

National Transportation Safety Board  
Office of Railroad, Pipeline, and Hazardous Materials Investigations  
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20594

Reference: NTSB Accident No. DCA-14-MP-002, East Harlem, NY.  
Your Interview conducted on August 4, 2014.

I have reviewed my interview transcript from the above referenced accident and:

----- (A) I have no comments to make.

----- (B) My comments are submitted herewith.

----- ✓ (C) My comments are marked on the attached copy.

  
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Frank Diaz

12-10-14  
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Date

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION PIPELINE

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LEAK AND MULTISTORY STRUCTURE

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EXPLOSION IN HARLEM, NEW YORK

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MARCH 12, 2014

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Interview of: FRANK DIAZ

Con Edison  
 4 Irving Place  
 New York, New York

Monday,  
 August 4, 2014

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RAVI CHHATRE  
 Investigator-in-Charge

1 I N T E R V I E W

2 MR. CHHATRE: Good afternoon. Today is Monday, August  
3 4, 2014. We are currently in the Con Edison's facility located at  
4 4 Irving Place, New York, and we are meeting regarding the  
5 investigation of natural gas distribution pipeline leak and multi-  
6 story structure explosion that occurred on March 12, 2014. That's  
7 in Harlem, New York.

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

12 I would like to start by telling everyone present in  
13 this room that we are recording this interview and we may  
14 transcribe it at a later date. Transcripts will be provided  
15 directly to the interviewee for review and identifying any  
16 typographical errors. The transcript may be posted in NTSB's  
17 public docket.

18           Also, I'd like to inform Mr. Frank Diaz that you are  
19 permitted to have one other person present with you during this  
20 interview. This is a person of your choice: your supervisor,  
21 friend, family member or, if you choose, no one at all.

22 Please state for the record your full name, spelling of  
23 your name, organization you work for and your title and your  
24 business contact information, such as mailing address so we can  
25 mail it to you, and whom you have chosen to be present with you

1 MR. EMEABA: Kalu Kelly Emeaba, K-a-l-u, K-e-l-l-y, E-m-  
2 e-a-b-a. I'm an investigator with NTSB. And my e-mail address,  
3 [REDACTED] -- I mean, @ntsb.gov. I'm sorry.

4 MR. MCCARTON: How you doing? My name's Frank McCarton.  
5 I am the New York City party rep. It's [REDACTED]v, and  
6 I am assigned to Office of Emergency Management, but a New York  
7 City rep on this investigation.

8 MR. GEORGELIS: Anastasios Georgelis, A-n-a-s-t-a-s-i-o-  
9 s, G-e-o-r-g-e-l-i-s. I'm the Director of Field Operations for  
10 the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. E-mail  
11 address is [REDACTED]ov.

12 MR. HALL: Thomas J. Hall. That's T-h-o-m-a-s; J, like  
13 James; Hall, H-a-l-l, with the firm of Fabiani, Cohen and Hall.  
14 That's F-a-b-i-a-n-i, Cohen, C-o-h-e-n, and Hall, H-a-l-l. We're  
15 at 570 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022. My firm is  
16 counsel at the Hallen and Mr. Diaz had asked that I accompany him  
17 to his interview this morning, or this afternoon.

18 MR. SINGH: Leonard Singh with Con Edison, Chief  
19 Engineer in Gas Distrubution Services. L-e-o-n-a-r-d, S-i-n-g-h.  
20 E-mail, [REDACTED]com. I am the party rep, part of this  
21 process representing Con Ed.

22 MR. STOLICKY: Chris Stolicky, S-t-o-l-i-c-k-y. I'm the  
23 New York State party rep of the New York State Department of  
24 Public Service. My e-mail address is  
25 [REDACTED].

1 MR. CHHATRE: Thank you.

2 INTERVIEW OF FRANK DIAZ

3 BY MR. CHHATRE:

4 Q. Mr. Francisco, can you just tell for the record your  
5 formal training, any training classes you have, your position with  
6 the company, how long you have been with the company and your job  
7 description?

8 A. I've been with Hallen for 23 years. I am a foreman for  
9 them, a gas mechanic for them.

10 Q. Okay. Any formal, informal training?

11 A. Yes. I've had training through Con Ed and I also have  
12 training through National Grid.

13 Q. Okay. And what kind of training is that?

14 A. Hands on. And I would say textbook.

15 Q. Okay. With doing what?

16 A. With things, learning how to do certain things just  
17 pertaining to gas work.

18 Q. Okay. And did that involve fusion of plastic pipes?

19 A. Fusing, yes.

20 Q. Service tees and --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And how long you have been doing work on plastic pipes?

23 A. Twelve years, 15 years I could say I've been qualified.

24 Q. Okay. So as foreman, what are your duties for the  
25 company? What do you do as a foreman?

1           A.   Well, that I -- well, my supervisors give it to me.

2           Q.   Okay. Your supervisors gets it from Con Edison?

3           A.   Right. Yes.

4           Q.   And you get it from supervisor. Okay. And then what  
5 happens? So your supervisor gives you the job assignment. Then  
6 what do you do? Just walk me through the process.

7           A.   If it's excavated and I don't have to do any excavating,  
8 then I'll pull out my pipe. I'll look for whatever, if I have to  
9 pull plates in the street or in the sidewalk, steel plates. Then  
10 I'll get the pipe and I'll set it up to be fused and installed.  
11 We'll put it into the sleeve. I'll put ahead of service valve out  
12 and I'll start backing out the service from the building out to  
13 the street. If it's cast iron main, we'll tap a hole, put a tee.  
14 Before that, we'll test the service and then we'll do our  
15 connection.

16          Q.   So in this particular incident, do you remember the  
17 address where you were connecting the service?

18          A.   No. No.

19          Q.   So to your best of your recollection, tell me when you  
20 arrived at the scene, was the ground excavated for you or you --

21          A.   Yes.

22          Q.   -- do the excavation?

23          A.   It was excavated for me.

24          Q.   And do you know who excavated that?

25          A.   Well, one of our guys probably excavated it.

✓ 1 service, ~~test profusely~~ <sup>Fuse the tee FD</sup> (ph.) on the main, hook up the service and  
2 test the tee and the service all at once because it's not tapped  
3 yet.

4 Q. Okay. So was the main, then, inactive when you replaced  
5 it?

6 A. No, it was still alive. The cast iron main?

7 Q. Yeah.

8 A. Yeah, I would -- I'm the one that actually would stop it  
9 and cut out the section that I had to cut out.

10 Q. So how did you stop the --

11 A. Stoppers.

12 Q. Stoppers?

13 A. Yeah. We'd tap holes on either end and pull out, if it  
14 was 30 feet, 40 feet.

15 Q. Okay. Did you know where the pressure in the line was?

16 A. No, we have it by water column, so it'd be 6, 8, 4.

17 Q. 8-inch water. And was this --

18 A. That may be low. That may be low.

19 Q. -- was this information in the package you get?

20 A. No. No.

21 Q. Okay. So somebody told you it was 6 to 8-inches --

22 A. No, we actually will know it when we tap our holes to  
23 cut it out. We still -- we run what's called a bypass. It's two  
24 pieces of pipe coming up at each end and we run a hose and it  
25 tells us whether -- which way the main is being fed, if it's fed

✓ 1 A. <sup>About FD</sup> A foot away.

2 Q. And that's from procedure or just from experience?

3 A. Procedure.

4 Q. Okay. And how big are those holes?

5 A. Inch and a half, 2-inch. Depends the size of the main.

6 Q. Okay. And for this particular job, how big were the

7 holes?

8 A. That I can't recall.

9 Q. Okay.

10 BY MR. STOLICKY:

11 Q. When you say two holes, are you double-bagging each --

12 A. No, It's actually three holes. It'll be three holes, to

13 be exact.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Each hole -- each stopper gets its individual hole.

16 Q. Okay. So you --

17 A. And then there's a bypass --

18 Q. -- you use one bag to stop it?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Okay. Just so we're all clear. Because some companies

21 will use two bags.

22 A. Yeah, we do use two bags. We use four stoppers total.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. It's called a backup.

25 Q. Got it.



1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Some mains are harder, some mains --

3 Q. Do you recall how much it -- how long it took you on  
4 this one?

5 A. Not really. Maybe an hour and a half, 2 hours.

6 Q. Okay. And what time you arrived at the job scene?

7 A. Eight o'clock, maybe.

8 Q. Okay. Then what happened?

9 A. Well, we replaced the main; pull out the old one,  
10 replaced with the new plastic main.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Hook it all up, and then we'll start introducing gas  
13 into the new main.

14 Q. Okay. Now you remove the cast iron main and you hook up  
15 the plastic main?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What happened to that cast iron main? Did you ship it  
18 someplace or you just (indiscernible)?

19 A. No, we get rid of it. It's just --

20 Q. So you guys took it with you?

21 A. Yeah, and I think it's -- I'm not sure, but we just put  
22 it in a dump truck and dump it.

23 Q. And then did you pressure test the plastic?

24 A. Less than 100 feet, we don't have to. It's called a  
25 visual inspection.

1 fuse it up. The service is already out. We put a coupling onto  
2 the fuse tee, wait until it cools off, and then we'll take the cap  
✓ 3 off the fuse tee and take the ~~cool-pon~~ <sup>coupon FD</sup>. It's not tapped yet, so  
4 there's no air going into the gas main. Then we'll test the  
5 service line.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And then once the air test is good, we'll take the air  
✓ 8 out and I'll put the ~~cool-pon~~ <sup>coupon FD</sup> back in, and then I'll tap the main  
✓ 9 and bring up air, bring up gas, shut the valve, go inside and ~~shut~~  
10 the line. lock  
FD

11 Q. So service line is installed from the meter, going  
12 towards this main first, and then you connect at the main? I'm  
13 just trying to understand the process. I understand you change  
14 the cast iron for the plastic.

15 A. Right. We'll install the 2-inch service and fuse a tee  
16 onto the main.

17 MR. NICHOLSON: Install a 2-inch service to --

18 MR. DIAZ: To the main.

19 MR. NICHOLSON: -- the main --

20 MR. DIAZ: Right.

21 MR. CHHATRE: To the main. Okay.

22 MR. NICHOLSON: -- at the 2-inch service tee. But it's  
23 not connected to the meter yet?

24 MR. DIAZ: No, no.

25 MR. NICHOLSON: Right.

1 Q. Ninety pounds gauge? Okay. And the pressure held?

2 A. The pressure test held.

3 Q. So tell me, when you went at the scene and you saw the  
4 ditch and you saw the cast iron pipe, how did the ground look to  
5 you?

6 A. To me, like every ground in New York. I mean,  
7 nothing --

8 Q. Did you see any rocks? Did you see any backfill with a  
9 sand?

10 A. No, I just --

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. It just looked like it was a regular hole.

13 Q. So when you remove the cast iron pipe, how did the  
14 ground feel like? Do you guys enter into the ditch or do you just  
15 lower the plastic pipe and --

16 A. We're in the holes.

17 Q. In the hole?

18 A. Yeah, yeah.

19 Q. And how was the ground? What did the ground feel like?  
20 Was it soft? Was it rocky?

21 A. I can't recall.

22 Q. Okay. Did you see any groundwater in the ditch? Was  
23 the soil moist, for example?

24 A. I can't recall.

25 Q. You can't recall? Do you know how deep the ditch was?

1 Q. And what did he do, do you remember?

2 A. Well, he's just there to make sure we do it right and to  
3 make sure it's safe and make sure we're doing our job.

4 Q. And how did he do that? How did he do -- how did he  
5 make sure that you are doing right? How did he make sure that it  
6 was even being done safe? I'm just trying to find out what he  
7 did?

8 A. He would come make sure our equipment's up-to-date and  
9 everything is --

10 Q. Did he ask any questions?

11 A. No. No.

12 Q. No. Did he look at equipment?

13 A. I'm pretty sure he did. Maybe -- I didn't see him look  
14 at it, but --

15 Q. Okay. Were you in the ditch when he showed up or you  
16 were --

17 A. That I can't recall.

18 Q. Do you remember he showed up before you started work or  
19 during the work?

20 A. Probably during the work.

21 Q. During the work? Okay. Was it after the cast iron pipe  
22 was replaced or --

23 A. That I can't remember.

24 Q. That you cannot recall?

25 A. No.

1 Q. And what about Mr. Johnson, what did he do?

✓ 2 A. He's just a laborer. He's the top guy. Gets the tools,  
3 whatever. *meaning he works mostly outside the hole.*

4 Q. Okay. So he just go out if you -- *FD*

5 A. Yeah, yeah.

6 Q. -- ask for some tool, then he gives it to you?

7 A. Right. Yeah.

8 Q. Okay. Was any of these two people were in the ditch  
9 with you?

10 A. I'm pretty sure Martello was, you know, on one side and  
11 I was on the other.

12 Q. Okay. But Mr. Johnson wasn't in the ditch?

13 A. No, no, he wouldn't -- there is no reason for him to be.

14 Q. Okay. Do you recall how long the job took to finish?

15 A. About 8:00, I think, most likely.

16 Q. Like so it's like a 12-hour shift, pretty much?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Okay. So did the Con Edison contact person, do you  
19 remember his title or his name?

20 A. That I don't remember. I don't remember -- his title is  
21 an inspector.

22 Q. Okay. But will that have in the document package that  
23 you were given?

24 A. No.

25 Q. It will not?

1           A.    No.

2           Q.    So how do you know he is working for Con Edison and he's  
3 the person who is going to watch over your workmanship?

4           A.    He will call me in the morning, call.

5           Q.    He'd call you in the morning and tell you he's the one  
6 who --

7           A.    Yeah. They'll assign him the job.

8           Q.    Okay. And do you recall, he came once or twice?

9           A.    He probably was there more than that. He probably came  
10 in the morning and then stayed with us until the end.

11          Q.    Okay. When you finish the job, do you have to show him  
12 what -- I mean, what is the process? You replace everything, you  
13 finished your job. What happens next?

14          A.    We close up our plates and wrap everything up. Take our  
15 bypass down, take our stoppers out, do what we have to do to make  
16 sure everything is right. Shut what we have to shut off, lock  
17 what we have to lock, close our plates, make sure everything is  
18 safe, and that's it.

19          Q.    So do you ever call Con Edison to tell them --

20          A.    Yes, yeah.

21          Q.    -- that you are done or --

22          A.    If the inspector -- yeah, I do have to tell the  
23 inspector that we're done for the day.

24          Q.    And how would you do that?

25          A.    I will call him on the phone.

1 Q. Did your supervisor in your company knew that?

2 A. That I don't recall.

3 Q. Okay. And do they check your documents? How would they  
4 know you are qualified to do this job?

5 A. With -- we check --

6 Q. I mean Hallen Construction? How would they --

7 A. Well, they have a -- I guess they will have a -- with  
8 everybody's qualifications, they have somebody that checks to see  
9 who's out and who is not.

10 Q. Okay. So when you're doing this job, Hallen  
11 Construction didn't say anything that you are --

12 A. Right.

13 Q. -- you are behind?

14 A. Right.

15 Q. And Con Edison person didn't ask for the documents  
16 anyways?

17 A. No.

18 Q. So he will not know?

19 A. No.

20 Q. So when did you find out that you were not qualified at  
21 that time for whatever that small -- when did you find that out?

22 A. After this was, this happened.

23 Q. The incident happened?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I mean, after the incident how -- why would you check

1 Q. You don't recall?

2 A. No.

3 Q. So what happened after that? Once you find out you are  
4 not qualified, what happened next?

5 A. I was actually due for my 3-year, so I got requalified.

6 Q. Okay. And when were you due for your 3 years?

7 A. In -- I think that would be that November.

8 Q. Okay. November?

9 A. I think. Because I go every November every 3 years. So  
10 I'm trying to figure --

11 Q. So you're still months away from your 3-year?

12 A. No, my -- yeah, I'm still months away from my 3 years  
13 now. Years away. Because I just went back recently in this  
14 November to get my 3-year.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 2013?

16 MR. DIAZ: Hum?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 2013?

18 MR. DIAZ: Yes.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

20 MR. DIAZ: And just recently I went for my fusing quals  
21 over.

22 BY MR. CHHATRE:

23 Q. So 9/13 you were requalified, you requalified for 3-year -

24 -

25 A. ~~Right.~~ 11/13. FD



1 MR. CHHATRE: Oh, well, all these (indiscernible) --

2 BY MR. EMEABA:

3 Q. Thank you, Mr. Francis. Ravi has really ask a whole lot  
4 of questions, so which I'm -- more than cover. You mentioned  
5 something, just to clarify the response the gave earlier, I  
6 believe I heard you well. He asked you about the -- he set out  
7 the facts on what you saw on Park Avenue and you said that the  
8 excavation was already made?

✓ 9 A. ~~Um-hum.~~ Yes. FD

10 Q. So when you got there, what you could only see was a  
11 cast iron --

✓ 12 A. ~~Um-hum.~~ Yes. FD

13 Q. -- already exposed? And then, from what you mention  
14 here, your group had to actually tap off, did a bypass, cut off a  
15 section of the cast iron 8-inch?

✓ 16 A. ~~Um-hum.~~ Yes. FD

17 Q. And then you install the plastic 8-inch pipeline,  
18 correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. And then from what you stated here, you said the  
21 8-inch plastic pipe, because it was less than 100 feet --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- it was no need -- you didn't have to pressure test  
24 it?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Because I -- okay. Ravi already ask you a question and  
2 I do ask this question again to you. Who is responsible to know  
3 when you're not -- you are no more OQ qualified?

4 A. I would say me, no?

5 Q. Yourself? Okay. Apart from you being the one  
6 responsible, do another person has a responsibility to tell you if  
7 you are still OQ qualified or not? Does any other person has that  
8 responsibility except yourself?

9 A. I would say Con Ed.

10 Q. Con Ed?

✓ 11 A. ~~Um-hum.~~ Yes. FD

12 Q. Okay. Now who qualifies you for all your OQs?

13 A. Con Ed.

14 Q. Do your company qualify you in any one of them at all?

✓ 15 A. ~~Not me.~~ No. FD

16 Q. So both your 3-year and your 1-year requalification are  
17 both performed by Con Ed?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. So at any point in time previously, have Con Ed  
20 ever notify you that you are due for qualification?

✓ 21 A. ~~Not that I can recall.~~ When I worked in the Bronx. FD

22 Q. So how you get requalified? Is it you that initiate  
23 your requalification at all times?

✓ 24 A. ~~Um-hum.~~ Con Ed initiated when I worked in the Bronx. FD

25 Q. Okay. So the failure for you not being requalified was

1 National Grid, do they do anything different as far as the testing  
2 goes than Con Ed does?

3 A. No. They do a destructive testing. I've never --  
4 they've never done that in front of me in Con Ed.

5 Q. Okay. As far as the 3-year cycle, does National Grid do  
6 a similar 3-year cycle than Con Ed does?

7 A. Yeah, they -- they do. Certain aspects of the job call  
8 for a yearly.

9 Q. Do you still do a 3-year or is it just --

10 A. Yeah. Who, Con Ed?

11 Q. No, Grid.

12 A. Grid? Like I said, Nat Grid does yearly too. Certain  
13 things have to be done yearly. But yeah, they still got 2, 3  
14 years.

15 Q. Okay. And you've done sidewall fusion with Grid?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay, so you wouldn't have taken that OQ training with  
18 Grid?

19 A. I've taken, but I don't work on Nat Grid. I work on Con  
20 Ed.

21 Q. Just Con Ed?

22 A. Because I'm a Con Ed mechanic. You can't work on Con Ed  
23 pipeline unless you're a Con Ed mechanic.

24 Q. Okay. So that's --

25 A. And I've been with the company for 25 years, so I take

1 A. Right.

2 Q. And then who was going to do the refill based on that?

3 A. Another the team.

4 Q. Okay. All right.

5 MR. MCCARTON: Thanks, Ravi. Good.

6 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. Len?

7 MR. GEORGELIS: Nothing from me.

8 MR. SINGH: Tasos? Sorry.

9 MR. GEORGELIS: No.

10 BY MR. SINGH:

11 Q. I have a couple of questions. Some are similar to  
12 Chris's and there'll be a little different twist to it. So you  
13 said you have 25 years in the business.

14 A. Um-hum.

15 Q. How long for you working the trenches before you started  
16 working on the pipe, in terms of a maintenance man. Were you a  
17 laborer probably at some point in your career?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And you worked your way up. But how many years before  
20 you actually started fusing pipe and when have you requalified to  
21 fuse pipe?

22 A. I've been qualified for 15 years now.

23 Q. So about 10 years before then?

24 A. About 10 years.

25 Q. Okay. In terms of the training that you received from

1 a day. Not the excavation part, but the tie-in part and  
2 everything.

3 Q. So probably several of them per week? If you do one a  
4 day, it's five a week, roughly?

5 A. Yeah. Um-hum. Never one a day, but it's --

6 Q. Okay. In terms of your OQ card, you carry that with  
7 you, you mentioned before. What information is on an OQ card?  
8 What does that mean to you, that card?

9 A. What does it mean to me?

10 Q. Yeah?

11 A. It's my life.

12 Q. But what does that card tell you?

13 A. It tells me my fusing quals, my tapping quals, my cut-  
14 out quals, my tapping machines. I have the cards on me.

15 Q. Right. Does it have an expiration date on it?

16 A. Yes, it does.

17 Q. I think that's all I have for now.

18 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. Just a couple of follow-up  
19 questions.

20 BY MR. CHHATRE:

21 Q. So what time -- what is the date that your quals,  
22 qualifications expire when you did this job for Con Edison in  
23 2011?

24 A. That I really don't know. That would have coincided  
25 with the 3-year.

1           A.    No.

2           Q.    Have you done any jobs since then for Con Edison?

3           A.    Yes.

4           Q.    Involving similar work?

5           A.    Excuse me?

6           Q.    Involving similar work?

7           A.    Yes.

8           Q.    So after you find out you are not qualified, you did go  
9 through training, did you not?

10          A.    Yes.  Yes.

11          Q.    And how long that training was?

12          A.    A day.

13          Q.    Okay.  Now, do you visually examine the joint before you  
14 pressure test it or you just go ahead and pressure test it?

15          A.    Excuse me?  Can you --

16          Q.    Do you visually examine the joint, service tee joint  
17 that you fuse before you pressure test or you pressure test --

18          A.    Yeah, you have to.  You just don't put a pressure test  
19 on it.

20          Q.    Okay.

21          A.    You have to make it safe.  It can blow.

22          Q.    Okay.  So what is a visual exam?  Or how do you --

23          A.    Make sure you have enough beads, make sure your  
24 couplings are on, make sure everything is secured.

25          Q.    Okay.

1 Q. In the Bronx, your Con Ed foreman would check your --

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. -- your OQ dates --

4 A. Right.

5 Q. -- to make sure you were still --

6 A. Our fusing OQs, yes.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. And then he would come out when we were about to expire  
9 and give us a test on the field.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. And he would punch our cards. Sometimes they wouldn't  
12 punch our cards. It just -- but he would give us our -- and then  
13 I was always a Bronx mechanic. When I came into Manhattan, I  
14 guess they did things different so I really didn't catch on to it.

15 Q. Okay. So you became used to doing that field --

16 A. Right. Correct.

17 Q. -- qual? They moved you to Manhattan -- who moved you  
18 to Manhattan? What happened?

19 A. Well, we lost the contract in the Bronx.

20 Q. I see. Okay. And they didn't do the same field qual  
21 when you got to Manhattan?

22 A. Right. No.

23 Q. Okay. How is the 1-year qualification different than  
24 the 3-year?

25 A. The 1-year is just fusing.

1    it over into the coupling?

2           A.    No, because it's not -- it's freely installed.

3           Q.    Okay.

4           A.    It's open, just the whole trench is open.

5           Q.    No stress on it?

6           A.    Yeah, no -- yeah, there's no stress on it.

7           Q.    Okay.  It's a stick, straight piece?

8           A.    Yeah, it's --

9           Q.    It's not a coiled piece?

10          A.    No, straight plastic.

11          Q.    Okay.  How do you go about on an install like that, how

12 do you go about keeping the pipe and fitting clean, free of

13 contaminants?

14          A.    You do it visually.  You have your alcohol wipes.  You

15 wipe it down, make sure there's no dirt or debris.

16          Q.    Where do you use the alcohol wipes?

17          A.    On the edges, wherever you're fusing, wherever your

18 couplings are going.

19          Q.    So this would be the bottom of that tee, on the face of

20 the tee?

21          A.    All on the tee, yes.

22          Q.    Okay.

23          A.    You definitely have to make sure that's cleaned out.

24          Q.    Do you take alcohol to the top of pipe as well?

25          A.    Well, you just clean it and make sure there's nothing



1           A.    Pressure.  That's to melt.  And then it's at zero for a  
2   few until you get your visual inspection.  And then to put the tee  
3   on the main is 195.

4           Q.    Okay.  What's your visual in this case?

5           A.    A bead, a quarter inch -- a little less than a quarter  
6   inch bead.

7           Q.    On the main pipe?

8           A.    Yeah.  Yeah, main pipe and the tee.

9           Q.    So you're looking at both?

10          A.    Yeah, yeah.

11          Q.    Okay.  Okay, and then once you've joined it, how do you  
12   know you have a successful --

13          A.    Your rollbacks.

14          Q.    What's a rollback?

15          A.    It's melted, and once you put 195 pounds of pressure,  
16   that plastic rolls back.

17          Q.    Okay.

18          A.    Because it's so hot.

19          Q.    Okay.  I think this line was installed in December --

20          A.    Correct.

21          Q.    -- about as -- okay.  Probably pretty cold in New York  
22   in December?

23          A.    Yeah.

24          Q.    Does that create any challenges, cold-weather work?

25   Yeah?

1 A. Yeah, it's air.

2 Q. It's air?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Okay.

5 MR. STOLICKY: Is it like a sawzall?

6 MR. DIAZ: Yeah, not as fast. It's not a fast saw.

7 It's just -- the torque on it is very well. It's a lot.

8 MR. STOLICKY: Did you find it difficult to cut this  
9 particular pipe?

10 MR. DIAZ: That I can't remember.

11 MR. STOLICKY: Any more or less than other jobs?

12 MR. DIAZ: I've cut, you know --

13 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

14 Q. But it's air driven, it's not --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- it's not an oil? It's not hydraulics?

17 A. No.

18 Q. And the equipment you're using to do this fusing, is it  
19 your company's equipment?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. It's not Con Ed's?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Is it certified by Con Ed?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. And how do you know it's certified by Con Ed?

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. -- I'm pretty sure. I mean --

3 Q. But not every job you work on --

4 A. No.

5 Q. -- you're not paired up with a single inspector?

6 A. No. No.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. That's all I've got.

10 MR. CHHATRE: Kelly?

11 MR. EMEABA: Yeah. Just a few.

12 BY MR. EMEABA:

13 Q. When, before you install the service tee or saddle tee,  
14 what preparations are you expected to perform over the 8-inch  
15 plastic pipeline?

16 A. So you need -- make sure I could get underneath it to  
17 install my sidewinder.

18 Q. How do you clean it?

19 A. I clean it with alcohol wipes, rag, make sure it's free  
20 of all debris. Then I'll take an emery cloth, scrape it to get  
21 the -- there's a film on plastic and you have to remove that film.  
22 You have to get to virgin plastic. That's what we call it.

23 Q. So you use the emery cloth to --

24 A. To take away the --

25 Q. -- to wipe off. Which is, okay, just to remove the dirt

1 set it where you got to center it. You take your measurements,  
2 you put your clamp on and you shoot it.

3 Q. Okay. So on saddle fusion, you were never required to  
4 scrape it?

✓ 5 A. No, not <sup>with a</sup> scrape. You use an emery cloth ~~to~~ scrape it. FD

6 Q. I know you use an emery cloth. You use it even for  
7 electrofusion. You use an emery cloth at all time to wipe all of  
8 them. You know, we try to cease from the alcohol because might  
9 affect it, but emery cloth, yes. So that just what I wanted to  
10 get from you, the fact that you're not expected to scrape it,  
11 because each pipeline do have the thin coating, which is, you  
12 know, glassy nature, which also do protect it even from the  
13 ultraviolet light, and which on electrofusion you're expected to  
14 scrape.

15 A. Right.

16 Q. That's why I'm asking you, because if you don't scrape  
17 it for electrofusion, it's not going to bond.

18 A. Right.

19 Q. Okay. But you just stated you are not expected to  
20 scrape that?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Okay. Now, in the past 5 years, if you can remember,  
23 how many of your joints --

24 MR. SINGH: I'm sorry, I'm not sure that's what he said.

25 MR. DIAZ: Wait. Yeah, I just got --

1 follows.

2 MR. EMEABA: That's procedure.

3 MR. SINGH: He follows his procedure.

4 MR. EMEABA: That's what, that's what I asked --

5 MR. SINGH: And he follows the procedure. Correct?

6 MR. EMEABA: -- yeah, is that what procedure.

7 MR. SINGH: Right. Correct.

8 BY MR. EMEABA:

9 Q. You said yes?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So we are already finished with that.

12 A. Okay.

✓ 13 Q. Yeah, that -- you don't scrape it during saddle fusion?

14 A. Right. Not with a scraper, but with emery cloth. FD

15 Q. You just emery cloth using wiping it?

16 A. Right.

17 Q. But for electrofusion, you wipe it with emery cloth and  
18 you also scrape it with a half moon?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. That's what you stated, and that's okay. And I ask you  
21 is that according to procedure?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You said yes.

24 A. Right.

25 Q. So that's fine. And then my other question I was about

1 question, is how many tasks are you qualified for? And they  
2 should be listed on this, right?

3 A. These are my fusing quals.

4 MR. SINGH: Yeah, all but C&G card.

5 MR. DIAZ: All but C&G card. Everything that has an X,  
6 I'm qualified for.

7 MR. STOLICKY: So it's butt fusion, sidewall fusion,  
8 mechanical fitting, electrofusion. Those -- this is a fusion  
9 card?

10 MR. DIAZ: Yeah. That's (indiscernible).

11 MR. CHHATRE: And this is your 3-year?

12 MR. DIAZ: Yes.

13 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay. Thanks.

14 MR. CHHATRE: (Indiscernible) yearly --

15 BY MR. STOLICKY:

16 Q. So are you OQ'd to preform non-fusion tasks?

17 A. Excuse me?

18 Q. Are you OQ'd to perform any other tasks other than  
19 fusion?

20 A. Sure.

21 Q. I mean, excavation? I mean, you do tapping, obviously?

22 A. Yeah. I'm OSHA. I can do everything.

23 Q. Okay.

24 MR. SINGH: Except C&G card?

25 MR. DIAZ: Except C&G card. Yes, natural gas card, I

1           MR. DIAZ: Well, yes. Well, I meant to say from the  
2 inside wall.

3           MR. NICHOLSON: Okay. To the inside, interior of the  
4 building?

5           MR. DIAZ: Yes.

6           MR. NICHOLSON: Okay.

7           BY MR. STOLICKY:

8           Q. Did anything stick out in your mind as to any issues on  
9 that street, where there be fresh patches nearby or sinkholes or  
10 cars hitting bumps and going flying or anything along those lines  
11 stick out?

12           (Cell phone tone.)

13           MR. DIAZ: (Indiscernible).

14           BY MR. STOLICKY:

15           Q. Anything?

16           A. Traffic. I'm sorry.

17           Q. No, just (indiscernible).

18           The alcohol wipes, I'm not that familiar with using  
19 alcohol wipes. Is that in Con Ed's procedures?

20           A. Con Ed supplies them, yes.

21           Q. Okay. So, like I said, you answered my next question is  
22 you always use the same ones?

23           A. Yeah.

24           Q. You ever run out of them and, like, you know, spit on it  
25 or something and then --

1 guy in the trench, you'd be looking for? It's --

2 A. Not over-melt.

3 Q. Not over-melt? Okay. Meaning you've left the pressure  
4 on --

5 A. Well, yeah --

6 Q. -- I mean you had a pressure against the heater adapter?

7 A. Right.

8 Q. Okay. Because what happens with over-melt?

✓ 9 A. You sink the tee. That's what we call it. ~~I don't know~~

✓ 10 ~~what~~ it's called a cold fuse. FD

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. We call it --

13 Q. Can you just describe that? Because I don't know.

14 A. You get too much of the tee. You melt it, you know?

15 Q. Okay. And this -- to me that sounds like a better  
16 joint, right? Because you have more melt --

17 A. It's not bad. It just doesn't -- me, personally, I just  
18 don't -- you get more, you have more room because now you're this  
19 far away sometimes from where the outlet is.

20 Q. Oh it, does it mess up your alignment?

21 A. Right.

22 Q. Is that what you're saying?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Okay. All right. So over-melt would be bad. Okay.

25 What about does soak time make any difference at all?



1 initially plug it in, you know. But you do your test on it, which  
2 are tempil sticks and make sure you got your press, your --

3 Q. You run that tempil stick all the way around to make  
4 sure it's heating --

5 A. Right across.

6 Q. Right across the front or the sides or --

7 A. Do it like the cross.

8 Q. Oh, you do the cross? Okay.

9 A. It's your four -- your corners is where you melt is, not  
10 in the middle.

11 Q. Okay. So you're looking for uniform temperature?

12 A. Yeah. Sure.

13 Q. Okay. That's all I have. Thanks.

14 A. Yeah.

15 MR. CHHATRE: No other questions?

16 MR. STOLICKY: Do you have your National Grid  
17 qualification card?

18 MR. DIAZ: That I don't.

19 MR. STOLICKY: So we can compare the two?

20 MR. DIAZ: No.

21 MR. STOLICKY: Okay.

22 BY MR. EMEABA:

23 Q. Do you always have your 2-inch plastic pipe supplied as  
24 straight pipes to you?

25 A. Always.

1 Q. You don't use the solvent wipes to clean the heater  
2 elements?

3 A. If it's dirty, you know, you make sure -- before you  
4 plug it in, you make sure it's fine --

5 Q. Okay. So clean heater plates --

6 A. -- so nothing melts in it.

7 Q. -- clean heater plates are important?

8 A. Sure.

9 Q. Okay. In your experience -- we were talking about  
10 inspections and just the work you do, how common are 2-inch tee  
11 installations? Is that something you do quite a bit? Or service  
12 line, service tees?

13 A. Sure. Sure.

14 Q. You do a lot of those?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Okay. Is that something a Con Ed inspector would be  
17 wanting to witness?

18 A. Con Ed inspector wants to witness everything.

19 Q. Oh, they do? Okay.

20 A. Sure. That's their job is to inspect.

21 Q. I didn't get the impression this Con Ed inspector was  
22 actually overseeing that part of the work?

23 A. He will check. He will definitely check.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. You know, it's his job.

1 Q. Straight pipes?

2 A. Yes. In Manhattan, yes. In other I don't --

3 Q. Okay. In Bronx did they do it differently?

4 A. In the Bronx? No. Straight pipe.

5 Q. Straight pipe?

✓ 6 A. ~~Um-hum.~~ Yes, FD

7 Q. Not curve?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay.

10 MR. CHHATRE: Frank?

11 MR. EMEABA: Thank you.

12 MR. CHHATRE: Okay?

13 MR. McCARTON: I'm good, Ravi.

14 MR. CHHATRE: Lenny?

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

16 MR. CHHATRE: Thank you so much for coming.

17 MR. DIAZ: Thank you.

18 MR. CHHATRE: I appreciate your time.

19 Off the record.

20 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

21

22

23

24

25