

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: ROCCO MURDOCCA

70 Degraw Street
New York, New York

Friday,
August 8, 2014

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RAVI CHHATRE
Investigator-in-Charge

APPEARANCES:

RAVI CHHATRE, Investigator-in-Charge
National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, D.C.

KALU KELLY EMEABA, Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

MATTHEW NICHOLSON, Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

FRANK McCARTON, Deputy Commissioner
Office of Emergency Management
New York, New York
(Party Representative)

ANASTASIOS GEORGELIS, Director of Field Operations
Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations
Department of Environmental Protection
New York, New York

CHRIS STOLICKY, Utility Supervisor (Safety)
New York State Department of Public Service
(Party Representative)

LaASIA HUNDLEY, Section Manager
Quality Assurance and Gas Operations
Con Edison
New York, New York

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I N T E R V I E W

MR. CHHATRE: On the record. Good morning. Today is August 8th, 2014. We are currently at 70 Degraw Street, Brooklyn, New York, at Mr. Rocco Murdocco [sic] --

What is the name of your company?

MR. MURDOCCA: Murdocca, M-u-r-d-o-c-c-a. The company name is Plumbing Works, Incorporated.

MR. CHHATRE: We are meeting regarding the investigation of natural gas distribution pipeline leak and multi-story structure explosion that occurred on December 11th -- that occurred on March 12, 2014 in Harlem, New York. My name is Ravi Chhatre. I am with National Transportation Safety Board located in Washington, D.C., and I'm the Investigator-in-Charge of this accident. The NTSB investigation number is DCA-14-MP-002.

I would like to start by notifying everyone present in this room that we are recording this interview and we may transcribe it at a later date. Transcripts will be provided directly to the interviewee for review and identifying any typographical errors. The transcripts may be posted in NTSB's permanent documents.

Also, I'd like to inform Mr. Rocco Murdocca that he's permitted to have one other person present with him during the interview. This is a person of your choice, supervisor, friend, family member, or, if you choose, no one at all.

MR. MURDOCCA: My imaginary friend.

1 MR. CHHATRE: Please state for the record your full
2 name, spelling of your name, organization you work for, business
3 contact information such as mailing address, and whom you have
4 selected to be present with you during the interview.

5 MR. MURDOCCA: I ain't got nobody here, man. You're
6 telling me a little too late. Should I have my lawyer now? I
7 think I should have with all of these guys here.

8 MR. CHHATRE: And I'd like to go around the room and
9 have each person introduce themselves. Please state your name,
10 spelling of your name, and the organization you represent, and
11 business contact information, starting on my left.

12 MR. NICHOLSON: Matt Nicholson, NTSB,
13 [REDACTED].

14 MR. EMEABA: Kalu Kelly Emeaba, K-a-l-u, K-e-l-l-y,
15 E-m-e-a-b-a, NTSB investigator. My email address is
16 [REDACTED].

17 MR. STOLICKY: Chris Stolickey, that's S-t-o-l-i-c-k-y.
18 I am the New York State party rep in this investigation and the
19 Utility Supervisor of Safety for the New York State Department of
20 Public Service. Email address is [REDACTED].

21 MR. GEORGELIS: Anastasios Georgelis,
22 A-n-a-s-t-a-s-i-o-s, G-e-o-r-g-e-l-i-s. I'm here accompanying
23 Frank McCarton, party rep for the City of New York. I work for
24 the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. My
25 title is Director of Field Operations for Water and Sewer

1 Operations. Email address is [REDACTED].

2 MR. McCARTON: Good morning. My name is Frank McCarton.
3 I'm the Deputy Commissioner in the Office of Emergency. I'm also
4 the New York City party rep on this investigation. My email
5 address is [REDACTED].

6 MS. HUNDLEY: Good morning. My name is LaAsia Hundley,
7 L-a-A-s-i-a, H-u-n-d-l-e-y. I'm a section manager of Quality
8 Assurance and Gas Operations at Con Ed. I am filling in for Lenny
9 Singh, who is the NTSB party rep for Con Edison. My email address
10 is [REDACTED].

11 MR. CHHATRE: Thank you.

12 INTERVIEW OF ROCCO MURDOCCA

13 BY MR. CHHATRE:

14 Q. Mr. Rocco, we'll be very brief. Please explain your
15 work at 1642 Park Avenue in 2011.

16 MR. EMEABA: If he can state his name?

17 MR. MURDOCCA: You want me to state my name?

18 MR. EMEABA: Yeah.

19 MR. MURDOCCA: Rocco Murdocca, Plumbing Works,
20 Incorporated, [REDACTED].

21 MR. CHHATRE: Thank you.

22 MR. EMEABA: You want to spell it out?

23 MR. CHHATRE: No, I have the spelling.

24 MR. MURDOCCA: R-o-c-c-o, M-u-r-d-o-c-c-a.

25 BY MR. CHHATRE:

1 Q. I -- yeah.

2 A. It comes natural (indiscernible); 44 of them to be
3 precise, but anyway --

4 Q. So, we're here to find out what you did --

5 A. We got contracted to do a sewer installation and a water
6 main installation. So, we actually went to that job in 2010, just
7 so you know that.

8 Q. Oh, okay.

9 A. All right?

10 Q. Do you remember roughly the month or something like
11 that? Do you know the month or --

12 A. I've got DOT permits. So, I've got DOT permits that
13 start in 12-8-2010.

14 Q. 12-8-2010. So, that's when the permit is issued?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. And they extend to 12-22-2010. That doesn't make any
18 sense. But, anyway, it doesn't matter. A lot of things don't
19 make sense. The issue with this job over here was we went there
20 to start a sewer and a water main. What happens is the sewer was
21 very deep, which that means it's all the way down. Now, the
22 engineer didn't have their SD showing a riser. We have to build
23 what's called a riser. I believe Mr. Fasos (ph.) over here could
24 elaborate on what a riser is. That's when the sewer is too deep.
25 We have to raise the pipe --

1 Q. Yeah.

2 A. -- because of the pitch. If you put too much pitch,
3 it's not good, whatever. So, the engineer had to redo his
4 paperwork. They had to go get approval from DEP, the whole thing,
5 and that's why the job doesn't start back in '11. Oh, multi OT
6 permits. All right, I've got multi OT permits that date back.
7 All right.

8 Q. Do you recall how deep the sewer was?

9 A. I'm going to -- I'm looking for that right now.
10 Nineteen feet.

11 Q. Nine, zero?

12 A. No, no.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: One, nine.

14 BY MR. CHHATRE:

15 Q. One, nine.

16 A. One, nine.

17 Q. One, nine. Okay. I (indiscernible) that.

18 A. That's according to this permit -- I mean, this
19 inspection report. It says 19 feet.

20 Q. Nineteen feet. Okay. And that was sewer or water?

21 A. The sewer was that deep. The water is only about 4 or 5
22 feet down.

23 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

24 Q. That's 19 to top, top of sewer?

25 A. I'm going to tell you yes because it's right where the

1 spur is. So, it's about there, give or take. Do you want to know
2 the invert?

3 Q. Sure.

4 A. Don't mind my phone. It's going to keep going off.
5 Where is it? (Indiscernible) permits first. You ready?

6 Q. Yep.

7 A. The rim, according to this SD is 35.06. The invert is
8 9.9. That doesn't quite make sense why it says 19
9 (indiscernible).

10 MS. HUNDLEY: (Indiscernible).

11 MR. MURDOCCA: So, you figure it's about 20 something
12 down to the top of the sewer, according to this.

13 MR. EMEABA: 35.6?

14 MR. MURDOCCA: That's the rim. That's the top of the
15 manhole, and the invert --

16 MR. McCARTON: So, 35.06 refers to an elevation?

17 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah. So, in other words --

18 MR. McCARTON: And then invert is 9.9, you said?

19 MR. MURDOCCA: Yes.

20 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah.

21 MR. EMEABA: You said 35.6, so is this zero, six --

22 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah, 35.06. Yeah.

23 MR. EMEABA: Okay. Thank you.

24 MR. MURDOCCA: It's 4 by 2.8 combined sewer, 4 feet by
25 2.8. It's an egg-shaped sewer made out of bricks.

1 MR. STOLICKY: Is it common to see sewers like that now?

2 MR. MURDOCCA: All over. All over.

3 MR. STOLICKY: Okay. Are they usually that deep?

4 MR. MURDOCCA: I'm going to say 80 percent of New York
5 City.

6 MR. GEORGELIS: It's common in Manhattan where you have
7 large brick sewers.

8 MS. HUNDLEY: Is the 19 foot depth normal or common?

9 MR. MURDOCCA: No, it's not that common, but it's
10 common.

11 MR. GEORGELIS: Sewers are generally between 12 and 14
12 feet deep.

13 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah. It depends what location you're
14 in. Anyway, that's Uptown, so you're going up, you know. There's
15 certain places that the sewer is down about 30 in the city, I
16 mean, not in Manhattan, but around the city.

17 MS. HUNDLEY: Can --

18 MR. NICHOLSON: Is it sanitary only or is it sanitary
19 and storm?

20 MR. MURDOCCA: Combined, combined, combined, combined.

21 MR. GEORGELIS: Combined sewers.

22 MR. NICHOLSON: Oh, you do say that. Okay.

23 MS. HUNDLEY: When you just read those numbers, you said
24 based on that, it looks like it would be 20 something feet versus
25 the 19.

1 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah.

2 MS. HUNDLEY: What made you draw that conclusion?

3 MR. MURDOCCA: You take the invert minus the rim.

4 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah, it comes out 25.

5 MS. HUNDLEY: Right.

6 MR. MURDOCCA: Twenty-five.

7 MR. GEORGELIS: The 25 would be to the invert, so

8 it's --

9 MR. MURDOCCA: That's to the invert, then you minus --

10 MR. NICHOLSON: Right. It includes --

11 MR. MURDOCCA: -- then you minus 4 feet, 5 feet --

12 MR. NICHOLSON: Right.

13 MR. MURDOCCA: -- whatever it is. Then it depends how
14 thick the sewer is, how many layers of brick or whatever went on
15 it. Then you've got to put your cement on it. You've got to see
16 where the inspector wants you to core drill, which is normally at
17 2:00. But egg-shape sewer or square sewers or (indiscernible)
18 different, but we just choose a point and say core drill here.
19 That's the pride of engineering.

20 BY MR. CHHATRE:

21 Q. So, you gave me a little (indiscernible). So, you
22 started from the building, went all the way up to the sewer main?

23 A. No, we start in the street. We go down based upon what
24 the riser is based on. So, the riser is the piece that comes up.
25 We go right on top of the sewer on the side of it, not right on

1 top of it. (Indiscernible) right on top of it. They go all the
2 way down. We get there. We do what we have to do to make the
3 platform for the riser, depending on how it's got to be built or,
4 you know -- there's different sewers, different situations. So --
5 that's my rubber duck here. I've got it in the tub. Sorry.
6 So --

7 Q. (Indiscernible) draw for me?

8 A. Draw it?

9 MR. NICHOLSON: Do you have drawings from the project?

10 MR. MURDOCCA: No.

11 MR. NICHOLSON: No?

12 MR. MURDOCCA: They don't give you -- this --

13 BY MR. CHHATRE:

14 Q. I'm not --

15 A. All I've got is permit and stuff. There's certain
16 situations on certain jobs that the DEP just gives you
17 instructions out in the field, you know.

18 Q. Um-hum.

19 A. I can't answer that. I refuse to answer that on the
20 charge of, you know, somebody's present here that I might
21 (indiscernible).

22 Q. If you can draw (indiscernible).

23 A. Look, you have a sewer, right. Wait. Hold on a second.
24 Angel? Actually, hold on. I --

25 MR. CHHATRE: Take your time.

1 MR. EMEABA: So, he doesn't want to?

2 MS. HUNDLEY: Um-hum.

3 MR. MURDOCCA: Here's your typical drawing of how they
4 want a riser done.

5 MR. CHHATRE: Ah, okay. Can we keep this?

6 MR. MURDOCCA: I'll give you a copy?

7 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

8 Q. Is this a standard detail?

9 A. Yeah. Different sewers, different details. It depends
10 on the shape of the sewer. You have what's called the rectangular
11 sewer, square sewers, where they want beams put in and things
12 across. In this case, that would be like the same detail for
13 that. Actually, the brick sewer, you guys don't want anything
14 over. You want a chimney done on the side now, right. Kind of
15 like a house chimney, you know, it goes on the side of it, you've
16 got to build a platform, go in, you drill, then you, and then
17 you -- it's incased in concrete.

18 Q. So -- oh, okay.

19 A. Because it has to hold it.

20 Q. Rise --

21 A. If you put it right on top of the sewer, it's going to
22 collapse the sewer.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. So, you have to hold --

25 Q. Okay, so you build a form around, pour concrete --

1 A. Yeah. It depends on the type of sewer. Again, the
2 brick sewer --

3 Q. So, how far down did you have to go around that
4 (indiscernible)?

5 A. You're figure -- let's take the -- all right, this has
6 to stop.

7 Q. So, you've got to almost pour a footing or a base, like
8 you said, right?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. So, how much of the sewer is exposed at that point?

11 A. Probably the whole side in this case.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Then it's called field conditions. Because sometimes
14 they could draw this all they want --

15 Q. Sure.

16 A. -- but if we have conditions that the riser can't be
17 built or anything else, this is where we call DEP in and we say,
18 okay, this can't be done; tell me how to do it, and then they
19 basically give you --

20 MR. CHHATRE: Instructions.

21 MR. MURDOCCA: -- direction out on the street how to do
22 it. They don't really want pipes just to be put in --

23 Correct me if I'm wrong. Stop me at any time if you
24 feel --

25 They don't want pipes to just be put in, you know,

1 because you figure, hey, you could just stick a pipe in, you know.
2 You've got to support the pipe. You've got to make sure it stays
3 there for a long, long time, you know, and it shifts. And you
4 don't want to pitch it too much. The reason for the riser is
5 because -- let me put this in proper terms. Water travels faster
6 than fecal matter, so if you don't have -- if you have too much
7 pitch, the water is going to go, the fecal matter is going to stay
8 behind. So, you need to have the right pitch to carry --

9 MR. NICHOLSON: (Indiscernible).

10 BY MR. CHHATRE:

11 Q. It all the way through. Okay.

12 A. In other words, kind of when it rains and you did the
13 stick races down the gutter, you know, down the block and the
14 whole thing, you know -- did you did that? I know I used to do
15 that as kid. You did that, I know you did. Nobody else, just me
16 and him?

17 We're alone on this one.

18 MR. NICHOLSON: I think you're alone, yeah. Sorry.

19 MR. CHHATRE: Did (indiscernible) --

20 MR. MURDOCCA: Anybody ever play skelly?

21 MR. STOLICKY: No.

22 MR. MURDOCCA: It's called bottle caps too.

23 Showing your age there.

24 BY MR. CHHATRE:

25 Q. So, you go on the side with your pitch, and then make a

1 kind of --

2 A. You do the riser, and then you take the right pitch that
3 you need to get inside the building.

4 Q. Okay. And the riser was --

5 A. You figure on something like that, look, you -- it's a
6 commonsense thing, right? The sewer is down, what did we say, 25
7 minus the 4 feet, 5 feet, whatever.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. You're --

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. -- 19. So, you've got a seller. A seller is 8 feet
12 deep. You've got to go below. They have to have pitch in it.
13 So, you figure you've built 19 -- eight -- home -- figure we
14 built -- based upon the run, your normal run being about 20 feet,
15 25 feet to the center of the street -- no, actually, wait a
16 minute. That sewer is close to the -- that sewer -- no, not that
17 one. This sewer over here is close to the curb, if I'm correct.

18 Q. It's not that close to the curb.

19 A. That sewer is --

20 MR. NICHOLSON: Do have your maps?

21 MR. CHHATRE: Yeah, we have the map.

22 MR. MURDOCCA: Because it's not a side street.

23 MR. McCARTON: (Indiscernible) your map.

24 MR. CHHATRE: Here we go.

25 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah, it's close to the curb, it's not in

1 the middle of the street.

2 MR. STOLICKY: Yeah, it was in the (indiscernible).

3 MR. EMEABA: It's not in the middle.

4 MR. STOLICKY: (Indiscernible) the right pipe driving
5 line.

6 MR. NICHOLSON: That's 117.

7 MR. CHHATRE: (Indiscernible) --

8 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah.

9 MR. McCARTON: Yeah, okay.

10 MR. CHHATRE: -- towards him.

11 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah, so it's in the driving lane, but
12 not really; it's more to the parking lane.

13 MR. GEORGELIS: Yeah.

14 MR. MURDOCCA: It's like in between of them.

15 MR. CHHATRE: Correct. Yeah, yeah.

16 MR. EMEABA: About 7 feet away from --

17 MS. HUNDLEY: Correct.

18 MR. MURDOCCA: Seven, about 7, 8 feet away from the
19 curb --

20 MR. CHHATRE: Yeah.

21 MR. MURDOCCA: -- if I remember.

22 MR. NICHOLSON: From the curb, yeah.

23 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah. The only reason why I remember
24 this is because I went there and I was like -- my guys are cursing
25 and I'm like what's wrong with you? There's a church next door.

1 What the hell is wrong with you?

2 MR. NICHOLSON: But --

3 BY MR. STOLICKY:

4 Q. So, how long did it take them to dig down to the sewer?
5 Was that on the clock?

6 A. Now, we took -- we were there a long time. We were
7 there breaking that rock. When you're doing rock breaking, again,
8 you should have somebody here from the DOT. In the city of New
9 York, they don't want you -- when you're in the street, they don't
10 just want you to get like a machine and go burr, burr, burr. You
11 know, you could do that on the side of your property, but they
12 make you set up all these --

13 Q. Traffic controls (indiscernible)?

14 A. Yeah, to make sure that nobody's moving or anything.
15 When you do work in the city street, you have no choice but to
16 drill and split, drill and split. You drill a hole, you put the
17 rock splitter in, you split, you drill a -- you can't cause
18 vibrations because there's been issues in the 80s to where a guy
19 down the block is breaking, you know, to put utilities in in the
20 building when the side falls down. So, just --

21 Q. So, you use like a hammer drill to drill a hole in the
22 rock?

23 A. You use a regular handheld rotary or air-powered hammer
24 drill, you drill the hole however deep, you put grease in and
25 you -- we have these things, hydraulic rock splitters. You put it

1 in, (indiscernible).

2 Q. Right, it fractures.

3 A. Yeah. Or, you could use -- now, Hilti has stuff, you
4 know, they have stuff now that you could drill it, pour the stuff
5 in, and they come back.

6 MR. NICHOLSON: Oh, yeah. It expands?

7 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah.

8 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah, (indiscernible).

9 MR. MURDOCCA: That's for the union guys.

10 MR. CHHATRE: So, how wide was your trench or --

11 MR. MURDOCCA: I don't recall how wide my trench was,
12 but I am going to tell you it had to be a good, I'm going to say,
13 8 feet.

14 MR. CHHATRE: Eight feet. Okay.

15 MR. MURDOCCA: Eight, eight -- definitely, the first
16 hole that we made had to be somewhere around 8 by 8, you know, to
17 go down.

18 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. (Indiscernible) --

19 BY MR. McCARTON:

20 Q. This was new penetration? This was brand new for that
21 building?

22 A. Well, yeah.

23 Q. It wasn't replacement?

24 A. No. The funny thing is we -- there was a building there
25 eventually before sometime. Now, Facorect (ph.) -- this is -- you

1 could check with this. This was a housing building, Housing
2 Authority, right?

3 Q. Um-hum.

4 A. So, nine out of ten, there was a building there
5 sometime, some period, at some point, and the building either got
6 knocked down or they took it down, or whatever, it fell down.
7 You're in Red Hook right now. Anybody ever grew up around here?
8 So, you know that at nighttime around here --

9 Q. Yeah.

10 A. You could be playing with him in the daytime and you're
11 not going to see him the next day because his house would have
12 fallen down, and there was plenty of that --

13 Q. Um-hum.

14 A. -- because down here, the ground is not stable, you
15 know. And so -- but there was a lot of that around all of New
16 York City.

17 MR. CHHATRE: When you say here, meaning New York City
18 or --

19 MR. MURDOCCA: Red Hook.

20 MR. GEORGELIS: Red Hook.

21 MR. MURDOCCA: Here in Red Hook.

22 MR. GEORGELIS: Yeah, right here.

23 MR. MURDOCCA: So -- but, so eventually there was a
24 building there -- there was -- so there was -- there had to be a
25 sewer there. So, there's a six in the sewer. So, now, when you

1 take down a building, you have to cut off the sewers and the
2 water.

3 MR. GEORGELIS: Right.

4 MR. MURDOCCA: Right? So, I guess the more -- question
5 would be like if there was already a sewer there, why didn't you
6 connect to the same sewer?

7 MR. GEORGELIS: Right.

8 MR. MURDOCCA: Let him answer that question.

9 MR. GEORGELIS: What's the question?

10 MR. MURDOCCA: Why can't we connect the --

11 MR. GEORGELIS: You have to apply the connection --

12 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah. Why can't we connect to the same
13 sewer?

14 MR. GEORGELIS: -- otherwise, you could erosion into the
15 sewer.

16 MR. MURDOCCA: Then there's another thing. In New York
17 City, in Manhattan alone, for some reason, there's no six-inch
18 sewers allowed, it's only 8 inch and up. So even if you do a
19 relay, they -- relay meaning a repair --

20 BY MR. McCARTON:

21 Q. Okay, right.

22 A. -- all right -- they want you to replace it with an 8-
23 inch pipe.

24 Q. I see.

25 A. So, I don't know what that reason is -- so --

1 (indiscernible) --

2 MR. McCARTON: What's the reason?

3 MR. GEORGELIS: I don't know. I didn't make

4 (indiscernible).

5 MR. MURDOCCA: You didn't make that law up. We do it
6 for work; that's all we can tell you.

7 MR. CHHATRE: So, you start it in the street and work
8 your way back?

9 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah. Now, one we got out of there,
10 coming in wasn't that hard.

11 MS. HUNDLEY: When you were drilling, it was -- was
12 there any hand dig? It's all equipment?

13 MR. MURDOCCA: Well, you start off with jackhammers or a
14 saw, whatever you want, to cut the hole, and then -- in the
15 beginning, based upon the mark-outs, you have to start off --
16 based upon what the utilities are marked up by near you, you could
17 start with the machine to lift up the stuff, but then you go in
18 with a shovel, go a couple of feet down, make -- you know, see
19 what it is until you get passed the utilities. Normally, once you
20 past 4 feet, 5 feet, you're good to go, and if you have room to
21 stick your hoe in, and the hoe meaning machine to go down and --
22 you know, anywhere, then that's how you could work it or else, you
23 know -- a lot of places, believe me, in this city -- I just did a
24 job on Washington Street. It's -- whatever. It's --

25 BY MR. CHHATRE:

1 Q. So, do you do the work or you have your people do this
2 work?

3 A. I have my people do it. Don't worry about it. I'm not
4 afraid to get in the hole and do it.

5 Q. But did you ever see the site (indiscernible)?

6 A. Yeah, I've been plenty of times. I make sure that I am
7 on my site at least once a week, each one of my sites. On that
8 particular one, I was there more than once a week because I was
9 there just meeting inspectors and --

10 Q. Okay. So, do you recall what the ground looked like?
11 Was sand in there of any kind all or --

12 A. Ravi, with all due respects, they all look the same
13 after a while. So, if it's rock, there's rock; if it's dirt, it's
14 dirt. The only thing I would recall was if the ground was
15 unstable, you know, meaning --

16 Q. While unstable?

17 A. Yeah, meaning if you have sand or loose ground, you
18 know -- there's different types of dirt that there is -- and the
19 dirt was fine there. It wasn't loose or wasn't -- you know, we
20 weren't losing the street. Because, believe me, I get phone calls
21 at 2:00 in the morning, yeah, you've got a whole in the middle of
22 a street. Do you want to get somebody here? You know, because
23 you end up losing it even -- no matter how good shoring you do, if
24 it's -- you going rock-ways, whatever, the sand just comes down.
25 And if it rains, forget it. That's it. It washes out, and then

1 -- DOT has my home number and everything. It's a great thing.
2 It's a beautiful thing. You've got three hours to get out here.

3 Q. So, the soil in the Manhattan area was pretty stable
4 where you had done the work?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. No issue?

7 A. The majority of Manhattan is, besides rock, is also a
8 lot of clay and a lot of clay-based dirt, which is great, great
9 for digging, you know, because it stays there and doesn't move
10 unless -- let me -- wait a minute; let me add this in -- unless
11 when you get where Con Ed, you know, does their lines that the put
12 the sand on that, by the way, they don't give you; you have to
13 supply it -- you know, KeySpan gives you the sand, you know.
14 What's that, National Grid? Just --

15 MR. GEORGELIS: National Grid?

16 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

17 They actually give you the sand. They're such nice
18 people at National Grid. They give you the sand, you know.

19 BY MR. CHHATRE:

20 Q. So, you had to --

21 A. Nothing against, you know, Con Ed, of course.

22 Q. So, did you see -- which utilities did you see when you
23 were doing -- do you see water line? Did you see a gas line?

24 A. I'm not going to recall. If you show me a utilities
25 thing, I'm going to tell you that it was there, but nine out of

1 10, there was definitely a water line and an electrical line --

2 Q. Okay, right there.

3 A. -- and a gas line there.

4 Q. Sure. But, at 19 feet, you didn't see any moisture in
5 the soil --

6 A. Look, when you're digging down, there's moisture.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. It's, it's that simple.

9 Q. No, I mean, I'm just trying to get a feel for the water
10 table, how deep the water table was.

11 A. No, the water table is deep there; I don't care what
12 anybody says.

13 Q. Okay. That's what I really --

14 A. You might get --

15 MR. STOLICKY: So, you didn't run a pump to get --

16 MR. MURDOCCA: No --

17 MR. STOLICKY: -- water up?

18 MR. MURDOCCA: -- no pumps. You might get runoffs
19 because there's the rocks eventually, so whatever natural ground
20 water seeps through. But, no, over there, there was no need for a
21 pump.

22 BY MR. CHHATRE:

23 Q. So you said natural ground water could --

24 A. Meaning whatever runoff. Because you've got rocks, so
25 anytime that you've got rocks, you're going to get -- the water

1 eventually goes -- percolates down, gets to the rocks, and when
2 you hit rocks, you're going to do it. But -- I don't recall it
3 over there, but that's it.

4 Q. And the work was done in winter or in spring?

5 A. It was done from winter to spring to summer.

6 Q. Okay, that long.

7 A. Yeah. So --

8 Q. And when you did the sewer, you did the water also at
9 the same time?

10 A. No, the water comes after.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. We do the water -- actually, if I'm correct in this
13 thing, we went there, we started digging, we received the wet
14 connection, but we -- because they had to do the sewer and there's
15 always issues to where, you know, you have to meet a contract, you
16 know, that the Housing Authority or whoever you work for wants to
17 see something done. So, I believe that we did get the wet
18 connection solved, but we didn't bring it into the house because
19 eventually it would be in our way. We're doing one trench, one
20 thing, so, you know -- but, we just got the wet connection, left
21 it there, and then continued on with the thing. To see where we
22 received the wet connection, you would have check with Mr. Tasos
23 Herros (ph.). He -- I'm sure they have a date, all of the -- who
24 came out to do it.

25 Q. Oh, so you did not do water?

1 A. No, we do the water; we don't do the wet connection.
2 That's the city's lines. The city comes out and does it
3 themselves. We prepare it for them, make --

4 Q. Up to the water main?

5 A. Up to the water main --

6 Q. And then they --

7 A. -- and then they come in, they put the sleeve, they put
8 the whatchamacallit, and make it all pretty. We make seat, you
9 know, put down carpet down.

10 Q. So, come close to the water main?

11 A. No, we expose the water main.

12 Q. You expose the water main?

13 A. Yes, we have to or else how are they going to get that
14 thing on?

15 Q. So, you -- the city comes in and make that connection,
16 then you continue in works? Is that how it works?

17 A. Yeah. The city comes in and makes a connection, what's
18 called a wet connection. What they do is they put a metal sleeve
19 around it. They put what's called a tapping valve, which is a
20 full port valve that allows -- it's actually a little bit bigger
21 than full port and they hook up this drill rig to it and they put
22 the tip in and drill out, they core out the whole -- the water
23 main, then they pull out. Eventually, the water a stoppage, you
24 know, that drill rig. They pull out the drill (indiscernible),
25 they close the water main and, voila, it's done.

1 Q. Then from that point, you --

2 A. We take off with that, yeah.

3 Q. -- work your way in the house? Okay.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And the water was -- the water line was 4 feet below the
6 grid?

7 A. It's -- 4 to 5 feet is your normal, sometimes six. If
8 you're in the Rockaways, you go even down 5 feet.

9 Q. Five feet --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- below grid? Okay.

12 A. Yep.

13 Q. So, from 19 feet, when you are done with sewer, do you
14 compact it? And what if you --

15 A. We do things in lifts of 2 feet. We compact it
16 eventually. We don't -- let me just see if there was a protective
17 the street? No, protective street.

18 Q. What does that mean?

19 A. When it's a protective street, we have to -- I would
20 just say the city actually comes there because of the -- whatever
21 the street is made out of, they want to make sure -- they want you
22 to do a compaction test on the whole thing.

23 Q. Okay. So, in this case, when you compact it, how do you
24 know the compacting is good? You have some gauge that you put in
25 every 2 feet?

1 A. You're supposed to have it tested even though it's not a
2 protective street; I'm going to tell you that. Did we do it? No.
3 Is it normal practice not to do it with compaction? Yes. We only
4 do compactions -- we call up -- because it's a separate thing;
5 it's a separate lab that comes down and tests it.

6 Q. Oh, okay.

7 A. But, how do you know that the -- how do -- your next
8 question is going to be, so how do you know that there excavation
9 was good?

10 Q. There you go.

11 A. Okay. I'm going to give you a few reasons. Number one,
12 number one, the city has my house, so if my excavation isn't good
13 and it goes down, they have a bond with my house on it that
14 they're going to take, so I make sure that the compaction is good.
15 All right, there's number one. Number two, just working all these
16 years. We use DOT approved material, you know blunt, they're
17 called blend.

18 MR. NICHOLSON: What is it, blend?

19 MR. MURDOCCA: Blend.

20 BY MR. CHHATRE:

21 Q. B-l-u-n-t?

22 A. B-l -- yeah, it's blended material that we use. We go
23 get from the, whatever you want to call it, the (indiscernible) --

24 Q. So, there's aggregate and sand and that kind of thing?

25 A. They mix -- they're basically recycled mix, sand, dirt,

1 bricks, you know; no wood or eventually, you know --

2 Q. Right.

3 A. -- and it's great stuff.

4 Q. And so you pour that?

5 A. You pour that, you compact it with the paction. We have
6 a chomping jack.

7 Q. And the sewer line goes off what, gas and steel?

8 A. Brick.

9 Q. Brick.

10 A. The sewer line that I put in?

11 Q. Uh-huh.

12 A. No, extra heavy case line.

13 Q. I'm sorry?

14 A. Extra heavy case line.

15 Q. Extra heavy case line. Okay.

16 A. It's called extra heavy case line. That's what we put
17 in. The city sewer was a brick sewer.

18 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. So, it's got to be cast iron 8-
19 inch, you said?

20 MR. STOLICKY: It's a brick sewer line.

21 MR. MURDOCCA: Actually, if it was a rise until then, it
22 might have bigger; it might have been 10 inch up to the riser, and
23 then we take off with an 8-inch.

24 BY MR. CHHATRE:

25 Q. Okay. So, up to the riser, 10-inch, and then 8-inch to

1 the house?

2 A. Yeah.

3 MR. MURDOCCA: It's always two pipe sizes bigger, right?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't recall.

5 MR. MURDOCCA: (Indiscernible). I just follow what the
6 thing says, man, you know?

7 BY MR. CHHATRE:

8 Q. Then finish that, then you put the sand or the aggregate
9 (indiscernible) you compacted it, and how high do you go?

10 A. Well to the top. We have to leave -- we've got to bring
11 it to the surrounding area. So, eventually, if we have to do the
12 water main --

13 Q. Uh-huh?

14 A. -- we don't -- you know, we've got to stop right below
15 the water main, because you've got to put it on a bed of virgin
16 soil, whatever --

17 Q. Right.

18 A. -- compacted soil, and then we run the water main, and
19 then we go all the way to the top. We pour cement, depending what
20 kind of street it was. I don't recall what the street was. If
21 it's asphalt, we put back, you know, binder and whatever or we put
22 cement. If we put a cement base, then we put the asphalt on top.

23 Q. What I was asking was after you finish the sewer line,
24 you came to what, 4, 5 feet?

25 A. Yeah, below the water main.

1 Q. And then you --

2 A. Ran the water main.

3 Q. -- then you ran the water main --

4 A. Right.

5 Q. -- then compacted some more, and --

6 A. You compact whatever -- as you're coming up, you compact
7 every two feet. You could compact every foot, you could compact
8 every whatever, but you compact in 2-foot lifts.

9 Q. And the water line was?

10 A. What?

11 Q. What are the materials in the water line.

12 A. Oh. Ductile iron.

13 Q. Ductile iron. And the size of 4 inch?

14 A. Yeah, I believe so.

15 MR. STOLICKY: That's the water surface?

16 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah.

17 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah --

18 MR. CHHATRE: The water surface.

19 MR. NICHOLSON: -- the water surface.

20 BY MR. CHHATRE:

21 Q. And then you came up to the grid, poured concrete,
22 whatever was the thing, and poured asphalt in the street?

23 A. We base it and we're on course.

24 Q. Now, did Con Edison change the pipe where -- was your
25 compaction open then for them, or how did that go?

1 A. Now, Con Edison or National Grid, whenever there is a
2 cast iron main or a high pressure main, if there's a high pressure
3 main, they come and they sit there and watch us.

4 MR. MURDOCCA: Correct? Stop me at any time where I'm,
5 you know, not saying the right thing.

6 MR. STOLICKY: It's good to hear that.

7 MR. MURDOCCA: When there's a high pressure main
8 there --

9 MS. HUNDLEY: Say it again. No -- say it one more time.

10 MR. MURDOCCA: -- they come. If there is a cast iron
11 main, eventually the mark-out notifies them. You know, when they
12 look at their records, they say there's a cast iron. So, you'll
13 have a guy that comes around and sees what you're going, all
14 right, how deep you're going, you know, these things that they ask
15 on the job, how deep we're going. Which, by the way, I find to be
16 a stupid question, but is asked all the time because the sewer and
17 water is always deeper than the gas. But, anyway, that's just me,
18 you know? I normally (indiscernible) only about three inches.
19 They guy looks at (indiscernible). But, how deep we're going, how
20 long we're going to be there, how big our hole is, and they just
21 write it up and they know, okay, when do you think you're going to
22 be done, a week? You know, normal jobs take about five to seven
23 days, all right, yeah, water and sewer, when they're all 14 days
24 down, you know, and not when they're -- you know, watchamacallit,
25 19 feet down --

1 MR. NICHOLSON: Nineteen, right.

2 MR. MURDOCCA: -- with the rocks in the way. So, then
3 after that, basically, we do whatever we have to do and they come
4 after us normally --

5 Again, stop me if I'm wrong --

6 And they replace whatever section that we underlined,
7 you know, of the cast iron piece. They -- normally, I think --

8 What do you guys do, go 20 feet one way and 20 feet the
9 other, something like that with the mains?

10 MS. HUNDLEY: (Indiscernible) -- sorry.

11 MR. GEORGELIS: Yeah.

12 MS. HUNDLEY: We don't (indiscernible).

13 BY MR. CHHATRE:

14 Q. In this case, so when you build up with your aggregate
15 material, do you leave those 4 feet for them to come in and you
16 build it all the way up to the grid level?

17 A. We get done, yes.

18 Q. And then you --

19 A. We compact everything next to them, whatever. We do it.

20 Q. So, you poured asphalt also on that to --

21 A. Yes. We finish it. We turn -- we're on course. We
22 turn to -- flush with surrounding areas.

23 Q. Okay. So, Con Edison did not come and do their work
24 while you're still there?

25 A. No. Sometimes, sometimes, but not many times -- which

1 they would do us a big favor if they were to do that; it would be
2 the greatest thing ever, all right, but they won't do that --
3 they'll show up there, you know, and say we'll take over the hole.
4 Yeah. It happens more on water mains because a water main is a
5 smaller hole and will tunnel it, all right, be they'll come over
6 and they'll say we'll take over the excavation, you know, and
7 eventually there's some paper that'll get exchanged when that
8 happens.

9 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

10 Q. Paper between you and Con Ed?

11 A. Yeah, that they take over the excavation.

12 Q. So, you're certain in this job that didn't happen?

13 A. That didn't happen.

14 Q. You took it all the way back up and repaired the street?

15 A. Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Because when they come -- here's
16 the deal -- we make huge holes. That's why I say if it happens in
17 a waterhole -- because a waterhole is normally 3 by 3, 4 by 4, you
18 know --

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. -- so this is a big thing. When come, they do like a
21 2-foot cut, you know 2, 2 -- 3 -- 30 inches, and they just cut it
22 and they go the whole length, you know. So, they're only going
23 down 3 feet, if you're lucky, you know. We're going down --
24 that's why it won't happen here. They would rather like let you
25 do it, you know, and then they come. Let's make believe this

1 table is the cut. They come and they cut across it. Now, they
2 leave their hole open. This is an argument that goes on with DOT
3 all the time because here's what happened. They'll cut a trench
4 right across this hole, right?

5 Q. Right.

6 A. They leave it open because they are allowed to leave it
7 open for the ground to evaporate the gas or whatever the case
8 might be, right? It rains, all right, it washes out the sides.
9 These go back, they just put their stuff in, and then we get
10 what's called a CAR, you know --

11 Q. Correction action --

12 A. Request, right -- that your hole went down. So, we go
13 out there and -- basically with DOT, and the guy goes, well, this
14 is their trench (indiscernible) moved, but your trench
15 (indiscernible). Yeah, but my trench -- my hole went down for the
16 simple reason that they (indiscernible) -- whatever. We could go
17 on.

18 Q. Did you have to -- if you went down 19 feet, you had to
19 shore the trench you were in?

20 A. Of course. If not, DEP would have our heads, DOT would
21 have our heads, buildings, OSHA.

22 MS. HUNDLEY: You said earlier, you said when you go
23 down 19 feet with rocks in the way. So, there heavy rocks down --

24 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah. Like I said, you've got to drill
25 and split. Now, might I add that there's certain rocks that are

1 harder than others, you know. Keep that one in mind. Sometimes
2 you go through rocks like nothing and there's, you know -- you can
3 use a regular diamond drill bit. In this -- I don't know what
4 these rocks. I think they were granite, which is like you're not
5 going through it that easily. I know that there was a lot of bits
6 used and I know there was --

7 MR. NICHOLSON: You said jackhammer earlier. That's
8 just to get through the asphalt?

9 MR. MURDOCCA: Rotary. Yeah, the jackhammer is up on
10 top, all right, but you can't use it. You've got to drill and
11 split, so --

12 MR. GEORGELIS: Rocco, let me ask a question if I may.
13 You said you completed that job, right? And was the gas main
14 replaced at that point or not replaced?

15 MR. MURDOCCA: No. They come after us.

16 MR. GEORGELIS: They come after you. So, that was
17 repaved back to the specs (indiscernible)?

18 MR. MURDOCCA: I don't even know if it's a case iron
19 main, by the way, over there. I have no clue.

20 MR. MURDOCCA: Is it?

21 MR. NICHOLSON: What, the gas or water?

22 MR. MURDOCCA: The gas main.

23 Is it cast iron?

24 MR. CHHATRE: Did you request to find it exactly when
25 you came and did the gas work?

1 MS. HUNDLEY: Um-hum.

2 MR. MURDOCCA: It was?

3 MR. GEORGELIS: When you were there, it was, yeah.

4 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah, okay. So, then they would --
5 that's -- look, that's their standard. They're supposed to come
6 after if there's a gas main. When you undermine it, they've got
7 to come and replace it.

8 MR. CHHATRE: Now, I ask (indiscernible) --

9 MR. MURDOCCA: Not only them, it's also National Grid
10 too.

11 MR. CHHATRE: -- provide the (indiscernible)?

12 MR. NICHOLSON: How do they know if they have been
13 encroached, the one -- or the --

14 MR. GEORGELIS: And then we did the work and
15 (indiscernible).

16 MR. MURDOCCA: Because they come out and look at us.

17 MR. CHHATRE: Right, yeah.

18 MR. NICHOLSON: How (indiscernible) work because you
19 (indiscernible)?

20 BY MR. CHHATRE:

21 Q. When they started, how long (indiscernible) three weeks?

22 A. About 53 or one, whatever you want to call it.

23 MR. GEORGELIS: (Indiscernible). You might want to talk
24 to those people that did the work.

25 MR. CHHATRE: Yes, yes, we want to.

1 MR. NICHOLSON: To who?

2 MR. GEORGELIS: To (indiscernible) --

3 MR. CHHATRE: I just told Con Edison to get the
4 information about when did they replace the cast iron, when they
5 started work on it, when they finished it. I --

6 MR. GEORGELIS: Because there seems to be a little
7 timeline here --

8 MR. CHHATRE: For some reason I thought --

9 MR. GEORGELIS: There seems to be a little timeline and
10 I need a little more clarification.

11 MR. CHHATRE: Right.

12 MR. NICHOLSON: I agree.

13 MR. CHHATRE: Exactly. I agree.

14 MR. NICHOLSON: But we don't any more clarity from you
15 what dates you were actually --

16 MS. HUNDLEY: Right.

17 MR. NICHOLSON: -- digging, repaving?

18 MR. GEORGELIS: Well, he started the job in --

19 MR. NICHOLSON: All we know is your start date.

20 MR. MURDOCCA: Your normal -- look, I --

21 MS. HUNDLEY: (Indiscernible) summer.

22 MR. MURDOCCA: You want me to do my homework. That's
23 going to take a while because I wasn't -- I'm a high school
24 dropout, so --

25 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

1 Q. All right.

2 A. I got a GED. It was good enough. All I'm going to tell
3 you is that basically within about five days after the job is
4 completed, that we got a signoff, we'll normally go back within a
5 five-day cycle, five to seven days, we'll normally go back and
6 backfill it and everything. The whole object of this is for me to
7 get my roadway plates and cover the hole as fast as possible.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. Because that's a liability to me --

10 Q. Sure.

11 A. -- so I eventually want to get it done as fast as
12 possible.

13 Q. I understand.

14 A. So --

15 MR. NICHOLSON: I know your motivation.

16 MR. CHHATRE: But, on this one, do you recall when you
17 actually started that 8 by 8 trench --

18 MR. MURDOCCA: I could --

19 MR. CHHATRE: -- and then when you finished it?

20 MR. MURDOCCA: I could do -- so, let's say this, right?

21 (Indiscernible).

22 MR. NICHOLSON: I mean, the last date I had was that 12-
23 8-2010, right? Then you said it was delayed because of the riser
24 issue.

25 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah. 12-15. 12-20, 12-20-2111?

1 MS. HUNDLEY: Is when you were finished?

2 MR. MURDOCCA: Inspection completed 12-16, and that's
3 for what? Installed an 8-inch with Y. Sometime around there. I
4 mean, if you guys want -- it'll take me a while. I've got to go
5 find records.

6 MR. STOLICKY: I think that would give --

7 MR. MURDOCCA: I've got to go digging.

8 MS. HUNDLEY: Yeah.

9 MR. STOLICKY: I think that'd give us a pretty good
10 date.

11 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

12 Q. So, you're saying that 12-16 is the completion date on
13 the sewer --

14 A. The completion one I have. So, anywhere within around
15 five days, you know --

16 Q. Yeah.

17 A. -- from there, around there, five to ten. Let's give
18 five to ten days from there, I would have gotten done.

19 MR. STOLICKY: So, that does that mean --

20 MR. NICHOLSON: You mean paved?

21 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah, paved.

22 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah, okay.

23 BY MR. EMEABA:

24 Q. So, inspection for the paving?

25 A. Yeah, that's the -- no, there's no inspection for the

1 paving. We used to do that years got, not anymore.

2 Q. Okay, so the inspection then was --

3 A. That's the inspection that -- the reports that I have
4 for the sewer and the -- completion of the sewer and the water
5 main. That's what I'm saying.

6 Q. Okay, 12-16-2011?

7 A. Might I add that there might be another inspection
8 report that comes later after this day for (indiscernible) curb
9 valve? Because a lot of times the DEP will come, they'll see us
10 watch the -- but they want to see the curb valve, meaning that
11 that curb valve inspection actually has to be finished, meaning
12 the sidewalk has got to be done because they want to make sure
13 that the curb valve is there. They can take off the cap and you
14 can see the nut of the valve --

15 MR. NICHOLSON: The (indiscernible)? Okay.

16 MR. MURDOCCA: -- the whole thing.

17 BY MR. CHHATRE:

18 Q. So, at 12-16, DEP comes in and finishes the inspection?

19 A. Yeah, that's what I have.

20 Q. And then another, what, five days for you to finish
21 everything?

22 A. Like, I said, it's five to ten days after it would have
23 been done. So --

24 MS. HUNDLEY: So, the first permit was 12-8-2010?

25 MR. MURDOCCA: I probably got ones going back even

1 further. If you want, I could have one of the girls here just
2 take this file, go through -- I also keep daily logs to what's
3 where and I could send you a whole thing for one I was there for.

4 BY MR. CHHATRE:

5 Q. Oh, if you can do that, that would be great.

6 A. Yeah, but it takes me a while. I've got to go digging.

7 Q. Take your time.

8 A. It's 2010 or '11. It's --

9 Q. Take your time. I'll give you my card.

10 A. Somewhere, it's buried.

11 MR. CHHATRE: There is absolutely no rush.

12 MR. STOLICKY: He loves paperwork.

13 MR. CHHATRE: Huh?

14 MR. STOLICKY: He loves paperwork.

15 MR. GEORGELIS: Do you trust me?

16 MR. MURDOCCA: Listen. I used to work for the City of
17 New York --

18 BY MR. CHHATRE: Oh, you did?

19 MR. MURDOCCA -- so I worked for a Government agency.
20 I know it's -- except that wasn't the pick-me-up as this. Anybody
21 know what that is?

22 MR. STOLICKY: Yes, I do.

23 MR. MURDOCCA: So --

24 MR. CHHATRE: What is that?

25 MR. STOLICKY: Sanitation.

1 MR. CHHATRE: Oh.

2 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah.

3 BY MR. CHHATRE:

4 Q. No rush.

5 A. No, I --

6 Q. Tomorrow evening will be fine.

7 A. Tomorrow? What time is it?

8 Q. No, I --

9 A. By 3:00, I'll be on the Jersey Shore.

10 MR. STOLICKY: God bless you.

11 MR. MURDOCCA: I've earned it, so --

12 BY MR. CHHATRE:

13 Q. Okay. Yeah, that'll help a lot. But, I mean, at least
14 I've got some timeframe there.

15 A. All right.

16 Q. 12-16, maybe another ten days, 20th, 25th --

17 A. I'll give a whole timeline --

18 Q. Oh, that will be wonderful.

19 A. -- with the DOT permits and everything else.

20 MR. CHHATRE: Oh, great.

21 MR. NICHOLSON: That'd be great. Yeah.

22 BY MR. CHHATRE:

23 Q. That will be fantastic. My email address is there. You
24 can email it to me, you can mail it to me --

25 A. Oh, that's what we'll do.

1 Q. -- whichever (indiscernible).

2 A. I ain't paying the postage for this.

3 MR. EMEABA: Or, scan it to the fax, either way.

4 MS. HUNDLEY: Right.

5 MR. MURDOCCA: Scan it to the --

6 MR. STOLICKY: However you can do it.

7 MR. MURDOCCA: E-mail.

8 MR. NICHOLSON: Scan it?

9 MR. MURDOCCA: Or scan it?

10 MR. CHHATRE: So, in this case, you --

11 MR. NICHOLSON: Whatever you want to do.

12 MR. EMEABA: Either of them.

13 BY MR. CHHATRE:

14 Q. -- deserve to show that Con Edison did not come and
15 finish the job while you were still there. They completed it --

16 A. I'm a hundred percent sure. Because, like I said, they
17 would have taken over the hole.

18 Q. Okay. And then there'll be paperwork for that?

19 A. Yeah. And even -- sometimes there's no paperwork.
20 There would be a call to Hi-Qua saying get your down here because
21 these guys are here, over here and they've got no paperwork and I
22 ain't going to be responsible, because it's all a matter of
23 responsibility.

24 Q. Have you done any other work here on Park Avenue or in
25 Manhattan in that area?

1 A. I'm doing work on Park Avenue right now, not in that
2 area, 444 Park Avenue. So --

3 Q. We were told yesterday or the day before that this whole
4 area used to be swamp, a lot of streams and --

5 A. That's quite possible, yes.

6 Q. So --

7 A. If you go -- over here is swam and streams. You go to
8 Bensonhurst, Bath Beach is all landfill. That's not even kidding
9 around. Coney Island, you go right now, West 8th Street, where
10 the DMV is, right there, it used to be -- and it's the funniest
11 thing, all right? Go there digging and my guys call me up and
12 said come over. What?

13 MR. GEORGELIS: (Indiscernible).

14 MR. MURDOCCA: They get about 6 feet down. You know
15 what they started pulling out? Old bottles. It's full of bottles
16 over there.

17 BY MR. CHHATRE:

18 Q. Empties?

19 A. Yeah. Coke bottles. You name a bottle, it was there.

20 MR. STOLICKY: Okay. Did you return them all and make a
21 few bucks?

22 MR. GEORGELIS: (Indiscernible).

23 MR. MURDOCCA: No, don't laugh. There was people coming
24 there taking them, then I literally had to stop them because I'm
25 like, okay, stop right there. I'm going to undermine the whole

1 thing. I mean, the nice Coke bottles, Pepsis --

2 MR. NICHOLSON: Right.

3 MR. MURDOCCA: -- they were selling them on eBay --

4 MR. NICHOLSON: Sure.

5 MR. MURDOCCA: -- for freaking 7, 8, 10, \$20 a piece. I
6 was like why didn't I do that.

7 MR. EMEABA: Empty ones?

8 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah, from the old, nice, thick, green
9 bottles.

10 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah, yeah, right.

11 MR. STOLICKY: They're classics.

12 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

13 Q. Heavy (indiscernible). Yeah, I remember those. Nice.
14 Say what you said before about Hi-Qua. I didn't understand that.
15 If, if there wasn't a paperwork exchange and the trench was
16 (indiscernible) open.

17 A. Okay, Hi-Qua --

18 Q. I know who Hi-Qua is.

19 A. Yeah, they're DOT. They, you know, they're our police,
20 all right?

21 Q. Yeah, okay.

22 A. So, we call them up to tell them Con Ed is here, you
23 know; I'm not going to be responsible. So, there's a record --

24 Q. Oh, you would tell them --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I'm leaving a trench open --

2 A. Yeah, get over here --

3 Q. Con Ed's taking over.

4 A. -- send me an inspector here to clarify it. So, there's
5 a record that I called. Same thing, same thing; sometimes we'll
6 go somewhere, DP's there. They doing an emergency notice, right?

7 Q. Yeah.

8 A. They go a building and they're saying, all right --
9 they've dug up. They find out it's, you know, not the city's
10 problem; somebody -- it's your problem, right?

11 Q. Right.

12 A. So, you, the homeowner, has to get a licensed plumber to
13 come there.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. So, they'll call, you know, you, and they'll say, oh,
16 can you get a plumber? So, if the DEP is still they'll say if the
17 plumber gets here within an hour so, you know, before we leave,
18 we'll let them, you know -- we'll keep the hole open. So, think
19 about it; they already did the work for us, they --

20 Q. Sure, right.

21 A. -- you know -- and, you know, they give us papers to
22 take over the trench --

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. -- you know, the excavation, so they're not -- the city
25 is now not responsible for it.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Yeah, so now it's on me.

3 Q. Custody transfer of the trench?

4 A. Basically.

5 Q. All right.

6 A. So --

7 Q. Good.

8 A. -- it's pretty easy and simple, but it just -- how
9 should we say -- gets so complicated at times.

10 MS. HUNDLEY: (Indiscernible).

11 MR. CHHATRE: Do you have any questions?

12 MR. STOLICKY: I'm good (indiscernible).

13 BY MR. McCARTON:

14 Q. Rocco, do you remember if 6042 had a fence or --

15 A. Construction fence?

16 Q. Yeah.

17 A. Yes, it did.

18 Q. So, was it like in the middle of the sidewalk, was it on
19 the building line, on the curb line?

20 A. I'm going to tell you that I think -- all right hold on.
21 I'm going through the files. I think it came out to the sidewalk.
22 Yeah.

23 Q. And then you would have ran your lights on, on both
24 sides of the --

25 A. Actually, I'm going to tell you that when we first went

1 there --

2 Q. That's fine.

3 A. Wait a minute. When we first went there -- because
4 I'm -- okay. When we first went there, it came out to the
5 sidewalk, to the street, to the curb. When we went back --
6 because now the building -- when we went there -- when we got this
7 thing in, the building was basically finished. They only thing
8 that we're waiting for is water and sewer. That's how long it
9 took for them to get this process going. So, when we went back,
10 they pushed it back. In other words, they gave the 5 feet back
11 for the walkway because -- or else I would have had to have
12 provided to people to cross them over and a walkway for the
13 people, and I didn't.

14 Q. So, they pushed it back like in the middle of the
15 sidewalk, not all the way to the (indiscernible) line?

16 A. Yeah, they had the five feet for the sidewalk.

17 Q. And you would have ran your lines on both sides of the
18 fence?

19 A. I would have, I would have had to have kept five feet
20 open.

21 Q. Yeah.

22 A. Actually, Uptown over there, they allow me -- boy, I'm
23 trying to strain my brain. Hold on. OCMC-12. It's not here.
24 No, I would have had to -- both sides, meaning the (indiscernible)
25 pedestrian opposite sidewalk.

1 MR. GEORGELIS: So Rocco is looking at the stipulation
2 on the DOT program, and that usually dictates what
3 (indiscernible).

4 MR. MURDOCCA: You know what? I don't know if they
5 started with OCMC-12 then or -- (indiscernible)? Well, they give
6 me the strip, so eventually we could go back and see where there
7 is -- we last -- there's certain parts of the city that they won't
8 let you close the sidewalk, which is kind of stupid because I have
9 no choice, but they still tell you, no, you can't close the
10 sidewalk. So, you know, it's a given. You give --
11 (indiscernible). But, there's a OCMC alone -- both signs are
12 reading specifications for directing pedestrian to opposite -- but
13 they give you something that says that you've got to direct the
14 pedestrians across the street -- so figure that one out -- but
15 you're not allowed to close the sidewalk. Yeah. Then there's the
16 other one right underneath it which says, maintain 5 foot clear
17 pedestrian walkway in roadway. All right, so in this case,
18 they're allowing you to close the sidewalk, but I had to maintain
19 a pedestrian thing, so -- now, also in this case, there's no
20 sidewalk across the street.

21 MR. GEORGELIS: That's right.

22 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah.

23 MR. MURDOCCA: So, but anyway --

24 BY MR. CHHATRE:

25 Q. So, you had to close the sidewalk before you finished

1 for your work to be finished?

2 A. Yeah. I have no choice. I've got to cross it.

3 Q. Tell me, is the building --

4 A. I've got to do an open excavation.

5 Q. The building is already built. How did you make the
6 connection, sewer connection now going from the sewer main inside
7 the building with your --

8 A. What do you mean? If the building is already built?

9 Q. Right. I thought you said the building is built
10 already, they did not rate.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. So, where did you make the tie-in to the building?

13 A. I think the point -- we bring it in the point where the
14 plumber, the inside plumber is supposed to be there. That's why
15 we have all these plan and coordinations. They don't always work
16 out.

17 Q. So, you bring up to a point to the building, and then
18 the --

19 A. Yeah, then the insider plumber (indiscernible).

20 Q. The inside plumber comes in?

21 A. A lot of times, the inside plumber will stick his pipe,
22 you know, 5 feet out of the building, you know, but that doesn't
23 really happen that much.

24 MR. STOLICKY: Do you actually drill through the
25 foundation at all?

1 MR. MURDOCCA: If we have to, but then (indiscernible).

2 Sometimes we're actually going underneath the footing. So --

3 MS. HUNDLEY: Do you know if you have to drill

4 (indiscernible) to the foundation wall?

5 MR. MURDOCCA: I can't recall, but I'm sure that if we

6 go the building, we'll see where the sewer comes in. So --

7 MR. CHHATRE: Okay, so you --

8 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

9 Q. How far down would that for that connection? Because I
10 know you want to keep the pitch, right?

11 A. Based upon where the guy on the inside left his pipe.

12 Q. There's not a set elevation for that?

13 A. Well, there's a set based on the flow ratio that you're
14 putting out.

15 Q. Okay. Right.

16 A. You know, that's determined by the engineer. I don't
17 know how they do --

18 Q. Okay. You don't have a number in this?

19 A. The normal -- you want the normal?

20 Q. Yeah.

21 A. All right, I'll give you a normal. Two and a half and
22 down, two and a half inch --

23 Q. Below grid?

24 A. No, two-and-half-inch pipe diameters.

25 Q. Oh, okay. Pipe diameters?

1 A. Two and a half and down, quarter inch per foot.

2 Q. Yeah.

3 A. Two and half and three inch and up, an eighth of an inch
4 per foot. So --

5 Q. Okay. It's less for the bigger foot?

6 A. Yeah.

7 MR. CHHATRE: So, you're dropping an eighth of an inch
8 as you --

9 MR. NICHOLSON: Per foot, slow.

10 MR. MURDOCCA: The reason is, you know, when you have a
11 circle, it's --

12 MR. CHHATRE: Right.

13 MR. MURDOCCA: -- the way the water flows, you know.

14 BY MR. EMEABA:

15 Q. If -- I'm going to ask you, does your company do inside
16 plumbing or not?

17 A. Yes, I do.

18 Q. Okay. On this work, who engaged you? Is it the
19 company -- I mean, the, Government or the home owner?

20 A. The contractor, the plumbing contractor actually
21 (indiscernible).

22 Q. The plumbing contractor engaged you?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. So, you are a subcontractor, (indiscernible) contractor?

25 A. To the plumbing contractor.

1 Q. Plumbing contractor?

2 A. But your question was do I do inside plumbing? Yes, I
3 do too. So, I will do work for other plumbers.

4 Q. Okay. You mentioned something earlier on which is the
5 fact that DEP come in, they work on their men to do the beautiful
6 tying --

7 A. (Indiscernible).

8 Q. -- and Ravi asked you a question, okay?

9 A. What?

10 Q. Your work following -- does it follow the DEP or do you
11 run your pipeline, your water pipeline, and leave it over the
12 water main, and then DEP comes to do a tie-in?

13 A. No.

14 MR. CHHATRE: No, no. He said --

15 MR. MURDOCCA: We do the tie-in. DEP ties it to their
16 pipe --

17 BY MR. EMEABA:

18 Q. Which is what the water main?

19 A. -- yes, the wet connection -- into the city main.

20 Q. Okay. So, when you say you do the tie-in, what do you
21 do -- what are you tying into?

22 A. Their valve that they leave there --

23 Q. Okay, the --

24 A. -- the wet connection valve.

25 Q. From the house?

1 A. No, from the city main.

2 MR. CHHATRE: No, from the main.

3 BY MR. EMEABA:

4 Q. So, the city does your tie-in, leave the valve, and from
5 their valve, you connect --

6 A. It's on the house.

7 Q. -- you connect to the house?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So, if --

10 A. I run the pipe from the wet connection to the building.

11 Q. To the building?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. From the city's wet connection to the building.

15 Q. From the city's wet connection to the building?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And you're (indiscernible) here. So, what length is
18 that if you can give us --

19 A. It varies.

20 MR. GEORGELIS: Can I clarify it?

21 MR. EMEABA: Yes, please.

22 MR. GEORGELIS: So, when someone's making a new
23 connection, the plumber has to come in, apply for a permit to
24 install a wet connection. The plumber is responsible to make the
25 excavation, prepare the hole, sheet the hole, make it the size

1 that's required. We'll have -- the reason we don't let plumbers
2 make tops on our main is because it's our water main and we want
3 to control the integrity of our main. At that point, they pay us
4 a fee. We'll come in. On the main --

5 MR. MURDOCCA: Keep (indiscernible) the fee.

6 MR. GEORGELIS: -- you -- we put a -- in this case, when
7 you're doing the wet connection, there's a stainless steel clamp
8 that goes around the main with the islet. So, I don't remember in
9 this specific case if it's a mechanic joint.

10 MR. MURDOCCA: It's -- yeah, it's --

11 MR. GEORGELIS: Other than that, they attach a gate
12 valve to that sleeve and they'll come in with a tapping machine
13 that attaches to the gate valve. You open up the valve, you drill
14 through, you drill through the water main, you pull the bit back
15 with the Q-part from the main, you shut the valve, you test the
16 machine, you turn it over to the pub. So, all you're doing is
17 making a connection to the main, and then it goes back to the pub.

18 MR. EMEABA: Correct, and that's where I come in because
19 I asked him if they do inside plumbing, which the answer was
20 yes.

21 MR. MURDOCCA: Yes.

22 BY MR. EMEABA:

23 Q. So -- and as a (indiscernible), okay, I agree the time
24 from your wet connection -- and then you're saying in this case
25 your company did not start from the wet connection into the house.

1 Is that what you're saying?

2 A. No, we did.

3 MR. CHHATRE: No, they did.

4 BY MR. EMEABA:

5 Q. You did?

6 A. We did, we did.

7 Q. Okay. Yeah, you mentioned the issue of the plumbing
8 contractor who could actually, you know, do the inside work and
9 take it out.

10 A. That goes with sewer.

11 Q. So, in this case -- no, we're talking about water main;
12 that's what I want to discuss.

13 A. He leaves the outlets there; he connects to it. I'm not
14 going to be responsible. If I'm not the inside plumber -- think
15 of this for a while -- why would I connect a water main to
16 existing plumbing system or a new plumbing system and turn the
17 water on? How do I know it's been tested?

18 Q. So, in this case, you did the inside work too?

19 A. No, I didn't do the inside work. I was hired by the
20 plumbing contractor. I was a sub to the plumbing contractor.

21 MR. STOLICKY: They do do inside plumbing
22 (indiscernible).

23 BY MR. EMEABA:

24 Q. That is why I asked you the question.

25 A. But I do do inside plumbing.

1 MR. GEORGELIS: Yeah.

2 MR. MURDOCCA: Your question was do you do inside
3 plumbing?

4 MR. CHHATRE: Yeah.

5 MR. MURDOCCA: The answer is yes.

6 MR. CHHATRE: Yes.

7 BY MR. EMEABA:

8 Q. And then that's why asked you the question if --

9 A. But not on this job.

10 MR. CHHATRE: Okay, where are you going with this?

11 BY MR. EMEABA:

12 Q. Okay, but in this case -- no, what I wanted also to find
13 out you is since they finish and stop there after they gave you
14 the wet connection, which means you do a piece of a segment to tie
15 into whatever the inside plumber already did -- that's why I was
16 asking what is you length, the feet.

17 A. It varies depending where the water main is. In this
18 case, it might have been 20 feet and it might -- some places 60
19 feet, some places a hundred feet; wherever the water main. In
20 this case, I don't know. It might have -- it could have been --
21 off the top of my head, I'm going to tell you about 20 feet, a 20-
22 foot run, 20, 25.

23 MR. GEORGELIS: And, Rocco, you run the line inside the
24 building, right?

25 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah. We have to run it to the OSA-1.

1 MR. GEORGELIS: So, he runs it from the wet connection
2 to inside the wall of the building.

3 MR. MURDOCCA: To what's called -- we run it from the
4 wet connection to the inside of the building where, as per DEP
5 rules and regulations, we have to provide what's called a building
6 -- a house valve, building? House valve's the proper
7 name?

8 MR. McCARTON: House valve.

9 MR. MURDOCCA: -- building house valve, building --

10 BY MR. EMEABA:

11 Q. House valve. Okay.

12 A. -- house valve, building inlet valve. There you go,
13 building inlet valve. But, in this case, there was also curb
14 valves. There's also something if it's a combined service,
15 meaning sprinkler; if it's a fire service, okay; or anything above
16 2 inches that is domestic requires curb valves as per Rule 20,
17 Section 18 -- yeah, all right. That would be good, huh?

18 MS. HUNDLEY: So, in this case, you went up to the curb
19 valve, not into the building?

20 MR. MURDOCCA: No, we went all the way inside the
21 building.

22 MS. HUNDLEY: Okay, that's fine.

23 MR. MURDOCCA: We went all the way inside the building.

24 BY MR. EMEABA:

25 Q. And the water line was 2 inch?

1 A. I believe it's 4 inch.

2 MR. GEORGELIS: Four. I believe that's 4-inch without
3 the line.

4 BY MR. EMEABA:

5 Q. Four-inch, 4-inch. So --

6 A. So --

7 MR. NICHOLSON: Did you smell any gas running down that
8 trench?

9 MR. STOLICKY: That's what I was going to ask. The
10 whole time you were out there, did you guys ever have to call Con
11 Ed for a gas leak?

12 MR. MURDOCCA: Let me -- in case nobody has told you
13 this, natural gas is odorless. You know that?

14 MR. STOLICKY: Sure.

15 MR. MURDOCCA: Okay. They actually add stuff to make it
16 smell like something.

17 MR. NICHOLSON: You're right on that, right.

18 MR. MURDOCCA: So, now, when you're digging in New York
19 City, you will get sometimes whiffs of like, is that gas, but it
20 isn't, it's just the dirt, all right? When you move dirt, if you
21 deal with it, you're going to get a smell that's kind of close to
22 it sometimes, but it isn't. And again, if there would have been a
23 gas leak by then until now, it's -- somebody would have --

24 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

25 Q. Do you treat -- you don't treat your trench as a

1 confined space, do you?

2 A. Well, a confined space is only when --

3 Q. You don't do air sampling, is where I'm going with this?

4 A. No, no, no, because I confined space would be when
5 you're enclosed.

6 Q. Can be, right?

7 A. Yeah.

8 MR. GEORGELIS: It's more trench --

9 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

10 Q. So, no air sampling in the trench?

11 A. The trench is open. That's not -- don't do
12 (indiscernible).

13 BY MR. CHHATRE:

14 Q. And how many people work in this outfit, your outfit?

15 A. I refuse to answer that question based on the -- no.
16 What, how many people do employ? Yeah.

17 Q. I'm trying to find the size of the company?

18 A. About 40, 50, depending what time of the year it is.

19 Q. So, they are part time?

20 A. On that site?

21 Q. No, no.

22 A. Oh. A crew is normally about six guys. That's -- about
23 six people, yeah.

24 MS. HUNDLEY: Let's go back.

25 MR. MURDOCCA: Go get the union after me.

1 MS. HUNDLEY: Can I ask a question about the -- go back
2 to the sewer? You said that DOT inspected the sewer?

3 MR. MURDOCCA: No, DEP.

4 MS. HUNDLEY: DEP -- sorry -- inspected the sewer. Did
5 you do any type of inspection, like camera inspections or
6 anything, of the sewer?

7 MR. MURDOCCA: No. I believe that the original thing
8 with this sewer, they wanted it gunite, the inside of the sewer,
9 which was like, you know, who came up with this great idea?
10 Anybody know what gunite is?

11 MR. STOLICKY: Yes. I've heard. Spray.

12 MR. MURDOCCA: It's the spray cement that --

13 MR. CHHATRE: Right.

14 MR. MURDOCCA: The sewer runs half full at normal times
15 when there's no rain, so how do you expect a sewer that's been
16 there for years -- how do you -- you know, I mean, you could do
17 it, but you need to dry the sewer and you need -- you -- it -- the
18 cost would have been more than the building to do that, so it was
19 like, who came up with this bright idea?

20 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

21 Q. You were asked to gunite the sewer?

22 A. The original thing they asked us, they wanted the sewer
23 gunited from manhole to manhole, all right? And everybody went,
24 you know --

25 Q. Who was asking for it, the engineering company or the

1 DEP?

2 A. DEP.

3 Q. Oh.

4 A. I refuse to answer --

5 MR. CHHATRE: But, you guys didn't do it?

6 MR. MURDOCCA: No. It's insane. It's absolutely insane
7 to do that. You need to get the sewer dry, clean and dry.

8 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

9 Q. Why would they ask you to?

10 A. Because it's brick sewer.

11 Q. Yeah?

12 A. So, the engineer that they have there that's sitting in
13 an office is going to say, well, it's a brick sewer and we -- you
14 need to gunite it so it holds it together, you know, but the cost
15 would have been enormous to the building owner or to the --
16 whoever it was. It's -- you -- again, you would have to -- if
17 they tell you you -- let's say there's A, B, C, D, right, and they
18 tell you you have to gunite from B and C. You have to go to
19 manhole A, sandbag it, what they call plug it --

20 Q. Plug it, yeah.

21 A. -- and pump the stuff all the way to manhole D
22 downstream --

23 Q. Bypass it, yeah.

24 A. -- you know, bypass it, then you've got to leave that --
25 go inside, clean that whole run of sewer, okay -- this is where

1 the confined space would come in -- and I don't know who you're
2 going to get to get down there, right --

3 Q. (Indiscernible).

4 A. -- clean that sewer, dry it up, and then get somebody
5 with a suit and a gun in there to basically go and starting
6 guniting the (indiscernible).

7 Q. And they asked for it between one-sixteenth or one-
8 seventeenth, you said?

9 A. Whatever. The two manholes that were there, that's --

10 Q. The two manholes?

11 A. Yeah, yeah.

12 MR. STOLICKY: But is that a typical way across?

13 MR. MURDOCCA: It's a standard request that they have
14 in their books. And you've got to understand why they have it is
15 because it's to protect the sewer --

16 MR. STOLICKY: Yeah.

17 MR. MURDOCCA: -- the integrity of the sewer. I mean,
18 think about it. A brick sewer, how long has that sewer been there
19 for?

20 MR. GEORGELIS: A long time.

21 MR. MURDOCCA: (Indiscernible). So, you know -- and
22 it's still working. They're still building sewers in this city.
23 They're still wood water mains. There's a few of them, right.
24 Still wooden water mains.

25 MR. STOLICKY: Wow.

1 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah. And --

2 MR. NICHOLSON: Trench (indiscernible), yeah.

3 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah. And there's sewers that --
4 actually, on 30th Street between 8th and 9th. I did one maybe
5 about two years ago. It's a half moon of brick with a bluestone
6 on top. It works fine, you know. Yeah.

7 MR. CHHATRE: Half moon of bricks and what?

8 MR. MURDOCCA: Half moon of bricks -- they do a brick
9 cutter --

10 MR. CHHATRE: Right.

11 MR. MURDOCCA: -- half moon, and they put bluestone on
12 top.

13 MR. NICHOLSON: To cap it?

14 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah, to cap it, and then they backfill
15 it. It works fine. Hey, work the pump. Hey --

16 MS. HUNDLEY: So, the only inspection of the sewer was
17 when DEP came out? You don't do any inspections as part of
18 your --

19 MR. MURDOCCA: I am -- we are not allowed to self-
20 certify.

21 And by the way, just for the record, I am a New York
22 City licensed master plumber, whatever that means.

23 MR. CHHATRE: I'm sure it means a lot to the
24 contractors.

25 MR. MURDOCCA: No.

1 MR. STOLICKY: We could talk about that separately.

2 MR. MURDOCCA: Need a signoff? No.

3 MR. CHHATRE: Matt, anything we --

4 MR. NICHOLSON: Nothing for me.

5 MR. CHHATRE: Chris?

6 MR. STOLICKY: I'm all set.

7 MS. HUNDLEY: I'm sorry. I just have one last
8 clarifying question.

9 MR. CHHATRE: Go ahead.

10 MS. HUNDLEY: The backfill that you used, you said it
11 was blended and it's supplied by DEP?

12 MR. MURDOCCA: No, we supply it. We got to a recycling
13 yard where we dump -- you know, you basically pay to dump whatever
14 street -- whatever comes out of the street, you have to remove it.
15 Sometimes they allow you to keep -- depending on what the DEP
16 thing says -- I mean, the DOT thing say, you could keep the
17 excavation material on site on the street on the side, but in this
18 case, that doesn't happen anywhere in the city. They tell you
19 just take it out. They want the street cleaned at the end of the
20 day when you're done, just plate it and walk away. But, we bring
21 it them, and they we -- they blend it -- they recycle it, whatever
22 they do.

23 MR. NICHOLSON: Who's them? Who is it?

24 MR. MURDOCCA: In New York City, there's a Lockover
25 Cycling (ph.), there's Durante, there's -- I don't -- there's a

1 few of them. They're all basically in the Queens Maspeth area or
2 around there. I think that there is --

3 BY MR. CHHATRE:

4 Q. So, you pay them to pick up your dirt and you pay them
5 to --

6 A. No, no, we pay them to go bring it to them --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- to dump it --

9 Q. Right, right.

10 A. Then --

11 Q. You pick --

12 A. It's a great business, I'm telling you. You should try
13 this. We pay them to give them the dirt, right, then they recycle
14 it and they give it back to you for free. They're doing you a
15 favor.

16 Q. Oh, they give it to you free?

17 A. Yeah.

18 MR. STOLICKY: I apologize. I was on the phone, but I
19 want to ask you a question right quick.

20 BY MR. STOLICKY:

21 So, the stuff that you get that's recycled in this great --

22 MS. HUNDLEY: Business.

23 BY MR. STOLICKY:

24 Q. -- way that you business you told me about, maybe we
25 should really -- I should --

1 A. I -- well --

2 Q. -- that's an authorized DOT yard.

3 A. Yes, yes.

4 Q. They go and inspect -- so, they go there and they go,
5 look, we should maybe ask DOT about that. But, this is a yard
6 that you have to go pick the fill up from?

7 A. Yeah, yeah. (Indiscernible) blunt.

8 MR. CHHATRE: Thank you.

9 MR. STOLICKY: You're welcome.

10 MR. CHHATRE: That really helps.

11 MR. MURDOCCA: There's actually a spec for it.

12 BY MR. STOLICKY:

13 Q. So, there's so many, there's so many of these yards
14 around the city or is there just one or two?

15 A. There's only -- I'm going to tell you, I think there's
16 about four.

17 Q. Do you know who they are or (indiscernible)?

18 A. Alaco, Durante, and I know that Tully has a yard. I
19 can't remember what the name of it is. But, they're all in Queens
20 over there, you know, Long Island City, Queens --

21 MR. GEORGELIS: Correct.

22 MR. MURDOCCA: -- right over the --

23 MR. GEORGELIS: So, you send the truck over there and
24 you pick it up, and then bring the fill over and it's authorized
25 still?

1 MR. MURDOCCA: Yeah, yeah.

2 They call it like -- they have type 1, type 2, type 2,
3 you know, one of those things. I forgot which one that is.

4 MR. STOLICKY: Sure.

5 MR. MURDOCCA: I forgot which one that is. I don't
6 really follow. I don't --

7 BY MR. CHHATRE:

8 Q. Do you recall where you went or where the
9 (indiscernible) went?

10 A. It would either be Alaco or Durante, one of those two.
11 I donate a lot to them on a weekly basis.

12 Q. But they would --

13 A. But they --

14 MR. GEORGELIS: (Indiscernible).

15 MR. MURDOCCA: Okay.

16 BY MR. CHHATRE:

17 Q. Do you do your backfill completely by your company
18 employee or do you employ --

19 A. Done completely by my company employees. Everything is
20 done by me in-house.

21 MR. CHHATRE: Great.

22 Anybody else?

23 MR. GEORGELIS: I'm good.

24 MR. CHHATRE: Any questions?

25 I don't want to take any more of your time. Thank you

1 so much.

2 MR. STOLICKY: This is really helpful.

3 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah, it was.

4 MR. CHHATRE: Very, very helpful.

5 MR. McCARTON: Very helpful.

6 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah, it was. Appreciate it. Yep.

7 MR. MURDOCCA: I'm glad I could be of help because --

8 MR. CHHATRE: You've been a tremendous help.

9 MR. MURDOCCA: And like I told you over the phone, I
10 expected you guys to be here sooner. What's going on? When I --
11 you know what? I was actually coming down and I was listening on
12 the radio and I'm going, gee, Park Avenue 16, that sounds very
13 familiar.

14 MR. GEORGELIS: Yeah.

15 MR. MURDOCCA: And I literally came in the office and I
16 said, did we do a job on Park Avenue between --

17 MR. CHHATRE: (Indiscernible).

18 MR. MURDOCCA: Well, I have this thing, right, you know,
19 in my car now. I have GPS, and before I had GPS and, you know,
20 navigation, I used to know where I was going. Now, I don't know
21 where I'm going. And the funny thing is that I'll be driving to
22 get somewhere and be like what's the traffic? Who's the idiot
23 working in the street? And I'll drive past the excavation and my
24 workers, they're looking at me like -- I don't know where I'm
25 going anymore.

1 MR. CHHATRE: Thank you so much. Off the record.

2 MR. MURDOCCA: You're too busy. You're too busy working
3 and everything else.

4 MR. NICHOLSON: Thank you, gentlemen.

5 MR. CHHATRE: Thank you.

6 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION PIPELINE
 LEAK AND MULTISTORY STRUCTURE
 EXPLOSION IN HARLEM, NEW YORK
 MARCH 12, 2014
 Interview of Rocco Murdocca

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA-14-MP-002

PLACE: New York, New York

DATE: August 8, 2014

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.

Karen M. Galvez
Transcriber