

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: ANTHONY MANCINO

Con Edison
 4 Irving Place
 New York, New York

Tuesday,
 August 5, 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

LEONARD SINGH, Chief Engineer
Gas Distribution Services
Con Edison
(Party Representative)

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

ROBERT ALBANO
(Representative on behalf of Mr. Mancino)

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LEGEND:

(ph.) = Phonetic Spelling

1 I N T E R V I E W

MR. CHHATRE: Good morning. Today is Tuesday, August 5, 2014. We are currently at Con Edison's facility located at 4 Irving Place, New York. We are meeting regarding the investigation of natural gas distribution pipeline leak and multistory structure explosion that occurred on March 12, 2014, in Harlem, New York.

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

I'd like to start by notifying everyone present in the 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 public docket.

Also, I would like to inform Mr. Anthony Leto that --

MR. MANCINO: Mancino.

MR. CHHATRE: -- that you are permitted to have --

MR. MANCINO: Anthony Mancino.

MR. CHHATRE: Anthony --

MR. MANCINO: Leto's next.

MR. CHHATRE: -- Mancino. Leto is next. I'm sorry. Anthony Mancino that you are permitted to have one other person present with you during the interview. This is a person of your

1 choice: your supervisor, friend, family member or, if you choose,
2 no one at all.

3 Please state for the record your full name, spelling of
4 your name, organization you work for, your title, business address
5 or contact information such as mailing address, and whom you have
6 chosen to be present with you during your interview.

7 MR. MANCINO: Okay. My name is Anthony Mancino. The
8 last name is spelled M-a-n-c-i-n-o. I work for Consolidated
9 Edison. I am currently the General Manager of Manhattan Gas
10 Operations, and I'm located at 750 East 16th Street in New York,
11 New York. I believe the Zip code is 10009. And with me I have
12 Robert Albano.

13 INTERVIEW OF ANTHONY MANCINO

14 BY MR. CHHATRE:

15 Q. Okay. And for the record, you can state your education,
16 formal/informal training, and your duties?

17 A. I have a bachelor's of engineering from Manhattan
18 College. I have a master's in business, also from Manhattan
19 College. I've been employed with Con Edison for 23 years. All
20 have been within gas operations. The majority of time has been --
21 was in engineering.

22 (Interruption at door.)

23 MR. MANCINO: The majority of my career was in gas --
24 various parts of gas engineering, but I've worked in most every
25 area of gas operations. That's about it.

1 BY MR. CHHATRE:

2 Q. Okay. And at the time of the accident on Park Avenue,
3 what were your responsibilities?

4 A. I mean, at the time of the accident I -- I'm the general
5 manager of Manhattan gas operations, so I'm responsible for the
6 operations and maintenance of our gas system in Manhattan. When
7 the incident did occur, I was actually not at work that day. I
8 actually was on -- I had a vacation day that day. But I was
9 called at home and I immediately proceeded to come in and see what
10 was going on with the incident.

11 Q. Okay. Can you describe what time you arrive at the
12 scene and what you saw, as you recollect?

13 A. I arrived, I believe, somewhere between 10:30 and 11:30.
14 I don't remember the exact time when I got there, but I pulled up
15 on Lexington Avenue -- I pulled up Lexington Avenue, got onto
16 116th Street, dropped off my car, and I proceeded to walk up to
17 the Con Edison incident command post that was on East 116th Street
18 and Park Avenue, on the southeast corner. And started to ask --
19 you know, the incident commander at the time was Frank McBrien.
20 He was one of the managers at the location prior to me getting
21 there. And just asking him what was going on, what happened, and
22 what our plan was. So --

23 Q. Can you, can you spell that name?

24 A. His name?

25 Q. Yes, for the record.

1 A. M-c-B-r-i-e-n.

2 Q. Okay. And did he identify you as incident commander, or
3 you recognized him as incident commander?

4 A. No, I recognized him as incident commander, and because
5 he was in the middle -- he was already dealing with all the other
6 agencies on site, he remained as incident commander for that
7 period.

8 Q. Okay. So tell me what you saw.

9 A. I just saw a lot of equipment, you know. There was --
10 where the incident had occurred, there was fire department
11 putting, you know -- I guess with water on the pile of debris that
12 was there, trying to keep it, I guess, from flaring up. I saw
13 there was Con Edison workers and our contractors. Our plan was to
14 isolate the gas mains in the area. So we were busy excavating
15 down to those gas mains.

16 Q. Can you describe the Park Avenue, what you saw on Park
17 Avenue south -- in front of the ground zero buildings?

18 A. I saw debris and I saw a lot of equipment.

19 Q. Heavy equipment or --

20 A. There was an excavator -- it's not a large -- at the
21 time, I believe it was a small backhoe, but not -- you know, like
22 a normal size construction backhoe. Nothing extremely large.
23 Just a normal size excavator.

24 Q. And where was it located?

25 A. It was south of the -- south of the debris pile between

1 Park Avenue -- between East 116th Street and the debris pile.

2 Q. Okay. Like a couple of those buildings that were kind
3 of -- still were standing?

4 A. Probably right next to that, yeah.

5 Q. Okay.

6 MR. NICHOLSON: Can we -- is this a map of the area? Is
7 that something we could refer to?

8 MR. CHHATRE: Yeah, the --

9 MR. NICHOLSON: If you're going ask questions like that,
10 maybe --

11 MR. SINGH: So, we didn't go around and --

12 MR. NICHOLSON: Oh, we didn't.

13 MR. SINGH: -- for the record -- yeah.

14 MR. CHHATRE: We will do that after this question.

15 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay.

16 MR. SINGH: We got right into it.

17 MR. CHHATRE: We can --

18 MR. McCARTON: You open that. I don't want to rip it.

19 MR. CHHATRE: This is an old map that Frank has given
20 us.

21 (Asides.)

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Cover up your report.

23 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. Is this still working?

24 MR. NICHOLSON: Uh-huh.

25 BY MR. CHHATRE:

1 Q. Okay. Just identify where you saw --

2 A. In this general vicinity.

3 Q. In this here? Okay.

4 MR. CHHATRE: And I guess like Lenny pointed out, we
5 didn't introduce ourselves. So, we'll just go ahead and introduce
6 everyone. Starting with you, Matt.

7 MR. NICHOLSON: Matthew Nicholson, NTSB investigator.
8 Spelled M-a-t-t-h-e-w, N-i-c-h-o-l-s-o-n. My e-mail
9 [REDACTED].

10 MR. EMEABA: Kalu Kelly Emeaba; K-a-l-u, K-e-l-l-y, E-m-
11 e-a-b-a, NTSB investigator. My e-mail address is
12 [REDACTED].

13 MR. MCCARTON: Hi, Anthony. Frank McCarton, Deputy
14 Commissioner for Operations at OEM, New York City party rep.
15 [REDACTED].

16 MR. GEORGELIS: Anastasios Georgelis, A-n-a-s-t-a-s-i-o-
17 s, G-e-o-r-g-e-l-i-s. I'm here with Frank. I'm with the New York
18 City Department of Environmental Protection. My title is Director
19 of Field Operations. My e-mail [REDACTED].

20 MR. SINGH: Leonard Singh -- L-e-o-n-a-r-d, S-i-n-g-h --
21 Chief Engineer, Gas Distribution Services; NTSB party rep on this
22 case representing Con Edison. It's [REDACTED].

23 MR. STOLICKY: Chris Stolicky. I'm the New York party
24 rep. Title is Utility Supervisor (Safety). I work with the New
25 York State Department of Public Service. My last name is S-t-o-l-

1 i-c-k-y. E-mail is [REDACTED].

2 MR. ALBANO: Robert Albano; R-o-b-e-r-t, A-l-b-a-n-o.

3 I'm accompanying Mr. Mancino.

4 MR. CHHATRE: We're going back to you, Anthony.

5 BY MR. CHHATRE:

6 Q. Can you -- so, tell me what happened. You saw debris.
7 Then what happened next?

8 A. So, really, it was just -- at that time, from then until
9 we isolated the system, was getting, you know, down to the gas
10 mains, getting the mains tapped, and throwing in the stoppers. So
11 that was like the next several hours of the process. At least
12 from what I saw.

13 I think we had, we had also -- on the other end, there
14 were mechanics that were checking near the buildings for gas.
15 And, you know, they were doing continual checks to see if there
16 was gas in any of the buildings, you know, just checking the other
17 area -- the surrounding area.

18 Q. Okay. Could you see Park Avenue, the street itself,
19 besides the debris you saw?

20 A. I don't really remember seeing the street. I didn't, I
21 didn't really go close enough to it. I stayed back, because of
22 all the action that was going on at the site.

23 Q. Did you see any water main break at that time when you
24 arrived? That you could tell?

25 A. At that time I didn't see a water main break when I

1 first arrived. No.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. There was too much going on.

4 Q. Okay. Did you hear anybody reporting a water main
5 break?

6 A. As the morning went on and progressed into the
7 afternoon --

8 Q. No, at the time you arrived.

9 A. Oh, time I arrived? No. At the time I arrived, no.

10 Q. Okay. I'm going to give you a little the map, I think,
11 just to show you which valves were closed.

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. And I think I have a map here.

14 Can you show me what -- which valves you closed and
15 where and --

16 A. You mean on the gas system?

17 Q. Yeah. I think you said you isolated --

18 A. Well, we -- we actually isolated the gas main by digging
19 down and cutting and capping it.

20 Q. Yeah, if you can just -- maybe point out on here, so it
21 will be helpful --

22 A. Okay. So, we -- there was a gas main approximately in
23 this location. We cut the gas main here. There was another one
24 actually underneath the elevated -- right in the corner of the
25 elevated structure here.

1 MR. NICHOLSON: So, on either side of Park Avenue?

2 MR. MANCINO: On either -- yeah, on the east and west
3 side of Park Avenue.

4 MR. NICHOLSON: On 116th Street, okay.

5 MR. MANCINO: And then also south, on the -- I guess it
6 was just right over here, on the -- this is the northwest corner
7 of Park Avenue and 116th Street.

8 BY MR. CHHATRE:

9 Q. I think you identified those with certain -- as
10 isolating or whatever --

11 A. That's where we cut and we capped the main, to isolate
12 the gas in this immediate area.

13 Q. And what do you call those points?

14 A. Cut and cap locations, those excavations.

15 Q. Is your other terminology like --

16 MR. STOLICKY: Fire bank.

17 MR. MANCINO: Fire banks, I'm sorry.

18 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

19 MR. MANCINO: Fire banks, so we --

20 MR. NICHOLSON: Fire bank?

21 MR. MANCINO: Fire bank. So --

22 BY MR. CHHATRE:

23 Q. So for the record, just so that we can -- the
24 transcriber will know what it is.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. So, fire -- identify the fire bank 1 with respect to the
2 street and --

3 A. So fire bank 1 is on the southwest corner of East 116th
4 Street and Park Avenue. Fire bank 2 is on the northeast corner of
5 East 116th and Park Avenue. And fire bank 3 was on the northwest
6 corner of East 116th and Park Avenue -- East 117th and Park
7 Avenue.

8 MR. NICHOLSON: So, north is --

9 MR. MANCINO: North is this way. Yeah, it's --

10 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah, it's not even on here. Okay.

11 MR. MANCINO: Yeah, that might be the north -- I don't
12 know if that's the north arrow or something else.

13 MR. CHHATRE: Just write down the -- put it down like
14 that.

15 MR. SINGH: So, increasing is north in street numbers?

16 MR. MANCINO: Yeah.

17 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. That's good enough. Okay.

18 MR. EMEABA: Do you only have three fire banks?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

20 MR. MANCINO: To isolate this --

21 MR. SINGH: Yeah, on the main --

22 MR. MANCINO: There's a main on 116th Street that was
23 dead-ended, so there was no need to isolate that. So the gas went
24 dead once we cut those three locations.

25 BY MR. CHHATRE:

1 Q. And how long it took you to do that?

2 A. We inserted the stoppers. It was about -- between --
3 about 1:45.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. That's when I remember we actually had the gas stopped
6 off.

7 Q. At 1:45?

8 A. About 1:45, at 1:45.

9 MR. NICHOLSON: And when did you start installing them?

10 MR. MANCINO: Oh, it was the excavation. That's -- so
11 when the crew -- I wasn't there when the crews first arrived on
12 location. When I got there, it was sometime between 10:30 and
13 11:30; the crews were actively excavating.

14 MR. NICHOLSON: They had already started the process?

15 MR. MANCINO: Yeah, they started the process of digging.

16 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay.

17 MR. MANCINO: So the mains are -- they're down at least
18 3 feet. This one may have been down a little bit further. So
19 they had to dig down to those mains, clear around them, tap holes
20 in the main, and then insert the stoppers.

21 BY MR. CHHATRE:

22 Q. And do you know who directed them to do this?

23 A. Well, you had the incident commander on site, Frank
24 McBrien. And then there was a planner on site, John Cagney (ph.),
25 who was overseeing --

1 Q. Overseeing the work.

2 A. -- some of the work that was being done. But we had
3 supervisors at each location reporting back on progress.

4 Q. And did you smell any gas when you did the excavation?

5 A. I did not smell any gas at that time.

6 Q. Did you see -- did you smell any gas anywhere else on
7 the Park Avenue when you arrived?

8 A. When I arrived? No. I did not.

9 Q. So you was no gas odor?

10 A. I did not smell gas, no.

11 Q. Okay. At one point I think there was some work done on
12 your fire bank 1, I think. You re-greased something or -- you
13 told me in the field, because of the gas odor? Some work was
14 done --

15 A. Well, we -- so, there was an 8-inch main that we cut to
16 isolate the system. I believe there was an odor of gas still in
17 that excavation after they dug down, and I believe it was -- it
18 was traced back to a joint or a hub that was in the hole that we
19 had to reboot.

20 Q. Reboot? Okay. So you reboot, have only fire bank 1.

21 A. Only fire bank 1. That was after -- we did that like a
22 day or so later.

23 Q. And that's because there was an odor of gas --

24 A. There was a slight odor of gas.

25 Q. Till the (indiscernible) --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And then what was your involvement for the next few
3 days?

4 A. Well, for the next few days -- I guess I took over as
5 incident commander that evening, when NTSB came on site. And then
6 my function was to work with the NTSB and other representatives on
7 site to, you know, start, I guess -- you know, after we isolated
8 everything, we had to start doing our investigation.

9 Q. Okay. Now, have you done any work on the Park Avenue in
10 the past for any leaks?

11 A. I have not, no.

12 Q. Do you believe anybody else at Con Edison has worked?

13 A. There was history of some leaks from years ago.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Do you recall how -- when was it? I mean, if you don't
16 recall, you don't recall.

17 Q. I don't recall the exact years. It was a while ago.

18 A. Okay.

19 MR. SINGH: So, I think we provided that, right, as to
20 the history of leaks and some time frame --

21 MR. CHHATRE: I just want to get some information to
22 recap.

23 MR. SINGH: Yeah.

24 MR. CHHATRE: Because he was at the scene and we're not,
25 and plus Matt was not on the scene. So --

1 MR. SINGH: Yes. All right.

2 MR. CHHATRE: -- I just want to recap, just in case we
3 have missed something, it's a chance to get it on the record. So,
4 I mean, I know the time on the scene was quite hectic. And I just
5 want to try to take this opportunity --

6 MR. MANCINO: Okay.

7 MR. CHHATRE: -- to recap anything that we might have
8 missed.

9 MR. MANCINO: Sure.

10 MR. CHHATRE: Not to double-check you, or cross-examine
11 you in any shape or form.

12 MR. MANCINO: Uh-huh.

13 MR. CHHATRE: I'm just trying to get more information on
14 the record.

15 MR. MANCINO: Sure.

16 BY MR. CHHATRE:

17 Q. So during the excavation, now, can you -- do you recall
18 how old the line was? Were you -- was there any discussion on
19 that?

20 A. Yeah, I mean, I don't -- for a large part of the job
21 from Park Avenue probably till about in front of 1642, there was a
22 cast iron main that was installed in the late 1800s. From 1642
23 south till about the middle of the intersection, there is a piece
24 of plastic that was installed back, I believe, 2011, for a prior
25 encroachment job. And there was a piece of plastic on the -- in

1 the north end also, going to this intersection.

2 Q. Do you take any gas readings in the ground?

3 A. At the time when we did arrive, from what I remember,
4 they did get some gas readings in the ground.

5 Q. Do you know who did that?

6 A. Who did it? There were several mechanics on site and we
7 had a couple of our planners and supervisors on site as well.

8 Q. Okay. You didn't take any?

9 A. I did not take any readings, no.

10 Q. Okay. Did anybody in Con Edison told you what the
11 readings were?

12 A. I remember getting some, you know, information on what
13 the readings were. I don't remember the numbers off the top of my
14 head. But we did get --

15 Q. Okay. That's fine.

16 A. -- we did get some readings.

17 Q. So there were some readings on the site?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. Now were you involved in that 2011 pipe
20 replacement?

21 A. No.

22 Q. You are not involved?

23 A. No.

24 Q. When you do the excavation on fire bank 1, did you see
25 any plastic pipe there?

1 A. No. The only plastic we saw -- not next to -- not in
2 that excavation, no.

3 Q. Okay. That's all I have for you. Thank you.

4 A. Okay.

5 MR. CHHATRE: Kelly?

6 BY MR. EMEABA:

7 Q. You mentioned the fire bank 1, and you said that -- you
8 stated some readings were obtained from that. That was where the
9 boots were, okay? Based on observation at the field, where the
10 boots were repaired, that was much below than where the cut and
11 cap --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- were performed?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. Do you -- can you tell us, if you can remember,
16 what was the percentage of gas observed in that area?

17 A. It was a very low percentage. I don't remember what the
18 actual numbers were. But it was a very low percentage. It was
19 just a small odor of gas coming from the joint.

20 Q. And you don't have it in any of your record that the
21 percentage was up to 40 percent?

22 A. In that particular hole? No.

23 Q. Yes. Before even the excavation was done?

24 A. I don't believe so, no.

25 Q. Okay.

1 MR. SINGH: So, again, I'm not sure of the relevance
2 because that's post-incident, right? That's a day or so later --
3 you're talking about the excavation day, right?

4 MR. EMEABA: Yes.

5 MR. SINGH: Right.

6 MR. EMEABA: That same excavations, yeah, they were
7 mentioned that the gas leak detection was up to 40 percent --

8 MR. SINGH: Right.

9 MR. EMEABA: -- at that location.

10 MR. SINGH: And I'm sure if there's a leak sheet it
11 would be documented. And we can get those --

12 MR. EMEABA: Okay.

13 MR. SINGH: -- at that (indiscernible) --

14 MR. EMEABA: Maybe you verify for me a document since
15 you may not be able to recall it exactly.

16 BY MR. EMEABA:

17 Q. And the other question I want to ask is, during the leak
18 survey or detection within the area, were there any pattern of
19 migration that was observed?

20 A. I believe there was. We did take shots on the corners
21 and we did see gas migrating up towards the buildings.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. I would have to look at the leak sheet, though. We'd
24 have that document in our leak sheets.

25 Q. Okay. If you -- have you already provided that to the

1 NTSB? If not, we need one.

2 A. I believe all that was provided very early on.

3 Q. Okay. And then the other thing I want to find out,
4 based on some of your descriptions here, apart from the incident,
5 we have considered the area of the OQ's and all that, the people
6 that work for you --

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. -- and the installations of the plastic pipelines and so
9 on. And we see someone -- one of interviewee stating the fact of
10 how the requirement demanded on them from Bronx is a little
11 different from how it's done on this side of Manhattan in terms of
12 working in the field, the reason why he forgot that he was no more
13 qualified. Do you know anything about that discrepancy of what
14 requirements are for operators -- for individuals to work in the
15 field? Can you tell us what --

16 A. I do not know. I mean, I know there's an operator
17 qualification procedure and we send our people to the learning
18 center to be operator qualified. To the differences from Con Ed
19 to a different area, I do not know the differences from different
20 companies. I'm not -- that's not my area of expertise. I'm not
21 operator qualified myself. I don't -- I am not trained in any of
22 those functions.

23 Q. Correct. But then as a general manager in charge of
24 this area, your interest, I believe, is to see that those who work
25 under your --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- jurisdictions are qualified.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So how do you monitor or how do you verify the fact that
5 they are qualified?

6 A. When they go for testing, we receive an e-mail,
7 basically, that says -- so, Mechanic A goes in for his operator
8 qualification. I get an -- myself, the manager, the supervisor
9 for that mechanic, gets an e-mail from the learning center that
10 states this mechanic has passed these modules for operator
11 qualification. If they failed -- it's noted that they're not
12 failed -- we know we have to send that mechanic for retraining and
13 retesting.

14 Q. Okay. How does it occur between your -- the company
15 employees and your contractors' employees?

16 A. Well, the contractors -- if -- I mean, the contractors
17 are under the -- you know, if they're under gas's responsibility
18 -- I don't have any under my responsibility right now so I don't
19 know how -- I haven't gotten anything from contractors. Usually
20 that's the responsibility of the contractor to ensure they're
21 providing operator qualified employees. That's written in the
22 contract. So when you give a contract to a contractor, they're
23 responsible to ensure that those contractors are operator
24 qualified. Before they come to the field, we ensure that they go
25 to the learning center and get their operator qualification.

1 Q. Before they come to the field?

2 A. Before they come to the field. When we first hire
3 them. So the contractor comes in. We make sure that that -- that
4 those employees have been trained and have been qualified by our
5 learning center.

6 Q. Then after they've been hired, my question still goes,
7 who monitors to make sure that they remain qualified?

8 A. That should be the -- one, the responsibility of the
9 contractor to ensure that he maintains an operator qualified
10 workforce, and then those who would oversee them.

11 Q. Okay. And how do you, the Con Edison, utilize your
12 inspectors?

13 A. Well, I don't have inspectors.

14 Q. You don't have --

15 A. They don't work for me, the inspectors.

16 Q. You don't have field inspectors that --

17 A. I do not have field inspectors. I have field
18 supervisors.

19 Q. You have field supervisors.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. They are not -- your procedure call them inspectors,
22 correct?

23 MR. SINGH: Well, it's two different -- it's
24 construction management, they have inspectors, which is a weekly
25 title. Then they have chief construction inspectors. So, there's

1 an inspector. It's a weekly workforce, that oversees. Then
2 there's a -- Mike Simon, yesterday, is a chief construction
3 inspector. Now, he oversees inspectors. Tony has operating
4 supervisors, who can oversee contractors, you know.

5 BY MR. EMEABA:

6 Q. So your supervisors oversee the contractors?

7 A. They can, but right now they don't have direct
8 responsibility over the contractors. They don't -- the
9 contractors don't report to gas operations. They report to
10 construction management.

11 Q. Okay. So apart from -- so do you have now a
12 construction manager? You, apart from you being the general
13 manager, do you also have the construction managers?

14 A. I have managers of gas construction. But again, they
15 don't oversee the contractors. They oversee the Con Edison
16 workforce.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. There's another group called construction management
19 that oversee these turnkey contractors.

20 MR. SINGH: Right. I was going to make a suggestion
21 that there's another fellow who we probably could bring in,
22 Fallon McTate (ph.). He's the construction manager for
23 construction management.

24 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah, that's fine. I think we've failed
25 to really -- because I had a question to you.

1 MR. SINGH: Yeah.

2 MR. NICHOLSON: Maybe you should explain what your
3 duties are because I'm not sure we really captured that. And
4 instead of Kelly just feeling you out there --

5 MR. MANCINO: Okay. Okay, so, Matt -- so, I'm basically
6 responsible for the operations and maintenance of the gas system.
7 So, I have four managers that work directly for me. Three --
8 there's one that does leak repairs; one that works with new
9 business installations, new business services, gas encroachments,
10 and a lot of that work is basically supporting construction
11 management as they do the digging, the excavation, a lot of the
12 pipe -- some of the pipework, and we do a lot of their support
13 work. And then I have another manager that works on a lot of our
14 compliance items. And then there's a fourth manager who does gas
15 distribution services.

16 So, we're responsible for emergency response, leak
17 repairs. That's our main functions. The largest part of our
18 workforce goes to that. So when there's large projects that need
19 to get installed, large excavations, that is done under our
20 construction management group.

21 BY MR. EMEABA:

22 Q. Okay. So, you're operation and maintenance only?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. Thank you.

25 MR. EMEABA: I'm okay.

1 MR. CHHATRE: You're done?

2 MR. SINGH: So, I can arrange to have that other person
3 here. I don't think you can fit it in today or tomorrow.

4 MR. NICHOLSON: Who is your other person, again?

5 MR. SINGH: Fallon McTate. He's a construction manager
6 for construction management. So, Max -- the person that was
7 supposed to come yesterday, the inspector, who is out sick, he
8 would have worked in his chain of command.

9 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

10 MR. SINGH: So he perhaps could answer some of the
11 questions you've asked about inspection oversight, how you check,
12 how do you get the job, how are you scheduled to work.

13 MR. CHHATRE: We'll talk, and if we need, we'll let you
14 know. Thanks.

15 Chris?

16 MR. STOLICKY: I don't have anything.

17 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. My purpose of really getting him
18 really, he was on scene.

19 MR. SINGH: Uh-huh.

20 MR. CHHATRE: Matt wasn't there, and I just want to
21 recap --

22 MR. SINGH: Sure.

23 MR. CHHATRE: -- what happened. So that was the
24 purpose, not basically anything else.

25 MR. SINGH: Okay.

1 MR. CHHATRE: Matt?

2 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

3 Q. Well, I will just go back and revisit because we didn't
4 have a map in front of you. You said when you first arrived on
5 scene you saw an excavator? And could you just elaborate --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. -- where it was again and what they were doing?

8 A. So, I mean, so these are the buildings. I remember
9 seeing an excavator up in the area over here.

10 Q. Well, you're pointing vaguely to the front of 1640?

11 A. 1640 and 1642.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. I don't remember the exact location.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. It was just -- it was south of the debris piles. So the
16 debris pile was in this vicinity.

17 Q. Right.

18 A. So it was south of the debris pile.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. And my -- I think when I first got there, from what -- I
21 mean, there was a lot of confusion, a lot of people running
22 around.

23 Q. Sure.

24 A. My focus was to ensure that we were getting -- you know,
25 my guys were working on these three areas to get them -- the gas

1 shut off as quickly as we could.

2 Q. What was the excavator's purpose for being there? Do
3 you know?

4 A. It wasn't mine. I don't know. I think it was the FD's.

5 Q. Okay. And was it active? Was there someone operating
6 it, or is it just stationed there?

7 A. I believe there was someone operating it. They may have
8 been moving the debris or trying to get to the debris.

9 Q. Okay.

10 MR. SINGH: To piggyback on that question, you mentioned
11 a small excavator, as relative to a big excavator. Was there a
12 bigger excavator at some point in time, and do you remember when
13 that was?

14 MR. MANCINO: That may have been later in the day. I
15 just remember the smaller FD one that was --

16 MR. CHHATRE: FD?

17 MR. MANCINO: NYFD. The FDNY had their own excavator
18 out there.

19 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

20 Q. And it was actually tagged or labeled --

21 A. Yes. It said FDNY on the --

22 Q. Oh, okay.

23 A. -- on the excavator arm.

24 Q. But where you said the excavator was located and where
25 you showed the debris pile, it's a pretty fair distance. And

1 you're saying they had that --

2 A. Well, I'm -- it was in that area. I don't remember it
3 being --

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. -- that's what I'm saying, I don't remember it being
6 directly on there.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. I just remember it being in the general area.

9 Q. All right.

10 MR. SINGH: There might be some on-scene pictures of
11 this that --

12 MR. NICHOLSON: I think there are.

13 MR. MANCINO: Yes.

14 MR. SINGH: -- that can address that.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We sent them last week.

16 MR. CHHATRE: Yep. I got them.

17 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

18 Q. And then when you were talking about the survey, you
19 said leak surveys were performed and that that was documented, and
20 you've said those have been provided. Who was actually --

21 A. Well, it was a leak investigation. Leak surveys that we
22 -- terminology for us. It was a leak investigation was performed.

23 Q. All right. Yeah, you're exactly right.

24 A. So --

25 Q. Thank you, you're right. It's different than a leak

1 survey. But who was overseeing that? If it wasn't you, do we
2 have a name?

3 A. Well, we had -- well, a planner on site was Gary
4 Heeseman.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. He was one of the, one of the first people that got on
7 there and -- Heeseman, H-e-e-s-e-m-a-n.

8 Q. Okay. He's a planner?

9 A. Yes. He's a planner that works for me.

10 Q. And so he would have overseen the gas investigation?

11 A. He was working with the -- yeah, he was working with the
12 mechanics that were on site to take all the gas readings.

13 Q. Okay.

14 MR. NICHOLSON: And I don't know if he's on our list or
15 not.

16 MR. CHHATRE: He's not on our list.

17 MR. NICHOLSON: Oh, okay.

18 MR. CHHATRE: No, I'd rather -- not if we get the -- I
19 think we have the data, but if we don't, we can ask for it. But I
20 think we have the data.

21 MR. SINGH: I believe so.

22 MR. NICHOLSON: We have the data, and it shows where
23 those were --

24 MR. SINGH: Where the test points --

25 MR. NICHOLSON: -- it identifies locations?

1 MR. SINGH: -- were, that's correct, and what the
2 readings were.

3 MR. MANCINO: Yes.

4 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay.

5 MR. MANCINO: And, I mean, we took multiple shots. We
6 kept going back to the same location. So --

7 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

8 Q. You went on at one point about the contracts and how
9 it's mandated in the construction contract that they will, the
10 contractors --

11 A. They provide us operator qualified employees. That's
12 terms and conditions. It's part of the --

13 Q. Is that a boilerplate contract at all, do you issue?

14 A. Well, I mean, it's --

15 Q. Or do you select your own contractors?

16 A. No, no, that's -- we go out for bid, and contractors bid
17 based on -- you know, they put in a bid for the contract.

18 Q. You go out for a bid? Con Edison goes out for a bid?

19 A. Con Edison. We have a purchasing department.

20 Q. Okay. So, it's not done directly through you?

21 A. No, no, no, no. Not through me.

22 Q. You don't write your own contract? It's --

23 A. No.

24 Q. Okay. All right.

25 MR. NICHOLSON: That's all I got.

1 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. Lenny?

2 BY MR. SINGH:

3 Q. Yes, just another question, Tony. You mentioned -- Ravi
4 had asked about you seeing water. At some point there was water
5 in the street. Do you remember a time of reference for that?

6 A. Well, again, I think at -- I remember it was about 1:30.
7 Before we had actually got the main shut off, there was a cause of
8 concern I believe that there was something -- the street actually
9 caved in in this area. And there was an odor of gas and they
10 wanted us to get the gas main shut down. And after that, I do
11 remember seeing -- you know, there was -- once the street was
12 open, we saw water. And that may have been even later on in the
13 day, after we got the gas main shut down.

14 MR. CHHATRE: So, around 1:30? 2:30? I don't want to
15 put words in your mouth.

16 MR. MANCINO: Around -- yeah, it was -- it had to be --
17 it was around 1:30, because it was right before -- we were getting
18 ready -- you know, we were getting ready to tap the mains and I
19 remember there being a cause for concern, people screaming "shut
20 the main, shut the main, shut the main." And it was because there
21 was something -- there was a cave-in and there was an odor of gas,
22 and we got very concerned about what was going on and we just made
23 sure we got the -- as soon as we could, get it shut off. And it
24 took us another 15 minutes before we finally got it isolated.

25 MR. NICHOLSON: So, I didn't hear the time. 1:30?

1 MR. MANCINO: About -- it was around 1:30, from what I
2 remember.

3 BY MR. CHHATRE:

4 Q. And just for the record, you said the gas was shut off
5 around --

6 A. Around 1:45.

7 Q. -- 1:45. And --

8 A. It was somewhere around there.

9 Q. The commotion about the cave-in was around 1:30, so --

10 A. Yeah, it was right before. Because it was -- I remember
11 it being right before we actually got the gas main shut off.

12 MR. CHHATRE: Anything else?

13 MR. NICHOLSON: Do we know -- was the fire department
14 getting their water from hydrants or did they have a pumper truck
15 or -- anyone --

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't remember.

17 MR. MANCINO: I don't remember.

18 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay.

19 MR. MANCINO: I mean, there was a lot -- there was
20 trucks all over the place. They had a ton of equipment outside.
21 So I --

22 MR. NICHOLSON: I've seen the pictures, yeah.

23 MR. EMEABA: They would have needed to be on hydrants.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, everybody was on a hydrant.

25 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I mean, I don't know how many
2 trucks that were on a hydrant, but that's where they were getting
3 their water from. There's no way they would be able to sustain
4 that much water.

5 MR. NICHOLSON: As much as their --

6 MR. CHHATRE: And we can talk to the fire department,
7 but I was told that there was no issue about not getting enough
8 pressure.

9 MR. SINGH: Right. Because the -- I think it's on the
10 corner, a different water main or something like that.

11 MR. EMEABA: There was -- this is the hydrant.

12 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. Anyone else? Do you have any
13 questions?

14 MR. GEORGELIS: No.

15 MR. CHHATRE: Well, we asked you all the questions,
16 Tony, and --

17 MR. McCARTON: I have a couple. I have --

18 MR. CHHATRE: Oh -- I asked you and you said no.

19 MR. McCARTON: No, I did not say no. You never asked
20 me.

21 MR. CHHATRE: My apologies. Go ahead, Frank.

22 BY MR. McCARTON:

23 Q. Anthony, I got just a couple questions. One is, is that
24 were you on scene when we moved the command post because of the
25 smell of gas on the corner of 116th Street and Park Avenue? It

1 was on the -- it was actually on 116th Street and Park Avenue.

2 A. North of -- east of --

3 Q. Under the El.

4 A. Under the El?

5 Q. Under the El. So it was the east side. When you
6 arrived, were we in the street across the street?

7 A. I remember where our command post was, and that -- I
8 don't remember where the other command posts were. I mean, we
9 were all -- I know where they were having the debriefs, they were
10 sitting -- meeting up on the same -- it's similar to the corner
11 where we were.

12 Q. Right.

13 A. We were just a little bit, I guess, east of that. And
14 that's where the debriefs were happening. And then they moved the
15 debriefs over into the councilperson's --

16 Q. Right.

17 A. -- office.

18 Q. Did you -- was there anybody that said that there was a
19 strong odor of gas prior to your arrival? Like before you got to
20 the scene?

21 A. I do not remember.

22 Q. For the record, we did move the command post because
23 when I had the odor of gas, and I just wanted maybe hopefully find
24 somebody who smelled the same thing we all did. And the fire
25 department felt it was prudent to move away to the east side of

1 116th Street --

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. -- and Park Avenue under -- past the El -- underneath
4 the elevated --

5 MR. NICHOLSON: Can you point out on this map where the
6 original IC was?

7 MR. McCARTON: Yeah.

8 MR. NICHOLSON: You said Lexington and something --

9 MR. McCARTON: No, no. It's Park Avenue. It's Park
10 Avenue --

11 MR. MANCINO: Yeah, I came in on Lexington. That's down
12 there. That's --

13 MR. NICHOLSON: Oh, okay.

14 MR. MANCINO: -- I parked my car down here and walked up
15 to our command. We were situated on this corner over here.

16 MR. McCARTON: So, east and west here, where are we?

17 MR. SINGH: Going down is east.

18 MR. MANCINO: This is east. This is west.

19 MR. McCARTON: Okay. So, this is north?

20 MR. CHHATRE: That is north.

21 MR. MANCINO: This is north.

22 BY MR. McCARTON:

23 Q. So, this is where originally underneath the El the
24 command post was.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. And then we moved it across to here because of heavy
2 odor of gas that was somewhere in this vicinity. And I was just
3 trying to see if --

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. -- you must not have been there when that happened.

6 A. Yeah, when I came in, we were -- because everybody was
7 gathering here -- we were set up down here.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. And everybody was gathering up here to meet. That's
10 where the -- because the first, the interdepartmental meeting --

11 Q. Right.

12 A. -- I remember, you know, standing up in this area to go
13 and --

14 Q. Right. So originally it was here.

15 A. Okay, go ahead.

16 Q. And we moved it from here because of a heavy odor of
17 gas. That's why I'm asking that question.

18 A. Okay.

19 MR. NICHOLSON: What time did you move?

20 MR. CHHATRE: Do you remember, Frank, what time was --

21 MR. McCARTON: It was early on in the incident. It was
22 in -- it was probably after 10:00, I mean. I mean, I couldn't put
23 a time on it, but it was moved by the incident commander across
24 the street. So, and we moved everybody back. So, I mean, that's
25 why I'm asking that question.

1 MR. CHHATRE: Any other question, Frank?

2 MR. McCARTON: I don't have any questions.

3 MR. GEORGELIS: I have a couple of questions.

4 MR. CHHATRE: Go ahead.

5 MR. McCARTON: My colleague probably does.

6 MR. GEORGELIS: If that's okay?

7 BY MR. GEORGELIS:

8 Q. How are you doing, Anthony?

9 A. How are you doing?

10 Q. What time was the incident? The collapse? It was --

11 A. It was -- I --

12 Q. Around 9?

13 A. It was 9:30, 9:20.

14 MR. CHHATRE: You're asking me? I'm sorry. I didn't
15 know if you were asking me or --

16 MR. GEORGELIS: No. I'm --

17 MR. MANCINO: 9:20, 9:30. That's --

18 BY MR. GEORGELIS:

19 Q. 9:30. And, Anthony, you said you got there between
20 10:30 and 11?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You went to the command post?

23 A. I went to the Con Edison command post.

24 Q. Con Edison command post?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. There was no -- no one indicated to you there was a
2 water main break or any kind of a leak at that time?

3 A. At that time I do not remember anybody mentioning
4 anything like that.

5 Q. And the earliest you said that that issue came up was
6 around 1:30?

7 A. When the street collapsed. That's -- but that was
8 around 1:30, I believe.

9 Q. So, in your fire banks that you excavated, was there any
10 presence of water in any of those during your excavations?

11 A. I do not remember seeing any water in any of the
12 excavations.

13 Q. Was the ground virgin ground? Was it wet? Was it dry?

14 A. It probably was dry. I don't -- you know, I don't
15 remember. I don't remember getting complaints that there was
16 water, we couldn't -- you know, we -- that we needed pumps to get
17 the pump -- you know, to get the water out. Usually, I mean, if
18 we had a problem with a lot of water in excavation we'd have like
19 mudsuckers in there trying to get the water out. I don't remember
20 that being an issue.

21 Q. Okay. Anthony, have you responded to water main breaks
22 in the past?

23 A. Yes, I have.

24 Q. So when you normally get to a water main break, do you
25 see water in the street?

1 A. A couple weeks before we had -- responded to one on 5th
2 and 13th and, yeah, there was a lot of water in the street.

3 Q. A lot of water on the street. Okay. When you first got
4 there, just the scene of where the collapse was, what did you see?
5 You saw an excavator, you said? A debris field?

6 A. I remember seeing -- again, I really didn't come into
7 this area. I stayed on this side, because there was a lot of
8 stuff going on and I didn't think it was my place to go in there
9 while everybody was trying to get their job done. I mean, my job
10 was over here trying to make sure that my guys were getting the
11 excavations done and getting the gas shut off.

12 So, I stayed over here. And I just remember looking,
13 you know, across under the El and just seeing -- you know, I
14 remember seeing the debris, I remember seeing an excavator, and a
15 lot of people. I mean, it was the fire department shooting, you
16 know, with the hoses. You know, that's what I remember seeing.

17 Q. At any time before 1:45 were you able to get closer to
18 the debris field?

19 A. No.

20 Q. After 1:45 were you able to go over and see anything
21 closer?

22 A. It was -- I mean, I really got closer -- it was even
23 later than that when I had gotten closer to see what was going on.

24 Q. So when we say debris field, can you describe how much
25 -- what it looked like?

1 A. It was just a lot of building debris from the, I guess,
2 from the site, that was on the floor -- on the ground. It was
3 smoldering.

4 Q. Was the debris on the street or was it on the sidewalk?

5 A. I think it was some -- there was some on the sidewalk.
6 There was some in the street.

7 Q. And then you mentioned an excavator earlier. Any time
8 during the day, the first day, that you guys performed an
9 excavation on the street?

10 A. We -- not on -- not over here, on Park -- we were at
11 these fire bank locations; that was it.

12 Q. Was there any excavation done on Park Avenue?

13 A. That day?

14 Q. Yeah.

15 A. By Con Edison?

16 Q. Yeah.

17 A. Not to my knowledge.

18 Q. Did you guys try to locate the existing gas main in
19 front of the buildings, or was that the next day?

20 A. That was done the -- I mean, if anything, it was done
21 the next day. We didn't go near the debris pile with -- well, in
22 this area with our equipment, probably until the next day or even
23 after that. What we -- what happened later on that evening, we
24 were trying to find the coupling between the cast iron and
25 plastic. And we --

1 Q. Transition piece?

2 A. Yeah. And it was two -- there was two planners,
3 basically, that were in the hole just trying to scrape the top of
4 the main, because it was all sand. I guess after the street had
5 collapsed, they brought a bunch of sand in. And they were just
6 trying to scrape the top of the sand to find out where the
7 transition piece was.

8 Q. Can you show us where we're talking about?

9 A. I think it was somewhere over here.

10 Q. Okay.

11 MR. NICHOLSON: And you're pointing to in front of --

12 MR. MANCINO: It's in between building 1642, 1644.

13 MR. NICHOLSON: Okay.

14 MR. MANCINO: It was somewhere there.

15 MR. CHHATRE: You are pointing on 1646, I think.

16 MR. MANCINO: Oh. No, 1644 or 1642.

17 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

18 MR. MANCINO: It was in this, in this general area.

19 Because we knew -- our map showed a transition, it showed a
20 plastic -- a transition from plastic to cast iron, and we were
21 just trying to determine where that coupling was.

22 BY MR. GEORGELIS:

23 Q. So, any excavation that was done with the machine would
24 have been done by that excavator that we think was --

25 A. That excavator or the city's, because that was -- I

1 mean, after that, then the city brought some -- once our gas main
2 was shut off, we said okay, it's safe, you know -- you know, there
3 was no gas anymore because we got -- we shut the gas main off.
4 The city did bring in their own contractor, and HPD brought in
5 Russo and they may have had their excavator in. I don't know the
6 timing of all the different equipment going in and out.

7 Q. All right. But you said you had guys with shovels
8 looking for the --

9 A. Two of the guys had shovels. They saw the top of the
10 gas main. They just wanted to try and find the coupling. So they
11 were scraping the top of the main to get the sand off until they
12 found the top of the coupling.

13 Q. Well, did you locate the transition piece then?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Anything seem --

16 A. At that time, no, it did not.

17 Q. Okay.

18 BY MR. SINGH:

19 Q. Just a couple of follow-up questions. You know, Tasos
20 asked about -- this is Leonard Singh -- asking about your fire
21 banks. Where were your fire banks relative to where the street
22 collapse and the water main break happened?

23 A. I mean, this had to be 60, 80 feet away.

24 Q. Right.

25 A. Because it was the width of -- because it was on the

1 opposite side of Park -- of 116th Street, which is a very wide
2 street. And then this, I mean, had to be another, you know,
3 another 60 feet away, 80 feet away --

4 Q. Right.

5 A. -- because it was across Park Avenue.

6 Q. Were they uphill or downhill?

7 A. Uphill. Both of these were uphill.

8 Q. Okay. Where was your third fire bank?

9 A. Third fire bank was on 117th Street, which is several
10 hundred feet away.

11 Q. Okay. In your experience working in the city of New
12 York, do you always see water at the street level if there's a
13 leak or break?

14 A. Not all the time.

15 Q. Where would the water go if it's not coming up the
16 street?

17 A. Well, if it finds its way down into another -- again,
18 it's like gas; it finds the least path of resistance. So, I mean,
19 gas goes up, but water could go down. So if there is a pathway to
20 go down, if it's not a high pressure, you could see it go down
21 into subways, into sewer systems, or wherever else it might find.
22 Into our gas mains.

23 MR. SINGH: That's all my questions.

24 MR. STOLICKY: I don't have anything. You've asked my
25 questions.

1 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

2 BY MR. CHHATRE:

3 Q. My question, Tony, do you see any water in the fire
4 bank 3 when you excavated? How deep do you excavate in the --

5 A. That gas main was about three feet, three feet deep.

6 Q. Three feet. Okay. Now, when we did the excavation on
7 the -- in front of -- where you initially saw the backhoe, how did
8 the ground look like after you excavated it?

9 A. When we opened that up, I mean, it was really -- there
10 was -- it was all cavernous, I would say. It was a lot of rock.
11 There was a lot of soil -- there was no soil. It was all missing.
12 I know we lost a digging bar trying to, you know, break through
13 the rock. One of the guys just like -- the digging bar just went
14 right down into the ground. So it was either very soft or very
15 open.

16 Q. Okay. And how close that was to the water main break?

17 A. Right next to it. It was right there at the same
18 location.

19 MR. CHHATRE: That's all for me. Anybody have any
20 questions? If not, do you want to add something that we did not
21 ask, we should have asked? Do you have anything that we forgot to
22 ask --

23 MR. MANCINO: No.

24 MR. CHHATRE: -- that will aid in this investigation?
25 You have my card, if you remember something, it occurs to you, you

1 just call.

2 MR. MANCINO: Okay.

3 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. Just don't depend upon us asking
4 questions. If you have something, just tell us.

5 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

6 Q. Well, I -- you know, before we go off record, there was
7 some discussion about water main breaks. And maybe I missed some
8 of it. That you've been called out for water main breaks or --

9 A. Well, I mean, we respond too. So, if there's --

10 Q. What's the threat? Why do you go out on a water main
11 break?

12 A. Because it could threaten -- I mean, we -- you know, so
13 the water mains are basically cast iron. A lot of our gas mains
14 are cast iron.

15 Q. Uh-huh.

16 A. Our gas mains are low pressure. They're inches water
17 column, quarter pound.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. If a water main break happens to take out a gas main,
20 the water could fill up the gas main and you're going to knock out
21 an entire system. I had experience, back in 2011. I was a
22 general manager of the Bronx. We had a water main break on 176th
23 and Jerome. The 30-inch water main busted, took out a 6-inch cast
24 iron gas main. We lost 1800 people.

25 Q. Six-inch cast iron gas main?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Low pressure. So the water came up, got into the gas
4 main. We lost a large area, about 1800 people, were out of gas
5 for a while. It took us a while to get all the water out.

6 About a month later, we had a -- it was a small break,
7 up in Hamilton Heights, St. Nicholas and like 155th. And that got
8 into the gas system and it basically trickled down and we lost
9 like -- what was it, 8,000, 8,000 people or -- you know,
10 buildings, a lot of buildings. It was 8,000 people.

11 Q. Same thing? Your line was cast iron?

12 A. The line was cast iron.

13 Q. But this was plastic.

14 A. It was plastic and cast iron. You had cast iron on the
15 bottom.

16 Q. Oh, okay.

17 A. You know, so, it --

18 Q. So the threat was to the cast iron side?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. I mean, plus -- see, now, with plastic, though, if there
22 is a jetting action -- so, if it's not a water main break but if
23 it's a water main leak from a service or something, the jet of the
24 water could actually dig away at the plastic, eat away at the
25 plastic and put a hole in the plastic main, and then you're going

1 to be basically filling your plastic main up with water and sand,
2 and you lose your -- you know, you wind up getting a gas outage
3 for that reason.

4 Q. Okay. So you're notified any time there's a --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. The city will call you or -- okay.

7 A. Yeah, any -- and it could be a minor -- we'll go to all
8 of them. Some of them are minor ones that have -- we have no --
9 you know, there's no effect on the gas system. Sometimes we are
10 right in the middle of it.

11 Q. Okay.

12 MR. SINGH: Matt -- this is Leonard Singh -- just to
13 interject for a second. It's not just the outage issue.
14 Sometimes if the water gets in the main you can get a poor
15 pressure condition, a momentary outage, and then back on. So if
16 you have a standing pilot, you could lose it. So there's a safety
17 issue around that also, so -- beyond just the momentary outage.

18 BY MR. CHHATRE:

19 Q. So, on the other two incidents where the water main
20 break and you went in, can you describe the ground and where the
21 water was?

22 A. In -- with the other -- not this incident; the other
23 incidences?

24 Q. Not this one. The other two incidents that you
25 described.

1 A. Well, the one on Jerome Avenue was such a large main --
2 I think it was like a 30 or 36-inch main. I mean, it was -- they
3 had to dig down. It was just a huge excavation. So, it was just
4 all -- I mean, that, the ground had lifted up, you had a lot of
5 water running down the street, so it was very obvious there was a
6 water main break. The one in Hamilton Heights, it was a very --

7 Q. I'm sorry, do you recall the pressure? Water pressure
8 at that time?

9 A. I think, from what they claimed, the water pressure was
10 somewhere between 60 and 80 pounds.

11 MR. CHHATRE: Is that -- does that sound correct,
12 Tasios? On the main -- I mean, you are the one who brought those
13 water main breaks up, so --

14 MR. GEORGELIS: The water -- so, I don't know what the
15 pressure was for this main. The water pressure could range from
16 anywhere from 30 to 80 pounds.

17 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

18 MR. MANCINO: This one on Jerome Avenue, they said it
19 was about 60 or 80. I wasn't sure.

20 MR. GEORGELIS: And some areas could be higher.

21 MR. CHHATRE: No, not this one, the other -- we were
22 just talking about the other two incidences.

23 MR. GEORGELIS: Yeah, I don't recall what the water
24 pressure was.

25 MR. CHHATRE: Okay. That's fine.

1 MR. STOLICKY: Do you recall approximately how many
2 gallons of water you pumped out in those incidents?

3 MR. MANCINO: Each one was at least 30,000 gallons, if
4 not more.

5 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

6 MR. MANCINO: Yeah, and the one in Hamilton Heights was
7 a small break. It was a small main. And it really wasn't as
8 noticeable in the street, but it was a trickle into our main over
9 time. And it got to a point where it just -- it isolated the gas
10 main off.

11 MR. SINGH: And the terrain there was such a --

12 MR. MANCINO: It was hilly. So the water just went
13 right downhill.

14 MR. SINGH: -- (indiscernible) going blocks upon blocks.

15 MR. MANCINO: And until it found a place --

16 BY MR. NICHOLSON:

17 Q. You didn't see that on the surface? That didn't break
18 through?

19 A. It wasn't -- it was -- from what I remember, there was
20 some complaints by residents, but it wasn't like the street came
21 up and there was water pouring out of the street. There may have
22 been a small trickle of water, but --

23 Q. You'd see it at the curb line, wouldn't you? Or
24 somewhere where --

25 A. I don't remember where they actually saw it, but it was

1 -- there was water in the street.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. You know, there was some complaints, possibly, to
4 residents and -- but we started getting calls about no gas and
5 then we traced it back to this one location where they were --
6 there was a water leak. I don't know if it was a full line break.
7 It may have just been like a crack or something and it was just
8 leaking into -- it wound up getting into our gas system.

9 Q. And how does it get in your gas system if it's cast
10 iron?

11 A. Could be a leak at our -- in our cast iron main. So it
12 could be that the cast iron cracks due to some ground movement.
13 It could be through joints. It's really just because there's a
14 higher pressure going into a lower pressure.

15 Q. Okay. So, it doesn't necessarily break your line? It
16 could just find an existing --

17 A. It could just find an existing -- in something that's
18 existing --

19 Q. Okay.

20 MR. CHHATRE: Okay.

21 BY MR. EMEABA:

22 Q. How often do you see your spigot joints being a source
23 of penetration of water?

24 A. Excuse me?

25 Q. How often do you find your joints -- your spigot joint

1 and --

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. -- yes, being a source of water ingress?

4 A. I don't know. But usually it's a crack or something
5 that usually gets it. It's not usually to the bell and spigots.
6 I mean, it could -- if you took a bell and spigot and just -- and
7 submerged it in water, you could get water seeping in if it's a
8 higher pressure than the gas line. But more common is there's
9 either an existing crack or break or corrosion or something else
10 that gets it into the gas main.

11 Q. Okay. Thank you.

12 BY MR. STOLICKY:

13 Q. Hi. This is Chris Stolicky. Just kind of what -- Lenny
14 was asking about water intrusion. Can you talk a little bit about
15 what could happen with water in the main if you don't get it all
16 out and then winter comes?

17 A. Well, the -- it's -- one, you could have a freezing
18 situation. But more likely -- I mean, you could get water into
19 services that it would freeze. More likely, when the winter comes
20 in and the flow picks up, it'll take the water, it'll move it
21 around. So you could get sporadic outages, poor pressures. You
22 could get water in the services and have people get knocked out
23 during the wintertime. Or, I think it's more of, you know,
24 pressure problems, where you'd have poor pressure and you could
25 knock out an area, and then the water might move again and then

1 gas would come back in. And then you have areas where you might
2 have pilots out.

3 So the water goes in, stops the area off, then it -- so
4 the pressure gets low, the area gets stopped, or the pilots go out
5 and the water continues to move because the gas load continues to
6 push it, and then you may get gas back into that area. And you
7 have to go respond and -- you know, before something happens, an
8 incident happens.

9 Q. So, Tony, are you involved in the leak-prone pipe
10 replacement at all?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Do you factor in low pressure and water intrusion as a
13 risk and a threat in how you rank the segments of pipe?

14 A. We have a separate program to replace pipe in flood
15 prone areas, where that's -- we look at that.

16 Q. But that's in flood prone with --

17 A. Well, due to --

18 Q. Flooding due to environmental conditions?

19 A. Flooding for like due to large storms, yes.

20 Q. Okay. But is water intrusion factored into the risk
21 model basically because of pressure?

22 A. Not to my knowledge, no.

23 Q. All right.

24 A. Because, I mean, we don't know where the water mains are
25 and what, you know, what other -- it would be hard to try to put

1 that as a factor.

2 Q. Okay.

3 MR. NICHOLSON: Off the record?

4 MR. CHHATRE: Everyone done? Okay. Off the record.

5 Thanks again.

6 MR. MANCINO: Okay. You're welcome.

7 (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 Anthony Mancino

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA-14-MP-002

PLACE: New York, New York

DATE: August 5, 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.

Jane W. Gilliam
Transcriber