just sat there
8 for a moment. And I remember another EMS looked at me, kind of
9 went like that, like, did somebody look at you? I said, yeah.
10 And again, I'm okay. Like -- and he's like, no, I think you need
11 to -- you should go to the hospital. So, I was like, okay, I'll
12 go. He said that, but then he kind of like walked away. And I'm
13 like, I looked at Deena and Janet (ph.), who were with me there.
14 I'm like, I don't know what I'm supposed to do. He tells me to go
15 to a hospital and then he kind of walks away.

16 So, a firefighter came over from West Reading. It's a girl.
17 She looked at me and said, I'll walk you up to the ambulance and I
18 will make sure you get somebody here and we'll get you there as
19 soon as possible. I said, okay, I appreciate it. So, the
20 ambulance was a few feet away there on Chestnut. So, we walked
21 up. I sat on the back of the, back of the ambulance. She talked
22 to me for a moment and then she said, just hang in there. We will
23 get you to the hospital. I promise. I said, okay, you know, I
24 appreciate everything you did.

25 And the last thing I remember saying to her was just, you

1 know, be safe. And she walked away, and the EMS people came up
2 with the stretcher with nobody on it. But the lady looked at me,
3 I said to her, I'm told I'm supposed to go with you guys. So, she
4 said okay. And then got me in the ambulance, took me -- gave me
5 some tests. And then the EMT, the driver said, where do you want
6 to go? I said, prefer Reading. And so, we went up to Reading,
7 and then they got me in right away. It's like a little after
8 6:00, and I was there probably till about 8:30.

9 And then not realizing I had some scrapes on my legs, and
10 then I've been told, did you fall? I said, no, I just -- I think
11 from running and the debris bouncing off the sidewalk, and the
12 building itself. Because I remember my legs were bothering me,
13 but I didn't think anything of it. Like, you know, I'm fine until
14 I lift up my pant legs and I had some scrapes and that. So, and
15 then, like I said, I guess I just got nicked in back. Luckily,
16 there wasn't anything stuck in there, but got all the tests done
17 and said I was fine with that. So, it's just right now dealing
18 with the emotional stuff, you know.

19 Q. Okay. Thanks, Cory.

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. So, just if we could just go back through, I want to make
22 sure I understand some things. So, when you came out of Building
23 1, out the front door, you saw Elias there and you were standing
24 -- and I think you mentioned there was someone whose name you
25 didn't know.

1 A. Yeah, I -- and I've been asked and I'm like, I don't
2 remember. At that time, I didn't know her name. I just remember
3 faces. Because like a lot of times the production people, there's
4 only a very few that actually we talk to. There's a lot that you
5 just -- you walk by, and you might say hi, or you don't say
6 anything at all. And like a lot of them kind of keep to
7 themselves.

8 Q. That's okay. But where was she?

9 A. So, she would have been here, like right at the corner --

10 Q. Near Elias?

11 A. Yeah. So, like Elias would have been sitting on the stoop
12 here by the steps. She was here, I was in the middle, and then
13 Zia would have been over here to my left. And I remember, like I
14 said, Mike was over here in the alley looking at something. And
15 like I said, we walked -- when I heard him say, I'm going to go in
16 and page Sue, we had walked in there through the door here.

17 Q. Okay. So, does that look about right where everyone was?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. First picture?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Okay. And then let's see. So, you said you came -- you
22 followed Mike inside of Building 1.

23 A. Right.

24 Q. And he went to a page phone near the elevator.

25 A. Yeah. On the first floor, there's a phone to the left of the

1 elevator.

2 Q. Okay. On the first floor.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. And he paged Sue. Do you remember what he said on the page?

5 A. Just page Sue, gray phone, Sue, gray phone.

6 Q. Okay. All right. And you mentioned that you saw, I think,
7 Sue and someone named Amy. Do you know Amy's last name?

8 A. Sandoe.

9 Q. Sandoe. Okay, So, after the accident, you said that you were
10 in a parking lot. Is this the parking lot that you were talking
11 about?

12 A. Yeah. This is across the street. We were literally --

13 Q. This area? It's like, elevated. You walk up a little bit --

14 A. Yeah, we were like -- what I remember, we were mostly, like,
15 right in the front here. Like I said, Elias would have been --
16 after the explosion, he was on the sidewalk, like, right by the
17 entrance.

18 Q. And was it from that location that you saw what you described
19 as like one location where there was a big flame?

20 A. Yeah. When we were standing on the sidewalk here, like in
21 the parking -- like right in the entrance here, that's when I,
22 like, had, like, literally looked at it for the first time and saw
23 that big, that big fireball and just everything and just -- I just
24 couldn't believe what I'm seeing here. I just thought it was a
25 dream and I didn't think this was real.

1 Q. And this might be difficult, but do you know where that big
2 flame was? Like, which part of -- was it in the building?

3 A. Basically, if I'm look -- if I'm looking here after the fact,
4 it would have been like, right in this area, like, right -- it was
5 right in the front there.

6 Q. In -- like where the front door is or on Cherry Street?

7 A. Like -- no, like the building itself. I would -- it would be
8 like right in here.

9 Q. Like in this area?

10 A. It was -- yeah, it was close by to the street because it was
11 right in front of us.

12 Q. Does that look correct to you? Around this area?

13 A. Yeah. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. Okay. Okay. And you said you saw Mike over here looking at
15 something. Did you also go in that area at all?

16 A. No, I didn't go in the alley at all. You know, I pretty much
17 stayed right out in the front. He was standing there. I heard
18 him say, I'm going to go in and page Sue. So, he got, he got --
19 because he every time he looks at something, I know he's a big
20 guy, he's always on one knee when he's fixing something. I don't
21 know if that's just people when they're big, they do that. But
22 every time I've seen him work on something, he's always on one
23 knee. And that day was no different than any other time.

24 So, he got up. I remember him saying, I'm going to go in and
25 page Sue. And then we walked -- so right there -- and then not

1 realizing what was going to happen, that was the last time I had
2 any encounter with him. So, I guess he walked in, went to the
3 right, I went upstairs. He makes the page for her. I heard him
4 say it and then I ran into Sue there at the, you know, the
5 mailboxes and stuff.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Now, like times -- I don't roughly know a time. I just
8 remember where I was at, what I was doing, you know, who I ran
9 into just because I just didn't -- emotions are just -- even prior
10 to that happening, you just like, you want to know what's
11 happening and like -- but then like, you're like, why are you
12 going -- you know, thinking, why are you going out there? Like,
13 that's part of the stuff that bothers me. And like, you think,
14 like, you beat yourself up and wish you could have done more in
15 that situation, not knowing that in a few minutes like what was
16 going to happen. So, that's the hard part, you know, dealing with
17 this.

18 Q. It's hard when you're looking back.

19 A. Obviously losing people, but like not realizing within a
20 couple of minutes what was going to happen, it just -- never think
21 this would ever happen. I just --

22 Q. You mentioned when you came out and you were talking with
23 Elias when he was outside by the stairs to Building 1, he said
24 that there was a smell and -- I'm sorry, the stairs to Building 2.
25 He said there was a smell and Building 2. Did he describe that in

1 any more detail?

2 A. He didn't say specifically. Like he didn't -- like with me,
3 I was like, I knew right away when I smelled it. It was really
4 bad. It was strong. He was just kind of like, I -- it smells in
5 there. I just can't take it. That's why I'm sitting out here to
6 get some air. He didn't mention anything about telling anybody.
7 That -- nothing of that came out of anybody's mouth to say
8 anything.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Again, this comes back to my part. Like I wish I could have
11 done more. I wish I would have said something in that regard, but
12 not realizing, not knowing what was going to happen.

13 Q. Sure.

14 A. You know?

15 Q. So, when you just, when you just went over your memory of
16 that moment, you said you told him that he -- and I'm
17 paraphrasing. I don't remember your exact words. But he -- you
18 told him that it smelled a little over there as well.

19 A. Yeah, I can --

20 Q. Where did, where did it smell a little or -- because I know
21 when you -- when you came out of the second floor back room, you
22 said the smell was pretty strong.

23 A. Yeah. Like at that moment when I first walked out and
24 smelled it, I just thought, I just assumed, like, is it just right
25 here? Because it was -- in that section, it was really bad until

1 I walked out the door there in our front lobby, you can still
2 smell it. And then I opened up the door and I'm like, you can
3 smell it in the stairwell. So, I went and told Deena. And then
4 that's the first time I told her about it. And then when I
5 noticed, you know, they were sitting outside, that's when I asked
6 her, do you want me -- because I was telling her what was
7 happening. She comes out, she's like, I can smell it a little
8 bit, you know.

9 Q. So, it was in the -- near Deena's desk that it was not as
10 strong?

11 A. Like in that -- yeah, like when you walk through the door, I
12 didn't smell anything, like in the office part. It was just out
13 in the front there in the lobby area, the stairwell, that back
14 room, lobby area by the elevator.

15 Q. So, about where is Deena's desk on this building?

16 A. All right. It's hard to tell with a picture of a roof.

17 Q. I think this is the elevator shaft.

18 A. Yeah, and like I said, I'm on the second -- I'm literally,
19 when I come out of that back room, the elevator is right there.
20 You go to the left, there's the front lobby, and then you go
21 through that door to go into the office and she's at -- her desk
22 was right there to the right there by the window. So, her desk is
23 along the front there, like, you know, by the windows there. I
24 mean, this doesn't go too far, but, you know, because I know,
25 like, you know, each stairwell has, you know, a front like windows

1 and stuff. So, she's like, you know, her front desk would be
2 right there in the front.

3 Q. Okay. So, she looks out over 2nd Avenue?

4 A. She can look -- yeah, not like right where she sits because I
5 know she has a big, like, what do you call it, with the files like
6 with cabinets. But if you go over a little bit you can look
7 outside. You can look -- if you decide to look out the window,
8 you can see down on the street.

9 Q. But it's farther from Cherry Street than like the elevator
10 and the stairs?

11 A. Yeah. You wouldn't be able to -- like you wouldn't be able
12 to look out like straight ahead because there's just, you know, a
13 wall there. Unless you literally go over to the learning center
14 and stare out the window, you can look outside.

15 Q. Okay. And let's see. So, I know you said you didn't
16 specifically go over by the gas meter, but you identified it as
17 near where Mike was standing.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Is that correct?

20 A. It was like, right about, like, right here. Right in there.
21 But he wasn't too far down in the alley. He was like, right
22 there. And I remember we were all right there because I -- none
23 of us went -- when we were out there, none of us -- we all stood
24 out front. We didn't go anywhere near the alley.

25 Now, like I said, once I left and went in, I don't -- I'm

1 assuming they were all still out front. Once I left, I don't know
2 where they were at that moment because, like, I went in. You
3 know, I let my boss know what's going on. And like, I went and
4 told her. That's when something told me I need to get out. Like,
5 but not -- not thinking, literally walk out and it's going to go.
6 I just wanted to get out because I just like -- I'm worried on my
7 own, like I can't take the smell. So, I'm just going out
8 protecting myself for now. Just thinking like I'm going to go out
9 and get some fresh air. Not realizing as I go out and take the
10 three steps, it's going to go.

11 Q. Okay. And just to be clear, when you go between Building 1
12 and Building 2, you're exiting out this front door here --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- and entering here when you went to talk to Elias. But
15 when you came out with the gas smell, you did not enter Building
16 2?

17 A. No, I only went over there, like I said, around 3:30 when I
18 went over there for five minutes just to talk to him for a moment.
19 You know.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Because I always say like, you know, he's young and there's
22 not a lot of young people there that have their head on right.
23 And he was one of the good guys there and worked his rear end off
24 and that -- and for being young he was, he was, he was tough, and
25 he was smart and just, you know, a lot of young people, 22, 23

1 just are very immature. So, he was one of the good ones.

2 Q. Okay, so you might not have anything to offer on this, but
3 I'm just going to ask you. So, this is a photo of the, of the gas
4 meter. And this is a different meter because in this photo, you
5 can't really see the components very well.

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. So, here's a gas regulator. There's the gas regulator.
8 Here's the meter. Here's the meter.

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. Did you notice anything from this area when you were walking
11 between Building 1 and Building 2 or standing in this area? Did
12 you see anything? Did you hear anything?

13 A. The only thing I saw, but I know we have like pipes that, you
14 know, come from the building that, like, might -- that might be
15 like water. I don't know if it's just extra drippage or whatever.
16 So, I don't know for -- I know there's one Building 1 that you see
17 steam coming out a lot. So, but I never, I never know what that
18 is. And same thing over here. There was a pipe with some
19 drippage, but I don't know, was -- is that part of it? Is it just
20 water?

21 Q. Was it in this area where the gas meter was?

22 A. Yeah, it was probably -- yeah --

23 Q. Which is right here?

24 Q. -- probably a little bit to the left. I mean, there was just
25 a little drippage. But I don't -- like I said, I don't know if

1 it's just water. I don't know what it encounters.

2 Q. Do you know -- do you see what -- where it was coming from in
3 this picture and --

4 A. No, not in that one. I just remember it was towards the
5 front here because if the meter was right around here and Mike's
6 there by the meter, I remember the pipe was here, towards the
7 front.

8 Q. I don't know if this is helpful at all. It's just a
9 different picture where you can see a little bit more.

10 A. Yeah, just looks a little wider. I think that pipe was up
11 just a little bit, but I know I remember it being towards the
12 front.

13 Q. Okay, So, just for -- I believe this right here is the side
14 of the stairs.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And so, this guard for the service meter is spanning this
17 area here.

18 A. Right.

19 Q. No, that's not helping.

20 A. No.

21 Q. You couldn't say?

22 A. No, I can't. No.

23 Q. Okay, great. Thank you. So, I'd like to talk about some of
24 your previous experience working at Palmer. You said you'd been
25 there for about a year and a half.

1 A. I'll be a year and six months coming up on May 1st.

2 Q. Okay, good. So, if there's a problem at work, anything
3 unusual, like this day you smelled natural gas. What's -- how --
4 what are you told? Like, are you trained on how to respond to
5 something like that or have you ever had any classes or --

6 A. I've not -- don't recall ever having anything. As I said,
7 this is the first time I've ever like even been at a job where I
8 smelled gas. I've never really encountered anything like this.
9 So, I would say, no.

10 Q. Have you had -- do you, do you know what a response to
11 natural gas -- what would be recommended normally for a response
12 to natural gas from like any other experience previously or from
13 just your personal experience?

14 A. I -- again, I never -- like this is my -- like, I mean,
15 besides smelling gas at the gas station, this is the first time
16 I've ever smelled gas like this. I've never really had any
17 personal encounter with anything like this. But I just know that
18 day when I first encountered it, I knew something was wrong.
19 Like, this is not normal, you know, I hope I did what I had to do.
20 I mean, to tell who I needed to tell, you know. Everyone can sit
21 there and say, you did okay -- you did what you could. I mean, I
22 feel like I could have done more, but you know.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. I'm just --

25 Q. Are you taught about how to address other issues that might

1 come up at work?

2 A. Now, me personally, since I've been there, like they said
3 about like -- we have, like fire alarms where we're supposed to
4 go. We've done that. But I haven't -- since I've been there,
5 I've personally never encountered any of that yet. So, maybe it
6 was a time I was off that we had a fire alarm and where we're
7 supposed to go. I remember, you know, being told where -- whether
8 you go out front, you go back, you know, on the side there and go
9 out to the parking lot. But I never personally, since I've been
10 there, I've never had to do that yet, so.

11 Q. Okay. So, at some point you were taught what to do in the
12 event of a fire alarm?

13 A. Yeah. Mm hmm.

14 Q. Do you remember when that was?

15 A. No, I don't know off the top of my head.

16 Q. Okay. So, I think you answered this already. I was going to
17 ask if you've ever smelled natural gas at any other time. I think
18 you said you haven't.

19 A. No. This was the first encounter. Since I've been there,
20 I've never smelled any gas.

21 Q. Okay. Have you -- are you aware of any work on the natural
22 gas piping, either inside of the buildings or outside from UGI or
23 from any of those?

24 A. No. I have no idea.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Someone could tell me where to go, and I would have no idea.
2 I wouldn't even know what I'm looking at. That's why I said that
3 day, like I offered, you know, I'll go out and look, but like, I
4 -- you know, I guess you could say I was trying to be more nosey
5 just to see if I can find anything out. But I didn't really find
6 anything out because Mike was there doing whatever he was doing.
7 I don't really think he knew what to do. So, like, that's why
8 like, I'm assuming he paged Sue. And you know, me running in to
9 her, and then looking back, I just -- I don't know why she would
10 think to go out there, but I don't know.

11 Q. Did Mike tell you what he was looking at or anything about
12 what he was doing?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Okay. Are you aware of any recent construction in Building 1
15 or 2?

16 A. Not that I -- nah, I don't think so. I didn't see anything
17 out of the -- I don't know. A couple of months ago, I remember
18 there were people out on Franklin Street there down by the
19 employee entrance. There were some trucks out there. What they
20 were doing, I don't know. I think that was more of a day shift
21 thing, because when I got there, I don't think they were there
22 very long. I don't know what they were doing because you just
23 mind your own business. You're worried about going in and
24 clocking in. And once I'm in, like I don't know what's happening,
25 because that's not like -- I'm not -- I'm usually more towards the

1 front. I'm in the office area, so I don't know what they were
2 doing that day.

3 Q. And before the explosion occurred, did you have any safety
4 concerns?

5 A. What, before it blew or --

6 Q. Mm-hmm.

7 A. Like once I smelled it or -- yeah, I was worried. Because
8 like I said, when I first walked and encountered it, I was just
9 like, what the hell is going on. Like this is -- it's really
10 strong. It's really bad. I mean, I was literally in there for
11 just six or seven minutes. When I went in, there was nothing.
12 So, what happened in those few minutes? By the time I walk in and
13 walk out, something is off. Like, so I was like, you know, the
14 first time I tell Deena, like, Deena, there's an issue out here.
15 You know, she came out.

16 Now after I went outside and talked to them, I don't know
17 where she was at that moment. Did she go and tell somebody? I
18 don't know. So, and then when I came in from being outside and
19 when me and Mike went in, Mike made the page. I walked in. I
20 didn't look at anybody until I came around that corner. And
21 that's when I ran into Sue. And I told her, and she said, I'm
22 aware of it. I'm going out to see what the issue is. And then,
23 you know, I said, I saw her. Amy came around the corner. I
24 didn't say anything to Amy. I just saw out of the corner of my
25 eye it was her. She was looking for Sue. She mentioned the same

1 thing with the smell. She had the piece of paper in her hand and
2 they both walked out. And then I went the other way to tell
3 Kelly.

4 Q. Okay, so. So, you had a conversation with Sue. What's Sue's
5 last name or what's her position?

6 A. She's like the plant manager.

7 Q. Okay, so you had a conversation with Sue and with Amy Sandoe,
8 and they confirmed to you --

9 A. I, I didn't talk to Amy. I just saw her out of the corner of
10 my eye.

11 Q. Oh, okay.

12 A. Yeah, I just seen her coming right around the corner where I
13 just was at when I came in. And then her and Sue met up and then
14 Amy had said I was looking for you and she mentioned about the gas
15 smell and they both just went out. So, they went out front. I
16 went back to tell Kelly -- and then tell Kelly, and then that's
17 when I went back, and I went outside and then I took my three
18 steps, and it went.

19 Q. So, Sue, not -- I'm going to correct what I said. So, Amy
20 did not talk to you. Sue confirmed to you that she was aware of
21 the gas smell.

22 A. She's aware of it, yeah. And she was going out --

23 Q. And she's addressing it.

24 A. Yeah, she's going out to see what the issue was.

25 Q. She's going to see what the issue is. Okay. And then

1 shortly after that, you self-evacuated from the building?

2 A. Yeah. After I spoke to my boss, Kelly Sherman, and told her
3 what was happening. Like I said, I told her, she said, okay,
4 thank you for telling me. I stood there for a moment and then I
5 just said, okay, and I turned around and went back to where I just
6 came from. And as I'm walking, something inside me said, you need
7 -- you just need to get out.

8 Q. Okay?

9 A. I don't believe in -- I'm not really in the church, but I
10 believe there's always somebody watching over you. So, I always
11 bring up my dad, my grandpa, I mean, somebody there watching me
12 and just got out of the nick of time, and it was just not my time,
13 I guess. I don't know. So, like I said, I walked out. I didn't
14 look at anybody. I didn't say anything to anybody. I just -- my
15 mission was just, I'm going out front and going out, and that's
16 it. And I always go to the left. I don't always go to the right.

17 That day I went to the right earlier just to talk to Elias.
18 But all the other times I'm always going out, whether I'm coming
19 in, I come from the left. When I leave, I always go to the left
20 to go home for the night. So, my mission was just to go out and
21 go to the left, not knowing what was going to happen. I just
22 wanted to get out to get some air and boom. And I'm just like --
23 took cover and ran.

24 Q. Okay. So, before the, before that accident occurred, were
25 you aware of the hazards of natural gas?

1 A. Me? No. Like smelling it prior or --

2 Q. Like, did you know, like if it was flammable or did you know
3 anything about --

4 A. I don't know any of that stuff, no. Uh-uh.

5 Q. Okay. Can you just clarify your shift? What was your shift
6 schedule?

7 A. The second shift, 3:00 to 11:00.

8 Q. Second shift. Okay. And that's all the questions I have.
9 Do you need a break, or are you okay?

10 A. Just a water break. That's all.

11 MS. LYONS: Okay. Kim.

12 BY MS. WEST:

13 Q. Okay. All right. This is Kim. I just have some questions
14 about clarification. You mentioned earlier about the -- that you
15 clean Building 1.

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Who cleans Building 2?

18 A. That I don't know. We have a sanitation guy, that's a day
19 shift guy. I'm guessing he does both.

20 Q. Do you know his name?

21 A. I have no idea. No, I don't know anybody really on day
22 shift.

23 Q. Who does the same type of job as you --

24 A. He's more like production. He's more like in the warehouse
25 dealing with the break rooms, bathrooms, around machines. I'm

1 just -- my job is just, I'm like the office area up in the second
2 floor. That's just my area. Probably literally 97 percent of the
3 time I'm up there. I only go down production when I do drains on
4 a Monday, when I get my mop bucket, when I take the garbage out.
5 And that's really about it. That's the only time I've ever been
6 down there.

7 Q. Okay. Thank you. I still don't have a good understanding
8 about the building itself. Building 1.

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. So, when you enter into it from 2nd Street, there's an
11 entrance there.

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. Is there a landing? Do you go up to the first floor?

14 A. Yeah, you got the -- yeah, you come in. There's, you know,
15 there's the landing. You got the steps. Another landing. You go
16 up, another set -- it's -- so it goes all the way up to the fourth
17 floor in that regard. Like I said, I come in every day through
18 there. I go out every night. That's my main way of going in
19 because I'm in the office. I have no reason to really go in on
20 the side there in the employee entrance. That's more production
21 people that go in that way.

22 Q. How about to the basement? How do you get to the basement?
23 From that same stairwell?

24 A. You can go down that way. But I usually take the elevator
25 down. The elevator -- so my elevator that more in the middle of

1 the second floor there by the office, we have vending machines.
2 That usually will take you right down to the basement. That's
3 usually the -- that's the one I use the most anyway, because it
4 takes me where I need to go. You know, the one out in the front,
5 I don't use a whole lot. The one where I walked out and smelled
6 the gas, I don't usually use that one.

7 Once in a blue moon, I'll use it, because over in the Art
8 Department with like Stephanie (ph.) and Amber (ph.) and Jenny
9 (ph.), they have a lot of boxes, like product that they're getting
10 rid of and if their bins fill up, I usually take the cardboard
11 upstairs to the second floor -- to the third floor. We have a
12 compactor for cardboard. And then when I come out of the
13 elevator, it's right there and I usually just dump my cardboard in
14 there.

15 Q. Is that a different elevator, or --

16 A. That's the one in the front. There's a front elevator. And
17 then we have the back elevator. The back elevator I use all the
18 time.

19 Q. Is the back like a freight elevator?

20 A. Yeah, like you, where you have the regular door and then you
21 have the cage looking type thing. You lift up and then you have
22 the string you pull down and that when you want to go up and down.
23 And we have the buttons and stuff like that.

24 Q. Do you ever go down to the basement in Building 1?

25 A. Yeah. When I, when I get my, my bucket, when I fill my

1 bucket up for the day. And like I said, when it's Mondays, and I
2 have to do drains, whether I'm in the basement or if I have to do
3 the third floor or the fourth floor, I always fill -- we have a
4 room that's called the White Room, whatever. And there's a big
5 machine in there that cleans the stuff for the chocolates. I
6 can't think of the name. The plastic things where they put the
7 molds in, I guess. It's like a big washroom, a machine that
8 washes those.

9 So that -- the only time I'm there is to get my bucket and
10 then come out. You know, we have a -- when I come out in the back
11 there, there's a cage where I have to get my solution for my
12 drains because there's a particular cleaner you have to use for
13 the drains. I can't just use regular like soaps to dump down in
14 the drains and stuff.

15 Q. Okay. Do you know if there's a gas meter in the basement?

16 A. I'm not aware of that. I never -- I've never seen anything
17 like that down there in my way of walking. I never came across
18 anything like that.

19 Q. Okay. Now, you mentioned earlier that you smelled gas.

20 A. Earlier --

21 Q. Did you also feel sick?

22 A. Felt nauseous. You know, when I -- like I said, when I first
23 encountered it, it was like I said, somebody -- I felt like
24 somebody opened up a grenade and threw one of those bombs in
25 there. And it just -- at that moment, I just thought it was right

1 there until I walked out and like, yeah, you could smell it in
2 other places here. And it was all in the front, you know, the
3 lobbies, and the stairwell, and that. So, in that, in that part
4 of the Building 1.

5 Q. So, when you walked away further away from that area, were
6 you feeling less sick?

7 A. I felt better but like nervous because I just don't, I don't
8 know what was going to happen, just figured I needed to tell who I
9 needed to tell. And then figured if something's telling me you
10 need to get out, just whether you need to get out to get out or
11 you just need to get out because you need some air, it's bothering
12 me and I'm just like, just this is weird. Like, doesn't -- it's
13 not normal. So, like, go out. Not realizing, not thinking what
14 was going to happen literally -- because I keep bringing on
15 myself, if I would have went out, went to the right, I may not be
16 here. So, I'm always going to the left. I went to the left and
17 three steps and it blew up.

18 Q. I think you answered my other question. All right. That's
19 it for me. Thank you.

20 A. Okay. You're welcome.

21 BY MR. BAUMAN:

22 Q. Yeah. Hi, Cory. Just a couple of questions. When you first
23 smelled gas, to when the explosion went off, how long of a period
24 of time was that?

25 A. Like, all together? Like, from the moment --

1 Q. Yeah.

2 A. Probably a good 20, 25 minutes, I'd say altogether from the
3 time I ran into it with, you know, telling Deena, to going
4 outside, talking to Elias and Zia and the other girl, and running
5 into Mike, Mike going in paging Sue, me going upstairs, telling
6 Sue, seeing Amy, then going out, me telling Kelly. It was
7 probably a good 20, 25 minutes, I'd say altogether.

8 Q. Okay. When you were outside, what did you hear?

9 A. Like prior to it going or --

10 Q. Yes, prior to it going off.

11 A. Just smelled gas. At that moment, it wasn't strong, but you
12 can smell something in the air. And like I said, Elias is out.
13 Talking to him, he said, yeah, it smells, it smells in Building 2
14 there. That's why I'm outside to get some air. I said, yeah, we
15 have a smell over here. That's why, you know, I'm out a little
16 bit just to get some fresh air. But it wasn't like super strong.
17 And like I said, Mike's looking at the meter, just trying to
18 figure something out. I don't really know if he knew what to do,
19 so he went in. I heard him, you know, make the page for her.
20 She's going to go out. Again, I don't know what she was going to
21 do in that moment, you know?

22 Q. Did you hear any hissing noise like air compressor or
23 anything along --

24 A. That I did not hear. No. It was just all to me was just the
25 smell.

1 Q. Just the smell?

2 A. Yeah, I didn't hear any hissing. Like I said, besides that
3 one pipe on Building 2 near the meter. But like we have a pipe on
4 Building 1, near where the -- like right -- because I remember
5 when I'm at the learning center, when you look out at one point,
6 there's a pipe right there where you see steam coming out, but
7 that comes out all the time. So, I would just assume it's from a
8 machine or just maybe just air coming out. You know, I don't know
9 if it's part of the gas. I don't know. It just -- and then, like
10 I said, building 2, you see that -- a little bit of drippage, but
11 I don't know if that is -- is it gas, just water, just like, I
12 don't, I don't know, to be honest with you.

13 Q. Okay, great. After the explosion, you run down the street,
14 you turn around and obviously looked at what happened, and you saw
15 the big, huge fire.

16 A. Yup.

17 Q. Do you remember seeing any pavement on fire or curbs on fire?

18 A. No, that -- once it went, and I turned around, all you see,
19 like debris, bricks, anything you can think of with Building 2 all
20 over the place. That whole entire second Avenue was covered. I
21 mean, and then wire -- I remember the wires -- sorry to look at
22 that. But the wires are down, literally going across. Anything
23 you can think of, of Building 2 is lying there.

24 So, like me running, I don't know, in that moment of running,
25 I don't know what's hitting me. I'm just running as fast, as hard

1 as I can. And until I actually stopped and took a moment, like I
2 felt my legs were bothering me. But I didn't think anything of it
3 until I sat down and lifted my pant legs and realized I got cut
4 open. I thought my back -- I thought it was literally just sweat.
5 And then I was told, you have blood on your back. So, now the --
6 another -- I don't know if -- another thing I was asked, hearing,
7 did you lose your hearing? I said, no, I don't know if it's just
8 because of, again, covering my head and running away from it.

9 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

10 A. No problem.

11 BY MR. WHITEASH:

12 Q. Hi, this is Chris. Hi, Cory. The steam, you -- it sounds
13 like you talked about steam twice. One coming out of a pipe.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. Is that near the elevator outside of Building 1?

16 A. Yeah. It's like when you're in a learning center, it's like
17 -- when you go in a learning center, there's a set of windows.
18 So, it would be the refrigerator sits -- like literally that first
19 set of windows, if you look right out that window, you see that
20 pipe and I always see steam coming up.

21 Q. And that's near the elevator you --

22 A. Yeah, because the elevator -- yeah, the elevator would be on
23 the outside in the lobby there where I came out. And you go into
24 the learning center and then go -- there out the windows. It's --
25 that pipe was like right at that first set of windows. And every

1 day I always see some steam coming out.

2 Q. Learning center is on the third floor?

3 A. Second floor.

4 Q. That's the big TV?

5 A. Big TV, yeah. Big -- or big conference room, which I --
6 that's part of my duty every day. I'm in there cleaning every
7 day, so it's part of my daily assignments.

8 Q. Now, when you went back outside the last time -- or not the
9 last time -- you went over to see Elias, you came back into
10 Building 1 then went back outside to see if you could help at all.

11 A. Yeah, I went out, like I said, originally, 3:30 I'd gone over
12 to Building 2 just to bullshit with him, talk to him for like five
13 minutes. And at that point, I didn't smell anything. Nothing out
14 of the ordinary. Just another day. They were tearing down
15 machines, cleaning and prepping for another, you know, setup or
16 whatever they were doing for the chocolates.

17 And then I went back over, continue doing my work, and I was
18 in that back room. So, when I first encountered it, I had gone --
19 I talked to Deena. We noticed people were outside. I said, you
20 know, do you want me to go out there and just see what's going on?
21 She said, yeah, if you can, please. So, I said, no problem. I
22 went out. Like I say, Elias is sitting there on the stoop of
23 Building 2. Zia was to my left. The other girl was to my right.
24 I'm in the middle. Mike was in the alley.

25 None of us at that point were in the alley. So, when I heard

1 him say that, we both went in. He -- you know, I heard him make
2 the page. So, when I left, I don't know where everybody was at,
3 at that moment when I, when I walked away to go inside.

4 Q. Okay. But when you, when you went back out there, did you
5 see steam again near the meter? Is that what I heard earlier?
6 I'm just looking for clarification.

7 A. No, just that -- I know --

8 Q. Just that pipe?

9 A. Just that pipe that's at Building 1 underneath the windows
10 there by the learning center. And then I remember there's a pipe
11 at Building 2, but that just had a little bit of drippage. But I
12 don't know like if it's gas related or is it just extra water just
13 dripping out one of the pipes.

14 Q. So, on Building 2 there was a similar pipe that --

15 A. That one's a little bit -- yeah. That one was a little bit
16 thinner. And then I know the Building 2 pipe that must be
17 shooting up because I can see the steam coming up because when
18 you're at the window, you can see it coming up.

19 Q. What's this a cold day? Like, was the heat on in the
20 buildings, that you recall?

21 A. It was probably I would say in the 50s, maybe. I mean, it
22 was probably a little -- I mean, like I said, I had asked -- I was
23 cold after everything settled down and Tracy Q. gave me her
24 flannel because I don't know, it's just everything that happened.
25 I was cold. I mean, prior to that, I was okay. You know, I

1 didn't feel any different. And, you know, I, I think the heat was
2 on. I don't -- that I don't -- because it's hard to say, like you
3 get these days where it's warm and then it goes back to being
4 cold. I think you're going to keep the heat on until, you know,
5 officially it's summertime. You know, it's warm outside.

6 Q. So, when you were outside, not when you went to visit Elias,
7 but the second time, you said Big Mike was kneeling at the meter.

8 A. Yeah, he was looking at something. And to be honest, I don't
9 know if he even knew what to do.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. He didn't really say. He didn't -- at least to us, that when
12 we were out there, he didn't specify anything to us. And then I
13 just, like I said, heard him make -- he wanted to page Sue.

14 Q. But he was kneeling at the meter.

15 A. Yeah. He was looking at --

16 Q. Trying to get a closer look?

17 A. Yeah. Just I guess to figure out what he can do.

18 Q. Now, the drain cleaning that you -- well, let me back up.
19 Were you ever in the basement of Building 2?

20 A. Yes. When I do my drains, like I said, I do them every
21 Monday. So, once a -- Monday, I'm in each part of the warehouses.
22 So, Building 2, I'm not over that often, but when I'm over there I
23 do drains and down in the basement is part of my drain. So,
24 that's the only -- and that's like the room where it's really warm
25 down there. And I just know what I consider a bunch of tanks down

1 there, but I don't go away in the back. I just go down the little
2 steps. I go to the left and there's another room where the drain
3 is to my left. I dump stuff down there and then the last tank, I
4 think there's -- I want to say there's three in that room.

5 So, when I get to the end, there's a drain underneath that
6 tank. And from the floor to that tank, there's not a lot of room,
7 but I dump my stuff down there. And then next to it is where I
8 dump the rest of it. It's like our little, like for the mop
9 buckets, you dump your water down. So, I dump my solution down
10 there and that's the last drain I do there. And then when I come
11 out, I don't even go -- I've never been to the back. So, I'm just
12 assuming there's a bunch of tanks. I don't know for sure. I just
13 come out and go back outside.

14 Q. Last question for now. How do you -- if you're at that
15 stoop, how do you get into the basement of Building 2? Could you
16 take me through that? So, there's the initial door. Then what?
17 You go straight?

18 A. I -- yeah, you go out down the alley, there's a door on the
19 left-hand side, and then you go in through that door. That's how,
20 that's how I -- is there another way you can go from inside? I
21 don't know. That's just the way I was always shown. And since
22 I've been there, that's the way I go in and come out. I know when
23 we have deliveries, whether it's Building 1, they parked down at
24 the bottom. When they deliver to Building 2, they're at the top.
25 That's why half the time the truck is sticking out because of the

1 room that you have. And then he's usually -- it's the chocolate
2 guy. And I know William (ph.) usually helps the chocolate guy out
3 with delivery. And they usually set up right there at the door.
4 And what they do after that, I don't know.

5 Q. That door was halfway down the building, down Cherry Street?

6 A. Yeah. It sits towards the back, like the back -- like you
7 have, you know, the building itself and then you come around the
8 corner in the parking lot and there's parking spaces and then
9 there's like a dock area. You know, we usually have like a
10 trailer back there for the guys, I guess to, to load that truck up
11 for Building 2.

12 Q. Thank you.

13 A. No problem.

14 BY MR. SMITH:

15 Q. You mention there's a pipe with steam coming out. Do you
16 know, is it steam, or could it be anything else?

17 A. When I look at it, to me it looks like steam.

18 Q. And this is outside the --

19 A. Learning center there.

20 Q. What's underneath the learning center?

21 A. That's the maintenance offices. I believe Joe's (ph.) office
22 is down below. And there's another office for maintenance down
23 there.

24 Q. And underneath that, in the basement --

25 A. Just the basement part, like I guess, the wet, the wet room

1 area.

2 Q. The washroom?

3 A. Yeah, the washroom. And I know William's area is down there
4 next to it, where he's usually doing a lot of his work with the
5 computer and, and he has a back room.

6 Q. And the washroom is where we rinsed the mold and --

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. -- the molds with hot water and everything?

9 A. Yup. Yup. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. Okay. All right. Okay. And then you said that Mike was
11 kneeling. Do you know what time that was about? He was kneeling,
12 checking out the -- you it was like 25 minutes total, right.

13 A. Yeah, that was -- at that point -- because I remember a few
14 people left at 4:00 and I remember being upstairs holding the door
15 open for them. Like, I know Tracy Q. had left. Lillian (ph.) had
16 left. Linda (ph.) had left. And then, I'm going to say it was
17 probably around 4:30 when I was out there.

18 Q. (Indiscernible)?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And you ran into Sue, and she told you that it was gas or was
21 it an odor?

22 A. She just said she knew, because I asked her, you know, about
23 the smell of gas out front. She said, yeah, I'm aware of it. I'm
24 going out to see what's going on.

25 Q. Okay. That's all I had.

1 BY MS. LYONS:

2 Q. So, I have a couple more questions for you. So, in the area
3 where the meter was, did you observe anyone other than Mike, who
4 you already have discussed with us -- did you observe anyone
5 previous to Mike being there, working on the meter, doing anything
6 with the meter?

7 A. No, he was the only one I saw from the time I got out until
8 everything happened. He was the only one around it. So, I didn't
9 see anybody.

10 Q. How about when you, when you came to talk to Elias around
11 3:30, did you see anyone in that area at that time?

12 A. No. Walked across. You know, no one was there. Like I
13 said, there was no sign of any smells. It was just another day,
14 so.

15 Q. Okay. And then you got to work at 3:00. But did you use
16 this entrance or did you use --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. You did.

19 A. Yeah, I was coming that way. Yup.

20 Q. So, at that time, you didn't see anyone around the gas meter
21 then either?

22 A. No, and I didn't smell anything. It was just, like I said,
23 another day. It was Friday, you know, go to work, clock in, and
24 get started, you know?

25 Q. Okay. Do you have natural gas service at your house?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Do you get any literature about natural gas hazards that
3 you've seen?

4 A. I haven't so far. I haven't seen anything. No.

5 Q. Are you aware of any electrical issues at Palmer, you know,
6 in your time there in the last year and a half or so?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Okay. Any fires or anything like that?

9 A. I think like a few months ago there was a call with a
10 machine. That's the only thing I encountered. I wasn't there
11 when -- I think it was -- I think it was on third shift when it
12 happened.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. That there was a machine, I guess, that, I don't know if it
15 caught fire. But that's -- since I've been there, that's the only
16 thing I've ever heard of in my time.

17 Q. Do you know if it caught fire or you're not --

18 A. I -- that's just hearsay. People saying that there was a
19 fire.

20 Q. From our discussion earlier about training. I want to know
21 if this statement is accurate. So, is it correct to say that you
22 have had no training on what to do in the event of a natural gas
23 smell at your work?

24 A. I haven't since I've been there. I don't remember anybody
25 ever saying anything about training of this, you know, any of

1 this, you know, to regard this. I never had anything said to me.

2 Q. So, that's correct?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Let's see. Our team has been having difficulty locating
5 pictures in the basement of Building 2 and Building 1 from before
6 the accident. Do you have any pictures?

7 A. I don't know, because we're not supposed to have our phones
8 in production and stuff. They don't want you to -- you know, and
9 that's why this was another issue, you know, whether people wanted
10 to call or, you know, if you notice something, do they get out?
11 You don't -- it's like you're in a -- what do you do? What do you
12 do in that situation? I can only tell you what I know and what I
13 dealt with and what I needed to do for myself. And that's what I
14 did.

15 But for others, like I know, they're not allowed -- because
16 I'm not in production. So, I have my phone and my wallet on me.
17 They have lockers. They're not supposed to have any of that stuff
18 on them. So, like, you don't have access to call, or do you get
19 on the gray phone, you know, do you make a page, like it smells
20 like gas? Do we need to evacuate? You know, so the
21 communication, I think, in that regard could have been better or
22 someone should have said something.

23 But, you know, I only know what I know and what I was dealing
24 with and what they're dealing with and what they know, I don't --
25 I couldn't tell you.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Yeah, the pictures, I don't have any anything in that nature.

3 Q. You don't take pictures.

4 A. No, because there are signs throughout the warehouse. They
5 don't want you to have phones. You don't -- you're not supposed
6 to take pictures, you know, because I mean --

7 Q. Is that just for the food areas, or because of --

8 A. Well, I guess, yeah, just in general in the warehouse, you
9 know, I mean, you have your phone. Say it slips. What if it
10 falls into a machine? What if you're not paying attention and you
11 slip or something or just being irresponsible in that regard, you
12 know? I don't know if it's just like, you know, if there's
13 competitors out there and somebody is like, oh, take a picture of
14 this and we send it to Hershey or whatever. And then they're
15 like, oh, you know, and you go back and forth in that regard and
16 like, oh, you know, that's pretty -- you know, you don't want to
17 give the competitor any like edges on stuff and like, oh, that's a
18 good idea, you know, I like that or, you know, whatever, you know,
19 so but --

20 Q. Okay. Okay. That's all the questions I have. Thank you,
21 Cory.

22 A. Thank you.

23 BY MS. WEST:

24 Q. Just a couple of follow up. I know we ran through this 100
25 times, but I just want to get an understanding of how you enter

- 1 Building 2. Not from the stoop, from the other entrance.
- 2 A. From the back there, from the alley?
- 3 Q. From the back. Yeah. Near where the connection is.
- 4 A. Just like I use my badge. Like --
- 5 Q. I don't mean literally. I mean when you walk in the door,
6 what do you see?
- 7 A. Just a little, like, flat area stoop thing. There's steps.
8 There's probably about six or seven steps you walk down. It's
9 kind of tight, you know, because when I take my buckets, I got to
10 like -- it's tight. It's not like it's wide open. And I just
11 remember there's a bunch of tanks going down the line. Like I
12 said, I've never been in the back there to know. But what I can
13 see going down, there's a bunch there. And then I usually go to
14 the left. There's another room where there's about three or four
15 on that side alone. And then that's as far as I go. I do drains
16 and I come back out and go out, because it's really hot down
17 there. So, yeah.
- 18 Q. So, you have to -- once you enter from the street, do you
19 step up?
- 20 A. Yeah. There's like the sidewalk. Okay, step up on the
21 sidewalk.
- 22 Q. Then you can go into a narrow room right, if I understand
23 correctly.
- 24 A. Yeah.
- 25 Q. And then you can either ramp down or walk down to the

1 building -- to the basement.

2 A. I usually came out through the front and walked down the
3 alley to go to the door there and go down in the basement. That's
4 the way I always --

5 Q. I didn't mean that. I mean, once you're in the door, how do
6 you get to the basement? Do you step down or do you ramp down to
7 the basement?

8 A. Yeah, I just step down. Like there's -- like in -- you mean
9 in the basement with the steps?

10 Q. Right.

11 A. Yeah, there's just steps. I just go down those steps and go
12 and do what I need to do and come out.

13 Q. Okay. And to go to the upper floors, you go back to the flat
14 area. How do you get to the first floor?

15 A. Of the Building 2?

16 Q. Correct.

17 A. Just -- I just go in the front door there. You go in the
18 front door. I go to the left. There's another door to go into
19 production. That's the way I go to do my drains. And then I know
20 there -- when you come in that front, there's a set of steps. But
21 when you go up through those steps, I just basically like the
22 second floor, that's like their break area. The only time I'm
23 ever in there is, there's a couple drains up there, and then when
24 I do my vending machines, just wiping them down for --

25 Q. Okay. Can you get to the first floor from the back entrance?

1 A. Yeah, they're -- to get down to the basement, I don't know if
2 once you're inside, I don't know if there's a way down. I never
3 -- I've just go with the way I've been trained, and that's the way
4 I -- when I do drains, I just go out the front door and come down
5 the alley and go in that side door to go into the basement. If
6 there's a way inside, I don't know. I've never --

7 Q. Oh, that's (indiscernible). So, from that side entrance you
8 can go to the basement. Can you go to the first floor?

9 A. I -- that, I don't know. I'm not sure to be honest with you.

10 Q. You don't go that way?

11 A. Yeah, I just -- like I said, I just go out the way I was
12 trained, and I go out the side door and go in through the front or
13 the front to go down to the side.

14 Q. We talked a little bit earlier about safety. Are you part of
15 the Safety Committee?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. All right. Thank you. That was my last question.

18 A. All right. Thank you.

19 MR. BAUMAN: I don't have anything additional.

20 MR. REEHL: All right.

21 BY MR. WHITEASH:

22 Q. I just have one clarification. The steam that was coming out
23 of the pipe in Building 2, you said it was just dripping that day?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Was it normally blowing?

1 A. No, I never seen it blow out. That's only in Building 1,
2 I've noticed it shoots out, because it -- the way the pipe is
3 facing up, you see it coming straight up. It's just like -- it's
4 just steam.

5 Q. What's the one on Building 2 facing up as well?

6 A. No, that's facing down.

7 Q. Facing down.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Where was it located from the corner of the building where
10 the stoop is? Do you know, roughly?

11 BY MS. LYONS:

12 Q. You can use the picture in Photo 1, if you want.

13 A. I'd say like, when you come out, like, you got that -- the
14 big pole right here for them when they get hooked in -- the guys
15 get hooked for the truck drivers. I'd say literally right behind
16 that pole. It's like right in the front there. But I remember
17 the meter was kind of like, right, right around where this other
18 pole is. It was like right in -- because Mike wasn't too far
19 down. You could literally -- we were standing there, and you can
20 just like go like that, and he was like right there.

21 Q. Is that -- what elevation?

22 A. What for the pipe?

23 Q. With the dripping.

24 A. It was like right, right in here.

25 Q. Can you circle it? And then on this photo, you can see

1 there's a -- is that the pipe you're talking about or is it
2 something different?

3 A. There was something up like off the ground, like up against
4 the building, that like -- it was like right up in, right up in
5 here in this area. So, like I said, it was just a pipe and it
6 just like a little -- it wasn't overly flowing out. It was just a
7 little drippage. So, I don't know if it's gas related, if it's
8 from the machines or tanks. I don't, I don't know.

9 Q. And so, if you're standing next to it, about how high is it?
10 Is it like the height of your knees? Is it the height of your
11 shoulders?

12 A. It's probably -- if I probably stood under there, it's
13 probably -- a good probably --

14 Q. Above your head?

15 A. Yeah, it's up there. Yeah.

16 MS. LYONS: Sorry for jumping in.

17 BY MR. WHITEASH:

18 Q. And did you observe it dripping before, or just that day?

19 A. I've noticed it before. Like, when you come --

20 Q. Okay, so it looked normal?

21 A. Yeah, because it's just like normal, like reactions, when
22 you're outside, you just kind of look around, just, you know, you
23 want to make sure yourself, you're okay. You just in general, you
24 don't know if somebody's out there with a gun or somebody walking
25 up the alley, and you don't know. You just kind of want to know

1 your surroundings and that, so.

2 Q. Sure. That's all I had. Thank you.

3 A. Oh, no problem. Thank you.

4 BY UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

5 Q. Cory, do you get the same training as the production
6 employees, like with GNPs (ph.) and things like that?

7 A. All I had was with, like, with the cleaning stuff.

8 Q. No, with good manufacturing practices.

9 A. I don't recall like, I don't remember ever really sitting in
10 on anything. You know, besides just like the cleaning supplies I
11 use.

12 Q. Okay. Okay. That's a takeaway for me.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. Thank you.

15 BY MS. LYONS:

16 Q. All right. So, to wrap up, is there anything that you think
17 might have been important to this accident, anything unusual that
18 you noticed that we didn't ask you about already?

19 A. No. I think -- I mean, I want to make sure I said what I had
20 to say. And, you know, I'm just trying to -- because I've said it
21 so many times and making sure I didn't stumble on anything. I
22 think I'm okay. Everything I said. You know, I know, like I
23 said, I was told like times could be important, but I roughly
24 didn't have -- because I had my watch on, but I don't know like --
25 and I was asked, can you give us an estimate of time? It always

1 comes back to low after 4:30 was like when this, like, really
2 started picking up.

3 Because like I said, 4:00 I left -- I was standing there, and
4 a couple of ladies had left for the day around 4:00. And like, I
5 had, you know, stairwells done, had the learning center done. So,
6 then after all that, that, you know, I went in to continue to do
7 the back room. And then -- so a lot of them had already left for
8 the day. There was a few of them there. So, it just like I said,
9 it happened so fast that.

10 Q. Sure. That's understandable.

11 A. I don't know. It's just crazy to think you go in somewhere
12 to do something and you don't smell anything, nothing out of the
13 ordinary and you come out, it's like, what the hell just happened?
14 So, it's just not realizing what was going to happen a few minutes
15 after that. Just how life can change in a heartbeat, you know,
16 you just don't know. So, but I think other than that, I think, I
17 think I'm pretty good.

18 Q. All right. Thanks, Cory.

19 A. Yup, no problem. Thank you.

20 MS. LYONS: I'm going to go off the record.

21 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

22

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF: NATURAL GAS BUILDING EXPLOSION AND FIRE
NEAR WEST READING, PENNSYLVANIA
ON MARCH 24, 2023
Interview of Cory Reehl

ACCIDENT NO.: PLD23LR002

PLACE: Wyomissing, Pennsylvania

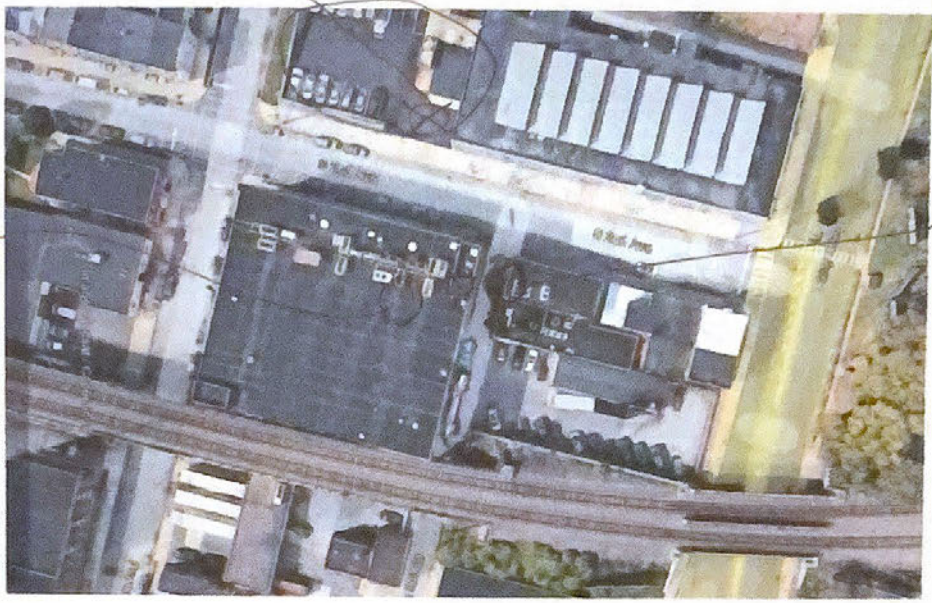
DATE: April 20, 2023

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.


Melissa Bousquette
Transcriber

①

location of
one "big flame"



Cory after
explosion

2nd Floor
"Back Room"

PUD 23LR002
Cory Reehl Interview
Pipe dripping head?
(above)



Xiomara

Elias
Cory

Waman (TBD)

Julie

exit Bldg 1

Nikoma

②



DVD23LR002
Cory Reehl Interview

3

not
dripping
pipe



PLD23LR002
Cong Beek 1 Interview