



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: **Ritschard Brothers, Inc.**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 2992

Investigator: Mike Orr

Report Date: 1/4/2013

Damage Date: 5/23/2012 2:18:25 PM

Damage Address: 401 N Michigan St

City: South Bend

County: St Joseph

### The Parties

Excavator: **Ritschard Brothers, Inc.**

Contact: Shelly Dolniak

Address: 1204 West Sample Street, South Bend, In 46619

Telephone:

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: Ritschard Brothers, Inc.**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 2992

**Damage Impact**

Product release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: False

Number of Customers Affected: 0

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$

**Excavator Activities/Cause of damage information:**

Excavator request locates: Yes Indiana 811 ticket Number: 1205143203

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Site Development

**Synopsis:** Two (2) unmarked service stubs were compromised during excavation for a parking lot

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator did not respond to initial notice mailed 6/21/2012. The excavator had a valid locate prior to beginning the work; however, the gas operator failed to locate the facilities resulting in an OPERATOR VIOLATION with notice sent from the IURC 9/5/2012 and having the response time expired; the final determination is an OPERATOR VIOLATION.

**Conclusion:** The gas operator failed to locate facilities resulting in an OPERATOR VIOLATION.

**Violation: IC 8-1-26-18(f): Operator failed to locate or provided incorrect locate markings.**



101 West Ohio Street, Suite 1707  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

July 25, 2012

*Via Electronic Transmission – [PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov](mailto:PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov)*

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 2992  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 2992

To Whom It May Concern:

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

Date of Event: 5/23/2012

Event Location: 401 N Michigan St, South Bend

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Ritschard Brothers Incorporated

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 2992

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. To the extent available, NIPSCO is also providing a copy of the Damage Information Report – Pipeline Safety Division previously submitted by NIPSCO to IURC Pipeline Safety as well as additional documentation relating to this Event Location.

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)

<b>IURC INFORMATION REQUEST</b>	
<b>Pipeline Safety Division Case No. 2992</b>	
Date of Event	5/23/2012
Event Location	401 N Michigan St, South Bend
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Ritschard Brothers Incorporated
Date of IURC Information Request	7/5/2012
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	Ritschard Brothers Inc
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	401 N Michigan St
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	South Bend, IN
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	574 288 4777
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
<b>FACILITY INFORMATION - OWNER/OPERATOR OF UTILITY LINE:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	LUKE SELKING
TITLE	
ADDRESS	1501 HALE AVENUE
CITY/STATE/ZIP	FORT WAYNE, IN 46802
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	260/439-1290
SECONDARY TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	<a href="mailto:LSELKING@NISOURCE.COM">LSELKING@NISOURCE.COM</a>
<b>LOCATOR SERVICE INFORMATION</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	USIC
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	Morgan Thompson
TITLE (IF ANY)	Claims Coordinator
ADDRESS	9045 N. River Rd. Suite 300
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Indianapolis, IN 46240
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	1-317-538-7301
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	Same
EMAIL ADDRESS	morganthompson@usicinc.com
<b>OTHER (WITNESS, POLICE, FIRE, OTHER) INFORMATION</b>	
PERSONAL CONTACT	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	

ADDRESS	
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
<b>UTILITY LINE IMPACT</b>	
<b>LOCATION OF DAMAGE</b>	
ADDRESS	401 N Michigan St
CITY/STATE/ZIP	South Bend, IN
NEAREST INTERSECTION	Madison St
<b>PRODUCT TYPE (Select One)</b>	
NATURAL GAS	X
LIQUID PIPELINE	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
<b>FACILITY TYPE (Select One)</b>	
DISTRIBUTION	
GATHERING	
SERVICE/DROP	
TRANSMISSION	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	X stub
SIZE (DIAMETER/ETC.)	5/8"
PRESSURE (PSIG/INCHES)	
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	
EVACUATION (YES/NO)	
IF YES, HOW MANY EVACUATED	
REPAIR COST (IF KNOWN) (\$)	
<b>CAUSE OF DAMAGE INFORMATION:</b>	
<b>TYPE OF EQUIPMENT (Select One)</b>	
Auger	
Backhoe/Trackhoe	X
Boring/Drilling	
Directional Drilling	
Explosives	
Farm Equipment	
Grader/Scraper	
Hand Tools	
Milling Equipment	
Probing Device	

Trancher	
Vacuum Equipment	
Unknown/Other	
<b>TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED (Select One)</b>	
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	X
RELEASE OF PRODUCT (YES/NO)	Y
IGNITION AND/OR FIRE (YES/NO)	
EXCAVATOR NOTIFY 811 (YES/NO)	Y 1205233236
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Y

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1205143203
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	Y
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	N
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	
MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITIES (YES/NO)	Y
OPERATOR EMPLOYEES ON-SITE DURING EXCAVATION (YES/NO)	N
<b>INCIDENT IMPACT INFORMATION</b>	
NUMBER OF OUTPATIENT TREATED	0
NUMBER OF INPATIENT TREATED	0
NUMBER OF FACILITIES	
FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	
FPOLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	
AMBULANCE RESPONSE (YES/NO)	
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS</b>	
<p>Excavator hit 2 un-locatable stubs that were not marked</p> <p>Nipsco emergency repair ticket #: 1205233389</p>	

NIPSCO 01039 IUPPSa 05/23/2012 14:18:37 1205233236-00A EMER DAMG STRT

DAMAGE SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1205233236 Date: 05/23/2012 Time: 14:16 Oper: AGRIGGS Chan:015

State: IN Cnty: ST JOSEPH Twp: PORTAGE  
Cityname: SOUTH BEND Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision:

#2992

Address : 401  
Street : N MICHIGAN ST  
Cross 1 : MADISON ST Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: FROM BUILDING LOCATE GOING NORTH APPROX 150 FEET TO THE NORTH SIDE OF  
ALLEY AND LOCATE WEST TO THE WEST SIDE OF ALLEY AND LOCATE SOUTH TO THE CENTER  
LINE OF MADISON ST AND EAST TO CENTER LINE OF MICHIGAN ST - PAINT AND FLAG  
:  
Grids : 4140A8615D 4140A8614A  
Boundary: n 41.681595 s 41.679897 w -86.251106 e -86.249641

Work type : UG UTILITY FOR NEW PARKING LOT  
Done for : REITH RILEY CONSTRUCTION  
Start date: 05/23/2012 Time: 14:16 Hours notice: 0/0 Priority: EMER  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y  
Duration : 3 MONTHS Depth: 10 FEET

Company : RITSCHARD BROTHERS INCORPORATED Type: CONT  
Co addr : 1204 WEST SAMPLE STREET  
City : SOUTH BEND State: IN Zip: 46619  
Caller : SHELLY DOLNIAK Phone: (574)288-4777  
Contact : SHELLY DOLNIAK - OFFICE Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (574)288-4777  
Fax : (574)288-5438

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
A NIPSCO LINE HAS BEEN CUT AND IS BLOWING - LOCATION OF CUT UNKNOWN - SIZE COLOR  
AND MATERIAL UNKNOWN - CALLER HAS CALLED NIPSCO TO REPORT THE CUT - ADVISED TO  
CALL 911 - CREW IS ON SITE - PREVIOUS TICKET NUMBER 1205143203  
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO  
:

Submitted date: 05/23/2012 Time: 14:16  
Members: AEPIN COMCN ID5610 ID6590 NIPSCO SBCIN SM

NIPSCO 01169 IUPPSa 05/14/2012 14:46:05 1205143203-00A NORM NEW STRT

NORMAL NOTICE

Ticket : 1205143203 Date: 05/14/2012 Time: 14:43 Oper: LSTEVENSON Chan:018

State: IN Cnty: ST JOSEPH Twp: PORTAGE  
Cityname: SOUTH BEND Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision:

#2992

Address : 401  
Street : N MICHIGAN ST  
Cross 1 : MADISON ST Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: FROM BUILDING LOCATE GOING NORTH APPROX 150 FEET TO THE NORTH SIDE OF ALLEY AND LOCATE WEST TO THE WEST SIDE OF ALLEY AND LOCATE SOUTH TO THE CENTER LINE OF MADISON ST AND EAST TO CENTER LINE OF MICHIGAN ST - PAINT AND FLAG

:  
Grids : 4140A8615D 4140A8614A  
Boundary: n 41.681595 s 41.679897 w -86.251106 e -86.249641

Work type : UG UTILITY FOR NEW PARKING LOT  
Done for : REITH RILEY CONSTRUCTION  
Start date: 05/16/2012 Time: 15:00 Hours notice: 48/48 Priority: NORM  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: N  
Duration : 3 MONTHS Depth: 10 FEET

Company : RITSCHARD BROTHERS INCORPORATED Type: CONT  
Co addr : 1204 WEST SAMPLE STREET  
City : SOUTH BEND State: IN Zip: 46619  
Caller : SHELLY DOLNIAK Phone: (574)288-4777  
Contact : SHELLY DOLNIAK - OFFICE Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (574)288-4777  
Fax : (574)288-5438

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

Submitted date: 05/14/2012 Time: 14:43  
Members: AEPIN COMCN ID5610 ID6590 NIPSCO SBCIN SM

# Fact Based Investigation Report

01820120523008  
Northern IN  
5/23/2012 2:16:00 PM  
5/23/2012 2:20:14 PM  
SHELLY DOLNIAK  
401 N MICHIGAN ST  
SOUTH BEND  
ST: IN ZIP:

NOTIFICATION ID:  
DISTRICT:  
DAMAGE DATE:  
NOTIFICATION DATE:  
NOTIFIED BY:  
DAMAGE ADDRESS:  
CITY:

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NIPSCO

DAMAGED CUSTOMER:

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05/23/2012  
13:25:00  
14:20:00

INVESTIGATION DATE:  
FROM:  
TO:

---

RITSCHARD BROTHERS  
INSTALLING NEW PARKING LOT

EXCAVATOR INVOLVED:  
TYPE OF EXCAVATION:

---

1205143203

ORIG. LOCATE REQ.:  
START DATE/TIME:  
TYPE OF TICKET:  
LOCATE REQ. INFO N/A:

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M50913647

DIG UP/DAMAGE REQ.:  
START DATE/TIME:

---

ERIC VEACH  
5/23/2012 2:00:00 PM  
Digital

PICTURES TAKEN BY:  
DATE/TIME:  
PHOTOGRAPHY TYPE:  
FRAME #:

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113212

INVESTIGATOR EMP#:  
INVESTIGATOR NAME:

ERIC VEACH  
**BASED ON YOUR INVESTIGATION, IS FURTHER INVESTIGATION NEEDED?**  
No

# Fact Based Investigation Customer Information

01820120523008

NIPSCO

*(optional)*

**NOTIFICATION ID:**

**SELECT A CUSTOMER:**

**CUSTOMER #:**

LOWPROF

Gas Service

O'Donnell Allen - 124207

**FACILITY DESCRIPTION:**

**FACILITY ID:**

**LOCATOR NAME & EMP #:**

**LOCATOR NOT KNOWN:**

**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO INVESTIGATION:**

Abandoned Facility

**Other:**

**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO METHOD OF INVESTIGATION (at least one must be checked):**

Visual, Facility Exposed At Time Of Investigation

**INVESTIGATOR STATEMENT/CAUSAL FACTORS:**

CONTRACTOR CUT 2 5/8 PL NIPSCO STUBS IN THE ALLEY WAY. THE MAIN WAS MARKED. NO WAY TO LOCATE THE STUBS SINCE THEY WERE BURIED WITH NO TRACER OR STUB ABOVE GROUND.

**NAMES OF UTILITY REPRESENTATIVES CONTACTED OR ON SITE AND STATEMENT:**

N/A

**NAMES OF EXCAVATOR'S REPRESENTATIVES CONTACTED OR ON SITE AND STATEMENT:**

N/A

**LIST ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS ON SITE:**

N/A

**WERE ANY MARKINGS VISIBLE ON THE DAMAGE SITE UPON ARRIVAL?**

Yes

**WERE ANY OTHER INDICATORS OF FACILITY PRESENT IN THE AREA?**

No

**WAS THE EXCAVATION WITHIN THE TOLERANCE ZONE OF MARKS?**

Yes

**EXTENT OF FACILITY DAMAGE**

CUT IN HALF

**REPLACEMENT FOOTAGE**

N/A

**WAS CONTRACTOR ASSISTANCE REQUIRED? IF YES, WHO?**

No

**WHAT CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT WAS USED?**

TRACKHOE

**IS THE FACILITY SHOWN ON THE UTILITY RECORDS?**

No

**IF YES, PLEASE LIST RECORD #(S)**