



Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

Investigation regarding: **Jim Griffy**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 1871

Investigator: John McLaughlin

Report Date: 02/13/2012

Damage Date: 07/16/2011 11:30:48 AM

Damage Address: 11608 Co Rt 4

City: Middlebury

County: Elkhart

The Parties

Excavator: **Jim Griffy**

Contact: Jim Griffy

Address: 12355 Olive Trail, Plymouth, In 46563

Telephone: (574) 936-5174

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: Jim Griffy

UPPAC Database Record ID: 1871

Damage Impact

Product release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: True

Number of Customers Affected: 1

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$

Excavator Activities/Cause of damage information:

Excavator request locates: No Indiana 811 ticket Number:

Type of Equipment: Hand Tools

Type of work performed: Bldg. Construction

Synopsis: Damage to a natural gas service occurred during efforts to install a deck and porch.

Findings: Reported by Indiana 811; excavator responded to initial notice on 12/16/2011. Work was begun without calling Indiana 811 to request that underground utilities be located and marked.

Conclusion: There was a failure to request that underground utilities be located and marked.

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

Jim Griffy currently has no other reports of damages in the record.

NO

LOCATE

TICKET

PROVIDED



101 West Ohio Street
Suite 1707
Indianapolis, IN 46204

December 19, 2011

Via Electronic Transmission – PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 1871
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 1871

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: 7/16/2011

Event Location: 11608 Co. Route 4, Middlebury

Facility Owner: NIPSCO

Excavator: Jim Griffy

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 1871

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**Pipeline Safety Division Case No. 1871**

Date of Event	7/16/2011
Event Location	11608 Co. Route 4, Middlebury
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Jim Griffy
Date of IURC Information Request	11/18/2011

EVENT LOCATION:

ADDRESS	11608
STREET	CR 4
CITY/TOWN/IN ZIP CODE	Middlebury, IN
COUNTY	Elkhart
TOWNSHIP	York
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	Jim Griffy/Joanne Hainlin
BUSINESS NAME	
ADDRESS	11608
STREET	CR 4
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Middlebury, IN 46540
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

No locate requested.
No locate requested.
07/16/11
No locate requested.
1107160127
No locate requested.
No locate requested.
No locate requested.
No locate requested.
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

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED AND WHY

NIPSCO gas service struck and damaged during excavation for the installation of a fence. Installation was done by the property owner without the benefit of locates.

#1871

NIPSCO 00030 IUPPSa 07/16/2011 11:30:57 1107160127-00A EMER DAMG GRID

DAMAGE DAMAGE

Ticket : 1107160127 Date: 07/16/2011 Time: 11:21 Oper: DWILSON Chan:006

State: IN Cnty: ELKHART Twp: YORK
Cityname: MIDDLEBURY Inside: N Near: Y
Subdivision:Address : 11608
Street : CO RT 4
Cross 1 : IN RT 13 Within 1/4 mile: Y
Location: LOCATE--6 INCHES FROM THE FOUNDATION ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE HOUSE--:
Grids : 4144D8541C 4144C8541C 4144D8541B 4144C8541B 4144D8541A
Grids : 4144C8541A
Boundary: n 41.740723 s 41.737350 w -85.698769 e -85.687614Work type : INSTALLING DECK
Done for : JODY HAINLIN
Start date: 07/16/2011 Time: 11:27 Hours notice: 0/0 Priority: EMER
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y
Duration : 2 DAYS Depth: 22 INCHESCompany : JIM GRIFFY Type: OTHR
Co addr : 12355 OLIVE TRAIL
City : PLYMOUTH State: IN Zip: 46563
Caller : JIM GRIFFY Phone: (574)933-1093
Contact : JIM GRIFFY--CELL Phone:
BestTime:
Mobile : (574)933-1093
Email : BGGRIFFY@EMBARQMAIL.COMRemarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time
GAS LINE HAS BEEN CUT--ON SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE HOUSE--GAS IS BLOWING--WILL
CALL 911--NOT SURE IF IT IS NIPSCO OR TRUNKLINE--CANNOT DESCRIBE THE LINE--CREW
IS ON SITE--DID CALL NIPSCO--NO PREVIOUS TICKET NUMBER--
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO
:Submitted date: 07/16/2011 Time: 11:21
Members: COMCN ID8000 ID9312 NIPSCO SM

RECEIVED

Information Request
Pipeline Safety Division
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

DEC 16 2011

INDIANA UTILITY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

Case No. 1871

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:

Responsible Party Personal Name: *[Handwritten]*

Title (if any): *[Handwritten]*

Address: *[Handwritten]*

City, State Zip: *[Handwritten]*

Preferred Telephone: *[Handwritten]*

Cell Phone Number:

Email Address:

Facility Information:

Business Name:

Responsible Party Personal Name: *Robert A. Tapp*

Title (if any): *Home owner*

Address: *13184 St. Rd 120*

City, State, Zip: *Middlebury, IN 46540*

Preferred Telephone: *(574) 825-9257*

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: *Middlebury Fire Department*

Title (if any)

Address: *117 N. Main St*

City, State, Zip: *Middlebury, IN 46540*

Preferred Telephone: *(574) 825-1484*

Cell Phone Number:

Email Address:

*INDIVIDUAL DISPATCHED STATED THAT
THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE DANGER -*

Utility Line Impact:

Location of Damage:

Address:

City, State Zip:

Nearest Intersection:

Product Type (circle one):

Natural Gas

Liquid Pipeline

Unknown/Other

Facility Type (circle one):

Distribution

Gathering

Service/Drop

Transmission

Unknown/Other

Size (Diameter/etc.): _____

Pressure (PSIG/Inches): _____

Interruption in Service: Yes / No

Number of Customers Affected: *1 Resident*

Evacuation: Yes No If yes, How Many Evacuated? _____

Repair Cost (if known): \$ _____

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 Deck / Porch Construction

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: 1107160129 AFTER DAMAGE REPORTED.

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: 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:

The LINE WAS PREVIOUSLY MARKED WITH FLAGS NEAR THE METER WHERE A LEAK HAD BEEN REPAIRED IN APRIL OF 2010. CONCRETE STEPS WERE PLACED OVER THE EXISTING MARKERS. THEREFORE THE HOME OWNER (ROBERT TAPP) FOUND IT UNNECESSARY TO CALL 811.

EVEN AFTER THE JULY 16 2011 REPAIR WAS MADE AND THE LOCATE WAS MADE, OUR NEXT HOLE WAS ON THE GAS LINE. THE TRACER WAS APPROXIMATELY 12 TO 16 INCHES FROM THE GAS LINE.

YOUR PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION CASE NO. 1871

YOUR FULL NAME: Jimmy L. Griffey

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

YOUR BUSINESS TITLE (if applicable): _____

ADDRESS: 12355 Olive Trail

CITY: Plymouth STATE: IN ZIP CODE: 46563

YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER: (574) 936 5174 SECOND NO. (574) 933 1093

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS: hggriffey@embargmail.com

TODAY'S DATE: _____

YOUR SIGNATURE: _____ TITLE (if any) _____

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

**Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 1871
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 West Washington Street, # 1500E
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

Or scan document(s) and Email to:

PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov

Jimmy L. Griffy
12355 Olive Trail
Plymouth, IN 46563

December 12, 2011

Case # 1871

Dear Mr. Boyd:

In response to your letter dated 11/18/2011, I will, to the best of knowledge, give you an account of what happened on July 16th of this year regarding an incident concerning a damaged gas line. On July 16 2011 I was helping my brother-in-law install a deck and porch on the backside of a home he had recently purchased for his granddaughter, located at 11608 County Rd. 4 Middlebury, IN. When the home was purchased in April of 2010 a gas leak was detected near the meter. NIPSCO came to the home and located the gas line, put flags in the ground to identify its location, and made the required repair. After the repair was made a concrete step was positioned over this area with the flags in their original positions. All others had been removed to effect necessary yard cleaning and maintenance. When we removed the concrete steps and saw the locator flags we assumed that this was the location of the gas line all the way to the east end of the home. This assumption proved to be wrong and someone should have called 811 prior to the onset of our project.

I successfully dug the first three holes with a pair of hand held posthole diggers, being extremely careful, as I didn't know the exact location of the gas line. This means that I was taking only an inch or two of soil with each dig, and placing the posthole diggers into the soil gently. This was easily accomplished, as the soil on site is fine sand. Upon reaching a depth of approximately 20 inches in the process of digging the fourth hole I heard a slight hissing, and knew I had hit the gas line. I dug into the hole with my hand and exposed the gas line, then covered the hole completely up, shut off the gas to the home, turned off the electricity at the breaker box, and called NIPSCO. The dispatcher gave me a ticket number (1107160129) and told me to call 911, which I immediately did. A fireman from the Middlebury Fire Department arrived and stated that there was no emanate danger. The repairman had called and was only about twenty minutes away. The repair man came to the residence dug up the line in the damaged area and made the repair. Another man came with equipment and identified the gas line location for further digging. When the damaged section of gas line was removed to make

repairs it was evident that this section of piping had previously been kinked and scuffed tearing away a portion of the material the pipe is constructed of. This, I believe and the repairman commented, that it made the pipe weak and vulnerable to even the slightest impact.

After the repair was affected and the locater flags were positioned, we continued our project of digging the fifth hole and staying well clear of the flagged area, but in line with the other previously dug holes. Still using the same caution and care at approximately twenty inches we hit the gas line again, this time without doing any damage. The locater flags were approximately twelve to sixteen inches from the location of the gas line. I dug with a shovel under the spot where the locater flag was positioned, and found the tracer wire.

I kept all of the information in a chronological order securing names, times, instructions and comments; however after ninety days, and not hearing from NIPSCO, I discarded all of the information. Otherwise I would have a more complete and accurate account of the incident.

In closing, I would like to comment that the two individuals arriving at the site to make repairs and locate the gas line conducted themselves in a professional, courteous, and friendly manner.

Other witnesses to this event were:

Robert Tapp. (Home Owner) address: 13184 ST rd 120 Middlebury, IN 46540
Phone (574) 825-9257.

Chad Werker – address: 56447 County rd 23 Bristol, IN 46507 Phone (574) 849-0355

Sincerely,


Jim Griffy

