



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: **Wigent Excavating**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 1974

Investigator: Howard Friend

Report Date: 02/08/2012

Damage Date: 08/17/2011 10:55:44 AM

Damage Address: 1225 N In Rt 9

City: Columbia City

County: Whitley

### The Parties

Excavator: **Wigent Excavating**

Contact: James Wigent, Treasurer

Address: 1675 South In Rt 9, Columbia City, In 46725

Telephone:

Facility Owner: NIPSCO

Contact: Luke Selking

Address: 1501 Hale Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46802

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

**Investigation regarding: Wigent Excavating**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 1974

**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: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Agriculture

**Synopsis:** Damage to a natural gas service occurred during excavation.

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator responded to initial notice on 10/05/2011. Excavator did not request the location and marking of underground utilities before beginning work.

**Conclusion:** There was a failure to provide notice of excavation.

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

**Wigent Excavating** currently has no other reports of damages in the record.

NO

LOCATE

TICKET

PROVIDED



November 14, 2011

101 West Ohio Street  
Suite 1707  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

*Via Electronic Transmission – PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov*

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 1974  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 1974

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: 8/17/2011

Event Location: 1225 N IN Route 9, Columbia City

Facility Owner: NIPSCO

Excavator: Wiegant Excavating

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 1974

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. NIPSCO is also providing a copy of the locate ticket in support of the response.

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](mailto:cearle@nisource.com)

**IURC INFORMATION REQUEST****Pipeline Safety Division Case No. 1974**

1974

Date of Event

8/17/11

Event Location

1225 N IN Route 9, Columbia City

Facility Owner

Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator

Wiegent Excavating

Date of IURC Information Request

9/27/11

**EVENT LOCATION:**

ADDRESS

1225

STREET

N SR 9

CITY/TOWN/IN ZIP CODE

Columbia City, IN 46725

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

Wigent Excavating

ADDRESS

11675

STREET

S. SR 9

CITY/ STATE/ZIP

Columbia City, IN 46725

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](mailto: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  
08/17/11  
No locate requested  
Unknown  
No locate requested  
Unknown  
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  
Unknown

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED AND WHY

NIPSCO gas service struck and damaged during excavation by Wigent  
Excavating. Facility struck and damaged due to excavation operations without  
the benefit of locates.

Contractor called 811 for locates after hitting NIPSCO pipe. Ticket #1108171390

NIPSCO 00450 IUPPSa 08/17/2011 11:00:06 1108171390-00A NORM NEW GRID

## NORMAL NOTICE

Ticket : 1108171390 Date: 08/17/2011 Time: 10:55 Oper: STURNER Chan:000

State: IN Cnty: WHITLEY Twp: THORNCREEK  
Cityname: COLUMBIA CITY Inside: N Near: Y  
Subdivision:

Address : 1225  
Street : N IN RT 9  
Cross 1 : E CIDER MILL RD Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE ENTIRE PROPERTY

:  
Grids : 4110A8527A 4110B8528D 4110A8528D 4110B8528C 4110A8528C  
Grids : 4110C8528B 4110B8528B 4110C8528A 4110B8528A  
Boundary: n 41.183304 s 41.173126 w -85.481476 e -85.465294

Work type : MISCELLANOUS EXCAVATING  
Done for : REX SCHRADER  
Start date: 08/19/2011 Time: 11:15 Hours notice: 48/48 Priority: NORM  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: N  
Duration : 1 WEEK Depth: 4 FEET

Company : WIEGENT EXCAVATING Type: CONT  
Co addr : 1675 SOUTH IN RT 9  
City : COLUMBIA CITY State: IN Zip: 46725  
Caller : TODD PORTER Phone: (260)244-3014  
Contact : TODD PORTER - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (260)740-1373  
Fax : (260)244-5381  
Email : TODD@WIGENTEXC.COM

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO  
:

Submitted date: 08/17/2011 Time: 10:55  
Members: ID2034 ID5105 ID6111 ID7634 NIPSCO ID5857 SM

\* called in after damage occurred

Information Request

RECEIVED

Pipeline Safety Division  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

OCT 5 - 2011

INDIANA UTILITY  
REGULATORY COMMISSION

Case No. 1974

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: WIGENT EXCAVATING INC.  
Responsible Party Personal Name: TODD PORTER  
Title (if any): PROJCT MANAGER  
Address: 1675 S SR9  
City, State Zip: COLUMBIA CITY, IN, 46725  
Preferred Telephone: 260-244-3014  
Cell Phone Number: 260-740-1373  
Email Address: todd@wigentexc.com

EMPLOYEE INFO

**Facility Information:**

Business Name: WIGENT EXCAVATING INC.  
Responsible Party Personal Name: JAMES WIGENT  
Title (if any): TREASURER  
Address: 1675 S SR9  
City, State, Zip: COLUMBIA CITY, IN, 46725  
Preferred Telephone: 260-244-3014  
Cell Phone Number: 260-740-1375  
Email Address: james@wigentexc.com

OFFICER INFO  
(DIRECT SUPERIOR)

**Locator Service Information:**

Business Name: N/A  
Responsible Party Personal Name: N/A  
Title (if any): N/A  
Address: N/A  
City, State Zip: N/A  
Preferred Telephone: N/A  
Cell Phone Number: N/A  
Email Address: N/A

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

Personal Contact: JEFF WIGANT

Business/Organization Name: WIGANT EXCAVATING INC.

Title (if any) SUPERVISOR/OPERATOR

Address: 1675 S SR9

City, State, Zip: COLUMBIA CITY, IN, 46725

Preferred Telephone: 260-244-3014

Cell Phone Number: 260-740-1384

Email Address: N/A

Utility Line Impact:

Location of Damage:

Address: 1225 N SR9

City, State Zip: COLUMBIA CITY, IN, 46725

Nearest Intersection: SR9 & CIDER MILL ROAD

Product Type (circle one):

Natural Gas

Liquid Pipeline

Unknown/Other

Facility Type (circle one):

Distribution

Gathering

Service/Drop

Transmission

Unknown/Other

Size (Diameter/etc.): 3/4" +/-

Pressure (PSIG/Inches): 7

Interruption in Service: Yes / No

Number of Customers Affected: 1

Evacuation: Yes (No)

If yes, How Many Evacuated? 0

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

Release of Product:  Yes /  No

Ignition and/or Fire: Yes /  No

Excavator Notify 811:  Yes /  No - NOT PRIOR TO STRIKE

Locate Information:

Excavator Request Locate: Yes /  No

Indiana 811 Locate Ticket Number: \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

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: WHILE WIGENT EXCAVATING HAS A DEPENDABLE PROCEDURE IN PLACE... AS WITH ANYTHING, IT IS SUBJECT TO HUMAN ERROR. REGRETABLELY I SIMPLY FORGOT TO CALL IN THE REQUEST FOR LOCATE AND THAT, IN ITSELF, RESULTED DAMAGE TO THE RESIDENTIAL SERVICE. TO HELP AVOID THIS IN THE FUTURE, WE WILL BE INFORMING OUR FIELD EMPLOYEES TO CONTACT THEIR PROJECT MANAGER, PRIOR TO DIGGING, IF THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF LOCATES AT THE SITE.

I APOZOGIZE AGAIN AND WILL CONTINUE TO REFINE OUR PROCEDURE TO HELP INSURE AGAINST FUTURE STRIKES

RESPECTFULLY,  
TODD PORTER