



Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

Investigation regarding: **Circle R Electric**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 1092

Investigator: Howard Friend

Telephone: 317-232-2717

Report Date: 01/05/2012

Damage Date: 07/30/2010

Damage Address: 6230 Us Rt 6

City: Portage

County: Porter

The Parties

Excavator: **Circle R Electric**

Contact: Charles V. Shields, President

Address: 5740 Central Ave, P.o. Box 130, Portage, In 46368

Telephone: (219) 762-5588

Facility Owner: NIPSCO

Contact: Luke Selking

Address: 1501 Hale Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Distribution

Investigation regarding: Circle R Electric

UPPAC Database Record ID: 1092

Damage Impact

Product release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: True

Number of Customers Affected: 1

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$1700

Excavator Activities/Cause of damage information:

Excavator request locates: No Indiana 811 ticket Number: 1006042438

Type of Equipment: Auger

Type of work performed: Pole

Synopsis: A natural gas main was damaged during excavation to install a pole.

Findings: Reported by Indiana 811; excavator response received 10/07/2011. Excavator was working on an expired locate request. Excavator submits that the gas main was incorrectly marked, however they failed to call in a new request or extend an existing one to verify.

Conclusion: By working off of an expired locate request, excavator failed to provide notice of excavation.

Violation: IC 8-1-26-16(g): Failure to provide notice of excavation.

Circle R Electric currently has 4 reports of damages in the record between 07/21/2009 and 09/20/2011.

NO

LOCATE

TICKET

PROVIDED

October 20, 2011

*Via Electronic Transmission – PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov*Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 1092
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 1092

To Whom It May Concern:

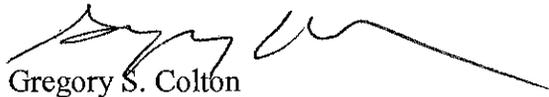
Attached please find Northern Indiana Public Service Company's ("NIPSCO") written information relating to the following event:

Date of Event: 7/30/10
Event Location: 6230 US Route 6, Portage
Facility Owner: NIPSCO
Excavator: Circle R Electric
Other Party: N/A
Pipeline Division Case No. 1092

NIPSCO has reviewed its recovery and damage prevention files for this matter and has provided answers, when known, to the list of questions set forth in the Information Request.

Upon completion of the investigation, NIPSCO requests that it be provided with a copy of the Pipeline Division's Investigation Report with findings that will be forwarded to the Underground Plant Protection Advisory Committee. If there are any additional questions, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

Gregory S. Colton
NiSource Corporate Services - Legal
Phone: 317-684-4923
Fax: 317-684-4918
Email: gscolton@nisource.com

IURC INFORMATION REQUEST**Pipeline Safety Division Case No. 1092**

Date of Event	07/30/11
Event Location	6230 US Hwy 6, Portage
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Circle R Electric
Date of IURC Information Request	09/20/11

EVENT LOCATION:

ADDRESS	6230
STREET	US HWY 6
CITY/TOWN/IN ZIP CODE	PORTAGE, IN
COUNTY	
TOWNSHIP	
PROPERTY OWNER	
USE - COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL	
TENANT'S NAME	
IF COMMERCIAL USE, TENANT OR OWNER OCCUPIED	
IF TENANT OCCUPIED, TENANT'S FULL NAME	

EXCAVATOR:

NON BUSINESS FULL PERSONAL NAME	
BUSINESS NAME	CIRCLE R ELECTRIC
ADDRESS	P. O. Box 130
STREET	
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	PORTAGE, IN 46368
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	
SECONDARY TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	

FACILITY INFORMATION - OWNER/OPERATOR OF UTILITY LINE:

BUSINESS NAME	NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PERSON NAME AND TITLE	LUKE SELKING

ADDRESS
CITY/STATE/ZIP
PREFERRED TELEPHONE
SECONDARY TELEPHONE
EMAIL ADDRESS

1501 HALE AVENUE
FORT WAYNE, IN 46802
260/439-1290

LSELKING@NISOURCE.COM

LOCATE MARKS:

DATE LOCATE REQUESTED
DATE LOCATE PERFORMED
DATE OF EVENT
LOCATE NUMBER
811 DAMAGE NOTIFICATION NUMBER
WERE LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE
DID THE EXCAVATOR WHITE LINE
WERE MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITY
WAS THERE A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM OPERATOR/HOW
WAS OPERATOR EMPLOYEES ON SITE AT TIME OF INCIDENT

UNKNOWN
UNKNOWN
07/30/10
UNKNOWN
UNKNOWN
UNKNOWN
UNKNOWN
UNKNOWN
UNKNOWN
NO

INJURIES:

NUMBER OF OUT-PATIENT
NUMBER OF IN-PATIENT INJURIES
WAS LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLED
FIRE DEPARTMENT NAME
FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE DESCRIPTION
WAS LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLED
DEPARTMENT NAME
POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE DESCRIPTION
ANY OTHER RESPONSE - IF SO, WHO AND DESCRIBE

0
0
UNKNOWN
UNKNOWN
UNKNOWN
UNKNOWN
UNKNOWN
UNKNOWN
UNKNOWN

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED AND WHY

NIPSCO GAS MAIN STRUCK AND DAMAGED DURING EXCAVATION BY
CIRCLE R ELECTRIC. EXCAVATOR USED MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT
AFTER LOCATES HAD EXPIRED. MOST RECENT LCOATE NUMBER WAS
1007300518.

Information Request
Pipeline Safety Division
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

The Pipeline Safety Division of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission requests any and all information you can provide regarding the following criteria:

The Parties:

Excavator Information:

Business Name: Circle "R" Electric, Inc.
Responsible Party Personal Name: Charles V. Shields
Title (if any): President
Address: 5740 Central Ave
City, State Zip: Portage, IN 46368
Preferred Telephone: 219-762-5588 Ext 106
Cell Phone Number: 219-406-3221
Email Address: cvs19542002@yahoo.com

Facility Information:

Business Name: Discount Tire
Responsible Party Personal Name:
Title (if any):
City, State, Zip: Portage, IN 46368
Address: 6230 U.S. Hwy 6
Preferred Telephone: 219-764-4128
Cell Phone Number:
Email Address:

Locator Service Information:

Business Name: Indiana 811
Responsible Party Personal Name:
Title (if any):
Address:
City, State Zip:
Preferred Telephone: 800-382-5544
Cell Phone Number:
Email Address:

RECEIVED

OCT 7 - 2011

INDIANA UTILITY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

Other (Witness, Police, Fire, Other) Information:

Personal Contact: Mike Rose
Business/Organization Name: Circle "R" Electric, Inc.
Title (if any): Journeyman Electrician
Address:
City, State, Zip
Preferred Telephone:
Cell Phone Number: 219-406-1211
Email Address: mrose5019@csinet.net

Utility Line Impact:

Product Type (circle one):

Natural Gas
Liquid Pipeline
Unknown/Other

Facility Type (circle one):

Distribution
Gathering
Service/Drop
Transmission
Unknown/Other

Size (Diameter/etc.): 3"

Pressure (PSIG/Inches): Do not have this info

Interruption in Service: Yes / No Number of Customers Affected: Unavailable

Evacuation: Yes / No If yes, How Many Evacuated? N/A

Repair Cost (if known): \$ 1,700.00

Cause of Damage Information:

Type of Equipment (circle one):

Auger
Backhoe/Trackhoe
Boring /Drilling
Directional Drilling
Explosives
Farm Equipment
Grader/Scraper
Hand Tools
Milling Equipment
Probing Device
Trencher
Vacuum Equipment
Unknown/Other

Type of Work Performed (circle one):

- Agriculture
- Cable TV
- Curb/Sidewalk
- Bldg. Construction
- Bldg. Demolition
- Drainage
- Driveway
- Electric
- Engineering/Surveying
- Fencing
- Grading
- Irrigation
- Landscaping
- Liquid Pipeline
- Milling
- Natural Gas
- Pole**
- Public Transit Authority
- Railroad Maintenance
- Road Work
- Sewer (Sanitary/Storm)
- Site Development
- Steam
- Storm Drain/Culvert
- Street Light
- Telecommunications
- Traffic Signal
- Traffic Sign
- Water
- Waterway Improvement
- Unknown/Other

Release of Product: Yes / No

Ignition and/or Fire: Yes / No

Excavator Notify 811: Yes / No

Locate Information:

Excavator Request Locate: Yes / No

Indiana 811 Locate Ticket Number: 100 604 2438

Locate Marks Visible: Yes / No

Locate Marks Correct: Yes / No

Excavator "White Lined": Yes / No

Maps Used to Mark Facilities: Yes / No Map by Indiana 811

Was locate provided within Two (2) Working Days: Yes / No
Operator Employees On-site during Excavation: Yes / No

Incident Impact Information:

Number of Outpatient Treated: 0

Number of Inpatient Treated: 0

Number of Fatalities: 0

Fire Department Response: Yes / No

Police Department Response: Yes / No

Ambulance Response: Yes / No

Additional Information/Comments: Circle "R" Electric, Inc. routinely calls for locates. Following is our locate history for this job site:

Original ticket # 100 427 1093, Expiration 5/17/10, Called for Extension 5/13/10.

Second ticket # 100 513 0453, Expiration 6/2/10, Called for Extension 5/28/10

Third ticket # 100 528 0849, Expiration 6/17/10, Scheduled to call for Extension 6/14/10 but I received a request for a re-mark on 6/4/10 due to operators moving dirt, markings no longer visible.

Fourth ticket # 100 604 2438 (re-mark), Expiration 6/24/10, Scheduled to call for Extension 6/21/10 but I let this ticket expire thinking we were done digging.

We struck a gas line which would have been struck if the ticket was still active as the site was marked incorrectly. We moved out three (3) feet from the marking. Please see enclosed photographs.

We have procedures in place for locates which include two office employees marking their desk calendars on dates to extend locates. Since the Discount Tire incident, the field employees have been instructed to call the office before digging regardless of their knowledge of the locate ticket status.

If our records are checked, we believe you will find this is one of two mishaps in the past five (5) years. I respectfully request forgiveness without fine in this matter for my error and ask you to lend generous consideration to the incorrect markings as well.

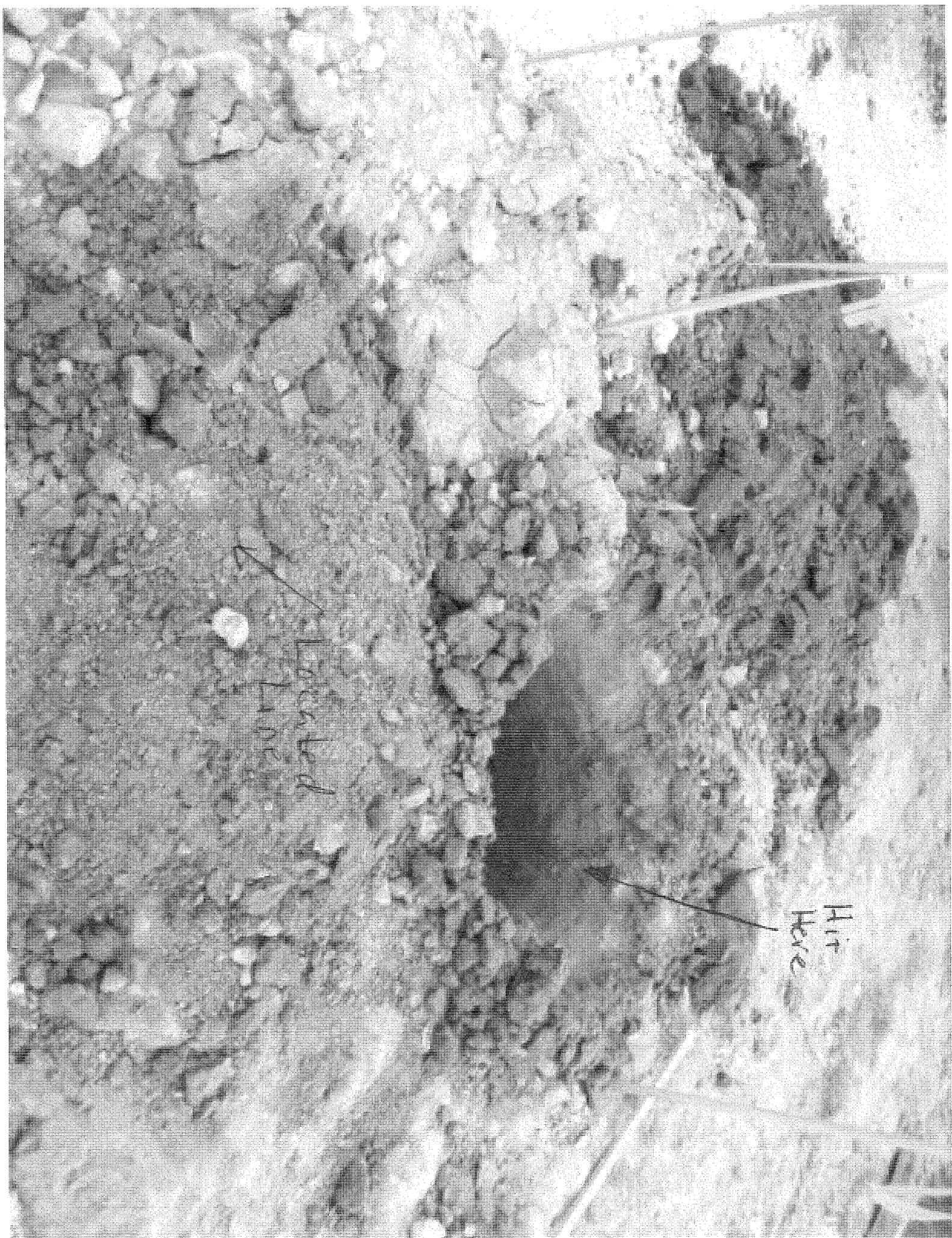
Sincerely,



Carol J. Berger

Field Coordinator Assistant





Hit
Here

Remnant





