



Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

Investigation regarding: **Michael Hochstetler**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 1772

Investigator: Mike Enlow

Report Date: 02/27/2012

Damage Date: 03/08/2011 1:37:28 PM

Damage Address: 6380 N 900 W

City: Shipshewana

County: Lagrange

The Parties

Excavator: **Michael Hochstetler**

Contact: Michael Hichstetler, Homeowner

Address: 6380 N 900 W, Shipshewana, In 46565

Telephone: (260) 768-4440 x-2

Facility Owner: NIPSCO

Contact: Kit Earle

Address: 101 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Investigation regarding: Michael Hochstetler

UPPAC Database Record ID: 1772

Damage Impact

Product release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: True

Number of Customers Affected: 1

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$305

Excavator Activities/Cause of damage information:

Excavator request locates: No Indiana 811 ticket Number:

Type of Equipment: Unknown/Other

Type of work performed: Landscaping

Synopsis: Homeowner damaged his natural gas service with a bulldozer while removing tree stumps along the driveway.

Findings: Reported by Indiana 811; homeowner responded to initial notice on 11/09/2011. Homeowner failed to request that underground utilities be located and marked prior to beginning work.

Conclusion: Homeowner failed to provide notice of excavation.

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

Michael Hochstetler currently has no other reports of damages in the record.

NO

LOCATE

TICKET

PROVIDED

December 2, 2011

Via Electronic Transmission – PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 1772
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 1772

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: 3/8/2011

Event Location: 6380 N 900 W, Shipshewana

Facility Owner: NIPSCO

Excavator: Michael Hochstetler

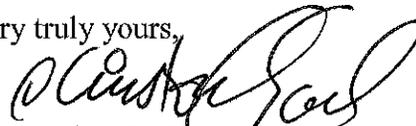
Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 1772

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,



Christopher C. (Kit) Earle
NiSource Corporate Services - Legal
Phone: 317-684-4904
Fax: 317-684-4918
Email: cearle@nisource.com

IURC INFORMATION REQUEST

NIPSCO CLAIM # (INTERNAL USE ONLY) 11-1121
NIPSCO JOB ORDER # (INTERNAL USE ONLY) 534388
FIELD SUPERVISOR F. Jakubowicz

Pipeline Safety Division Case No. 1772

Date of Event 3/8/2011
Event Location 6380 N 900 W, Shipshewana
Facility Owner Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator Michael Hochstetler
Date of IURC Information Request 9/2/2011

EVENT LOCATION:

ADDRESS
STREET 6380
CITY/TOWN/IN ZIP CODE N. 900 W.
COUNTY Shipshewana, IN 46565
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 Michael Hochstetler
BUSINESS NAME
ADDRESS 6380
STREET N. 900 W.
CITY/ STATE/ZIP Shipshewana, IN 46565
PREFERRED TELPHONE
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	1501 HALE AVENUE
CITY/STATE/ZIP	FORT WAYNE, IN 46802
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	260/439-1290
SECONDARY TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	LSELKING@NISOURCE.COM
LOCATE MARKS:	
DATE LOCATE REQUESTED	No locate requested
DATE LOCATE PERFORMED	No locate requested
DATE OF EVENT	03/08/11
LOCATE NUMBER	No locate requested
811 DAMAGE NOTIFICATION NUMBER	1103081594
WERE LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE	No locate requested
DID THE EXCAVATOR WHITE LINE	No locate requested
WERE MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITY	No locate requested
WAS THERE A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM OPERATOR/HOW	No locate requested
WAS OPERATOR EMPLOYEES ON SITE AT TIME OF INCIDENT	No
INJURIES:	
NUMBER OF OUT-PATIENT	0
NUMBER OF IN-PATIENT INJURIES	0
WAS LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLED	Unknown
FIRE DEPARTMENT NAME	Unknown
FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE DESCRIPTION	Unknown
WAS LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLED	Unknown
DEPARTMENT NAME	Unknown
POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE DESCRIPTION	Unknown
ANY OTHER RESPONSE - IF SO, WHO AND DESCRIBE	Unknown
DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED AND WHY	NIPSO gas service struck and damaged during excavation for a driveway. There was no locate request for this damage.

Information Request

RECEIVED

Pipeline Safety Division
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

NOV 09 2011

Case No. 1772

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:

Home owner

Responsible Party Personal Name:

Michael Hochstetter

Title (if any):

Address:

City, State Zip:

6380 N 900 W Shipshewana IN 46565

Preferred Telephone:

260-768-4440 x 2

Cell Phone Number:

260-350-0104

Email Address:

Facility Information:

Business Name:

Responsible Party Personal Name:

Title (if any):

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Preferred Telephone:

Cell Phone Number:

Email Address:

Locator Service Information:

Business Name:

Responsible Party Personal Name:

Title (if any):

Address:

City, State Zip:

Preferred Telephone:

Cell Phone Number:

Email Address:

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

Personal Contact:

Business/Organization Name:

Title (if any)

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Preferred Telephone:

Cell Phone Number:

Email Address:

Utility Line Impact:

Location of Damage:

Address:

6380 N 900W

City, State Zip:

Shipshewana IN 46565

Nearest Intersection:

State Rd 120 + 900 W

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" Approximately

Pressure (PSIG/Inches):

7

Interruption in Service: Yes / No

Number of Customers Affected: 1 - myself

Evacuation: Yes / No

If yes, How Many Evacuated? _____

Repair Cost (if known): \$ 304.89

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

Bulldozer

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

Tree stump Removal

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: _____

Locate Marks Visible: Yes / No

Locate Marks Correct: Yes/No

Excavator "White Lined": Yes / No

Maps Used to Mark Facilities: Yes / No

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: none

Number of Inpatient Treated: none

Number of Fatalities: none

Fire Department Response: Yes / No

Police Department Response: Yes / No

Ambulance Response: Yes / No

Additional Information/Comments:

Was clearing tree stumps, along my driveway and thought I was far enough away from gas line to be safe. (Gas line trench marks were still visible)
But an underground root ran underneath the gas line and pulled it up when I pushed the stump out.

sorry

Michael Hochstetler

YOUR PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION CASE NO. 1772

YOUR FULL NAME: Michael D Hochstetler

FULL NAME OF BUSINESS/ENTITY (if applicable): _____

YOUR BUSINESS TITLE (if applicable): _____

ADDRESS: 6380 N 900 W

CITY: Shipshewana STATE: IN ZIP CODE: 46565

YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER: (260) 768- 4440^{X2} SECOND NO. (260) 350-0104

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

TODAY'S DATE: 11-2-11

YOUR SIGNATURE: Michael Hochstetler TITLE (if any) _____

Please return your Narrative Statement and Answers to the above questions to:

**Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. _____
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 West Washington Street, # 1500E
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

Or scan document(s) and Email to:

PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov