

The following information was provided by Mr Alexander Clezy to the joint investigation by the Crown, Police and Health and Safety Executive into the disaster on 11 May 2004 at Grovepark Mills, Maryhill. Mr Clezy provided one statement to the Police (signed) and a further statement to the Health and Safety Executive (unsigned). Mr Clezy subsequently died. The previous evidence provided by Mr Clezy, as set out below, has been adopted for the purposes of the Inquiry.

ALEXANDER CLEZY STATEMENT 1 (signed)

I have been advised that this is a joint investigation by the Police and Health and Safety Executive under the direction of the Procurator Fiscal. I am content to provide a statement.

I was formerly employed by Calor Gas Limited between 1968 and 1982. I had worked for BP Agriculture prior to that. I am a qualified engineer.

When I started working for Calor Gas I was employed as a district engineering manager. From about 1979 or 1980 I was Technical Manager for Calor Gas. As Technical Manager for Scotland I was responsible for controlling the fitting price and customer safety. If someone highlighted a safety problem I would be responsible for highlighting it to Calor Gas' Safety Officer Maurice COVILLE. The only reason I would know of any safety problems would be if delivery drivers, fitters or other people employed by the company informed me.

I tried to attend at sites but due to the number of sites and fittings I didn't attend them all.

Initially when I worked for Calor Gas Limited I worked at Friarton in Perth. Initially this site was Scottish Rural Gas but Calor bought them over before my time. Scotland, at one time was split into two parts, Scotland North and Scotland South. By the time I was in Perth the office in Edinburgh (Scotland South) had no longer a regional office.

My predecessors were John MCDONALD (who was there about 2 years) and Jim HALLHEAD. I think they are both deceased.

I have been asked about a Calor Gas tank that was sited at Stockline Plastics or ICL Technical in Grovepark Street, Maryhill, Glasgow. I had watched the television and saw the coverage of the building collapse. I didn't remember the name of the company but recall being at the site in about 1981 or 1982. I recognise the site as this was about the only one I was at in Maryhill.

I remember you came in the gates to the yard and the tank was on the right hand side. From my memory the tank was only a couple of feet from the gate. It was too close to the wall at the back of the tank. The tank had been so close to the wall that Calor couldn't paint the back of the tank when they were maintaining it.

From memory the tank sat up a couple of feet off the ground. I think the tank was a 2 tonne tank.

I can't remember the company or what the company did. I can't recall being in the company building at any time.

I went out in 1981 or 1982 because someone must have complained. I can't remember who complained, almost certainly a fitter or driver.

I can remember going to the site with Danny SMITH (District Manager, deceased) to see someone from the company. I can't remember what the result with the customer would be but we would want to keep the business.

I seem to remember authorising a tank exchange because the tank was due a 10 year test and in those days 9 times out of 10 we changed the tank at 10 years.

I have been asked if I can remember the tank being changed from a 2 ton tank to a 1 ton tank. We would probably do that due to being unhappy about the siting of the tank. A 2 ton tank should have been at least a meter from a blast wall. From memory the tank was inches from the wall. A 2 ton tank should be 25 feet from the building or the boundary. 1 ton tanks only require to be 10 feet away. That could be a reason for a company to change from a 2 ton tank to 2 x 1 ton tanks.

I'm sure the first time I saw the site it was a 2 ton tank. I'm pretty sure we would replace it with a 1 ton tank because of the position of the tank, because we would be concerned about the siting of a 2 ton tank. Back in those days there probably wouldn't have been planning permission when the tank went in if it was in the 70s.

I can't remember any other involvement in that site. I wasn't involved in any pipe work. If we replace a tank we would have no involvement with the pipe work. From the regulator, at that time Calor Gas responsibilities ended.

Generally speaking I would expect any pipe work to be underground, between 18 inches and 2 feet underground.

I would expect the pipe work to be standard galvanised pipe with joints to be wrapped with dense tape.

If Calor Gas were the original supplier of LPG I would expect Calor would have installed the pipe work up until the factory wall. There would be a regulator fitted outside the building to reduce it to operations pressure. The regulator at the building would belong to the customer as would the underground pipe work.

I don't think that there was a pump for forklifts to draw fuel from.

When pipe work was fitted I would expect the company would have made arrangements for any trenches to have been dug.

I can remember as you went into the factory there was a tarmacadam strip and on the sides it was just a gravel surface.

I have since seen a photograph which I think was from 1988 (HSE photos). I think they were alterations to the wall near the tank. I think the gates were moved and the wall had a bit built on. The gate was moved to the left.

I can't remember any other fitters who would have been on the site.

Any paperwork that was generated was stored on microfiche. I do not have any paperwork regarding the site.

ALEXANDER CLEZY STATEMENT 2 (unsigned)

I have been advised that this is a joint investigation by the Police and Health and Safety Executive under the director of the Procurator Fiscal.

I am content to provide a statement:

I have already provided a statement to the police.

I am 73 years of age and I stay at the above address with my wife Margaret. I have stayed here for about 20 years.

I am now retired and have been for the past 12 years.

I retired from Calor Gas Ltd, having worked for them for the previous 25 years.

When I retired I held the position of Technical Manager. The area I covered was the whole of Scotland.

Basically any technical aspect of Calor Gas in Scotland, I dealt with. It was mainly commercial and bulk L.P.G. I dealt with.

I started work with Calor in 1968 when Calor Gas bought over Direct Nitrogen who I worked for at the time.

I basically worked from the house, visiting sites for any technical advice required.

I am a qualified engineer, I'm a member of the Institute of Gas Engineers.

I am aware of the explosion at Maryhill last May, and from memory I recall visiting the site twice. I cannot recall when I visited the site.

I can't recall why I visited the site the first time but the second time was due to a tanker driver complaining about the state of the site.

I recommended that Maurice COVILLE, who was the Calor Safety Officer for Scotland attended at site and compile a report.

When I went back to the site for the second time, I noticed that the ground level had been raised because there was now a channel round the tank not allowing free flow of gas in the event of a leak.

There was also a 2 ton (2 ton) tank in place. I recommended that the tank be changed to a 1 ton (1 ton) tank I know that this instruction was carried out.

I never went back to the site after my second visit.

I was never really happy with the site because it had build L.P.G storage within a built up area.

Statement now handed over to Bill RILEY, H.S.E. Inspector.

I have been shown and read a

PRODUCTION NO LETTER FROM JOHN IVES DATED 1988. [ICL/01444-01445]

I do not remember ever seeing this letter. As far as a pipe going into a basement would say this was not Calor's responsibility. I would have expected a basement to have low level ventilation, a galvanised pipe and short pipe run. It is not Calor's pipe. Every time Calor touched or inspected our tank and engineer would pressure test up to the valve at the building.

I have been shown and read a

PRODUCTION NO LETTER FROM MAURICE COVILLE [ICL/14479-14480]

Calor Gas Safety Officer in reply to John IVES' letter.

I can remember this letter I agree with Maurice's response the word compromise means we are offering an equivalent alternative standard of safety.

I do not know what happened after that.

I have been and read a

PRODUCTION NO 1969 LETTER FROM CALOR GAS TO ICL [ICL/11027-11031]

The galvanised iron underground vapour pipework was a Calor standard. Calor would not have dug the trench. I read this letter as meaning Calor will install the underground pipe and ICL do the pipe inside the factory.

When I took over as technical manager in the mid 1970s I required that all vapour pipework underground have dense wrapped joints.

I have never heard of any explosion from an underground vapour pipeline.

There was a different standard for liquid pipework. Above ground it would have been painted.

Underground fully dense wrapped.