



Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

Investigation regarding: **Phil Mellady**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 329

Investigator: Chuck Weindorf

Report Date: 03/16/2012

Damage Date: 4/14/2011 2:13:10 PM

Damage Address: 1910 Pierce Street

City: Lafayette

County: Tippecanoe

The Parties

Excavator: **Phil Mellady**

Contact: Phil Mellady

Address: 1910 Pierce Street, Lafayette, In 47904

Telephone:

Facility Owner: Vectren

Contact: Darlene Kulhanek

Address: 1 N Main Street, Evansville, IN 47702

Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Investigation regarding: Phil Mellady

UPPAC Database Record ID: 329

Damage Impact

Product release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: True

Number of Customers Affected: 1

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$643

Excavator Activities/Cause of damage information:

Excavator request locates: No Indiana 811 ticket Number:

Type of Equipment: Hand Tools

Type of work performed: Fencing

Synopsis: Homeowner/occupant struck a natural gas service line while digging to install a fence.

Findings: Reported by Indiana 811; initial notice was delivered and signed for on 11/16/2011, however excavator failed to respond. Excavation was done without calling Indiana 811 for locates.

Conclusion: Excavator failed to provide notice of excavation.

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

Phil Mellady currently has no other reports of damage on the record.

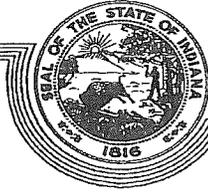
NO

LOCATE

TICKET

PROVIDED

STATE OF INDIANA



INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
101 W. WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 1500E
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-3407

<http://www.in.gov/iurc>
Office: (317) 232-2701
Facsimile: (317) 232-6758

November 15, 2011

Ms. Darlene Kulhanek
Vectren
1 N Main Street
Evansville, IN 47702

RECEIVED

DEC 01 2011

INDIANA UTILITY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

Subject: Investigation Request for Information

Date of Event: 4/14/2011

Event Location: 1910 Pierce Street, Lafayette

Facility Owner: Vectren

Excavator: Vectren

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 329

Dear Ms. Kulhanek:

Pursuant to Indiana Code 8-1-26, the *Indiana Damage to Underground Facilities Act*, the Pipeline Safety Division of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("Pipeline Division") is required to investigate reported incidents of alleged statutory violations involving underground pipeline safety. The purpose of this statute is to promote excavation and pipeline safety and to reduce the imminent danger to life, health, property, or loss of service associated with unsafe digging practices. Please note that the investigation does not entail determining criminal liability or a civil determination of fault or damages; however, it does determine whether any statutory violations were committed regarding public safety.

The Pipeline Division received information regarding potential statutory violations regarding the date and location referenced above. You were identified as a person or entity that might have information that would assist the Pipeline Division in its investigation. Therefore, we have contacted you in order to receive the full account of information in order to make a fair determination related to the circumstances of this incident.

We have asked all involved parties, entities and witnesses to provide *written* information within *30 days* in order to meet legal deadlines to conclude our investigation. **Please consider this letter as a formal request to receive any and all information and evidence (including a narrative, documentation,**

maps, photographs or any other written information) you can access regarding anything you may know about the incident referenced above.

Please promptly provide your information to: Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 329, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, 101 West Washington Street, # 1500E, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Also, please include the Investigation Number referenced above on your materials. In the alternative, if you would prefer to scan the materials and send them electronically, please send the documents to: *PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov*.

Although you are not a formal party in this investigation, please treat this request for information seriously, because the potential civil penalties for violations include: a potential civil fine up to \$10,000.00; mandatory education and training for employees regarding pipeline safety; a required development plan to avoid future violations; or a warning letter for certain homeowner/tenants who are first time offenders. Consequently, your input will assist the Pipeline Division with its determination and may have a substantial impact on the case.

After the investigation is completed, the Pipeline Division will prepare an Investigation Report with findings and forward it to the Underground Plant Protection Advisory Committee (“Advisory Committee”). This is a statutory committee, comprised of excavators, facility operators, investor and municipal utilities, the 811 Association and facility locate marking companies, whose role is to evaluate the Pipeline Division’s findings and make a recommendation for a civil penalty. In the event there is disagreement regarding the Advisory Committee’s recommendation to the Commission, parties are entitled to request a hearing before the full Commission. If there is a violation, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) will impose the penalty. Any fines imposed are statutorily required to be spent funding the Commission’s training and educational programming to promote excavation and pipeline safety.

Thank you for your *prompt* assistance in providing written information to the Pipeline Division regarding the previously referenced incident. Any information received after the deadlines will not be considered in the investigation, will be unavailable to the Advisory Committee and will result in a lack of full information being made available; hence, your participation is vital to serving the interests of justice and enhancing the public’s safety. In an effort to assist you, please find an enclosure entitled “Information Request.” Should you have procedural or legal questions regarding the Underground Plant Protection Advisory Committee or the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, please contact David L. Welch, Assistant General Counsel, at (317) 234-4715. Should you have questions regarding the pipeline damage identified above, or our investigation, please contact me at (317) 232-2718. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



William Boyd
Director, Pipeline Safety Division

Enclosure: Information Request



DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

State Form 54122 (R2 / 7-11)
INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Submitted to IURC-Pipeline Safety on: Nov 28, 2011

Who is submitting this information?

Name of person providing this information: Darlene Kulhanek

Business address (*number and street*): 1 Main Street

City, State, and ZIP code: Evansville, IN 47711

Telephone number (*area code*): 812-491-4227

Fax number (*area code*): 812-491-4504

E-mail address: dkulhanek@vectren.com

Excavator Information, if known

Full name: Phil Mellady

Business address (*number and street*): Unknown

City, State, and ZIP code: Unknown

Telephone number (*area code*): Unknown

Fax number (*area code*): unknown

E-mail address: Unknown

Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Occupant

Excavation or demolition equipment: Hand Tools

Type of work performed: Fencing

Date and Location of Damage

Date of damage (*month, day, year*): 4-14-2010

County: Tippecanoe

City: Lafayette

Street address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):
1910 Pierce Street, Lafayette, IN 47904

Nearest intersection: unknown

Right of way where damage occurred: Private - Land Owner

Was there a release of product? Yes

If yes, was there an ignition of product? No

Were evacuations necessary as a result of release? No

If yes, how many evacuated? 0

Was there a customer service interruption? Yes

If yes, how many affected? 1

Time to restore service (*in hours*): 2.25

Enter number of injuries, if applicable and known: 0

Enter number of fatalities, if applicable and known: 0

Property damage, Estimate \$ 842.56

Affected Facility Information

What type of pipeline was damaged? Natural Gas

What was the affected facility? Service/Drop

What was the depth of the facility, in inches? _____

Notification, Locating, Marking

Did excavator request locates prior to commencing work? No

Enter Indiana 811 ticket number, if known: _____

Was the locate request completed within two working days? Unknown/Other

If locates were performed, were they done so by a contractor or pipeline employee? Unknown/Other

If a contractor locator, enter the company name, if known: _____

Were facility marks visible in the area of excavation? No

Were facilities marked correctly? Unknown/Other

Type of markings used:

If other, please specify: _____

Was site marked by "White Lining"? No

Were special instructions part of the locate request? Unknown/Other

Were maps used to complete the locate request? Unknown/Other

Were pipeline company representatives on site during excavation? No

Did the excavator notify the operator in the event of this damage? No

Did the excavator notify Indiana 811 in the event of this damage? Yes

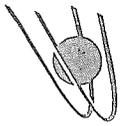
Did the excavator notify 911 in the event of a release of product? No

Description of Cause

Select from the list the most accurate cause for the damage: --No notification made to the one-call center

Additional Comments

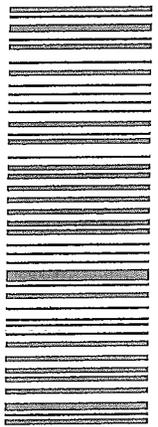
3/4" plastic service severed by posthole diggers. Did Not request locates



VECTREN

Vectren Corporation
P.O. Box 209
Evansville, IN 47702-0209

CERTIFIED MAIL™



7011 0470 0002 1184 4103



UNCLAIMED

10/21



1st Notice: 10/21

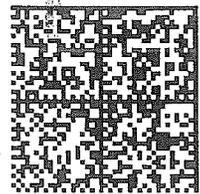
2nd Notice: 11/5

Revised: 11/5



UNCLAIMED

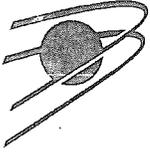
J. West



Mc neepost

047J82005645
\$05.590
10/28/2011
Mailed From 47711
US POSTAGE





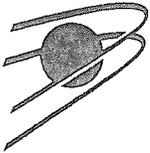
2 VECTREN ENERGY DELIVERY OF INDIANA - NORTH

NOW DUE
FINAL
\$642.56

MELLADY, PHIL
1910 PIERCE ST
LAFAYETTE, IN 47904

Type: GAS
Invoice: FDS0014159
BillToID: 30105
Billing Date: 9/30/2011
Date of Loss: 4/14/2011
5955 103.0510

Please return this portion with your remittance.



Mail Payment To:
Vectren Utilities Holdings Corporation
1239 Reliable Parkway
Chicago, IL 60686-0012
Inquiries: 1-877-902-2934, Mon.-Fri., 8-5
Risk Management/Claims Department

NOW DUE
FINAL
\$642.56

MELLADY, PHIL
1910 PIERCE ST
LAFAYETTE, IN 47904

Type: GAS
Invoice: FDS0014159
BillToID: 30105
Billing Date: 9/30/2011
Date of Loss: 4/14/2011

Invoice For Costs to Repair and Reconstruct Damaged Property

Address: 1910 PIERCE STREET, LAFAYETTE
3/4" PLASTIC SERVICE SEVERED BY POSTHOLE DIGGERS.

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Material: | \$70.31 |
| Company Labor: | \$400.83 |
| Contract Labor: | \$0.00 |
| Transportation/Equipment: | \$26.73 |
| Misc: | \$0.00 |
| Gas Loss: | \$144.69 |
| Adjustments: | \$0.00 |
| Payments: | \$0.00 |
| Total: | \$642.56 |

5955 103.0510

Remember, call two (2) working days before digging. Contact I.U.P.P.S. at 1-800-382-5544.

Service Order Status

Enter Service Order Number:

4778610



Print Data

Refresh Data

Banner Instance: CS03PROD CS01PROD CS02PROD
Order Number: N4778610
Order Type: LEAK
Order Status: Completed

Customer: 600392466 - MELLADY JEAN A
Prem: 5225080 - 1910 PIERCE ST

Technician: 2713 - McKinney, Jim

Order Dates and Times

Need Date: 4/14/2011 1:44:00 PM
Time Created: 4/14/2011 1:40:30 PM
Time Dispatched: 4/14/2011 1:40:30 PM
Time In Route: 4/14/2011 1:44:07 PM
Time On-Site: 4/14/2011 1:50:37 PM
Tech Complete: 4/14/2011 3:07:35 PM
Time Closed: 4/14/2011 3:07:35 PM

Events Performed/Completion Code

LKOT - CMP

Meter Information

Current Read Status

Old Meter: 2857 Inactive
New Meter:

Completion Notes

MCKINNEY. CUSTOMER DIGGIG IN YARD, HIT 3/4" SERVICE LINE WITH POST HOLE DIGGERS . CALLED SUPERVISOR & CREW TO MAKE REPAIRS. LEAK REPORT #654483. MCKINNEY. S QUEEZED OFF AT 2:43

Request Notes

4/14/11- PER ROB WITH LAFAYETTE FIRE DEPT/ PH# 765-807-1200/ FIRE DEPT IN ROUTE/ **NO ETA REQ** UNSURE IF SERV OR MAIN AND BLOW?

MDSI Event Dates and Times

| Event | Date/Time | User |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| AsnAssignmentManualAck_evt | 4/14/2011 1:43:31 PM | McKinney, Jim |
| AsnAssignmentEnRoute_evt | 4/14/2011 1:44:07 PM | McKinney, Jim |
| AsnAssignmentOnSite_evt | 4/14/2011 1:50:37 PM | McKinney, Jim |
| OrdOrderComplete_evt | 4/14/2011 3:07:35 PM | McKinney, Jim |

NOTE:The Reporting database replicates in near real-time; it has been approximately 0 minute(s) since the last transaction replicated.

DAMAGE DAMAGE

Ticket : 1104142551 Date: 04/14/2011 Time: 14:06 Oper: SPEOPLES Chan:000

State: IN Cnty: TIPPECANOE Twp: FAIRFIELD
 Cityname: LAFAYETTE Inside: Y Near: N
 Subdivision:

Address : 1910
 Street : PIERCE ST
 Cross 1 : N 19TH ST Within 1/4 mile: Y
 Location: LOCATE THE FRONT OF THE PROPERTY OUT TO THE MIDDLE OF PIERCE STREET
 :
 Grids : 4025A8652C 4025A8652B

Work type : REPAIR A HIT GAS SERVICE
 Done for : JEAN MELLADY
 Start date: 04/14/2011 Time: 14:08 Hours notice: 0/000 Priority: EMER
 Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y
 Duration : 2 HOURS Depth: 3 FEET

Company : VECTREN Type: MEMB
 Co addr : 1250 SOUTH CREASY LANE
 City : LAFAYETTE State: IN Zip: 47902
 Caller : JIM MCKINNEY Phone: (765)449-5609
 Contact : JIM MCKINNEY - CELL Phone:
 BestTime:
 Mobile : (765)714-7166
 Fax : (765)449-5750

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time
 PER JIM MCKINNEY - GAS LINE WAS DAMAGED - GAS LINE IS BLOWING - HOMEOWNER CALLED
 911- VECTREN IS THE UTILITY - DESCRIPTION OF LINE IS PLASTIC AND 3 QUARTER INCH
 AND ORANGE IN COLOR - LINE WAS DAMAGED ON THE EAST SIDE OF HOUSE - CREW IS EN
 ROUTE - VECTREN HAS BEEN NOTIFIED - THERE IS NO PREVIOUS TICKET NUMBER
 Will you be white-lining the dig site area? YES
 :

Submitted date: 04/14/2011 Time: 14:06
 Members: G317 ID0002 ID4561 ID8000 ID8428 ID8825 ID9488 SM

| Member Name | Facility Types |
|---|----------------|
| ARNETT CLINIC LLC | |
| COMCAST- LAFAYETTE | CABLE TV |
| DUKE ENERGY / FORMERLY CINERGY ELECTRIC | |
| FRONTIER | TELEPHONE |
| INDIANA DATALINE CORP | |
| LAFAYETTE UTILITIES, CITY OF | WATER |
| VECTREN - LAFAYETTE | GAS |

[View Map](#)

[Close Map](#)



Property of United States Infrastructure Corporation
Photo taken on 4/14/2011 2:57:50 PM



Property of United States Infrastructure Corporation
Photo taken on 4/14/2011 2:57:54 PM



Property of United States Infrastructure Corporation
Photo taken on 4/14/2011 2:58:20 PM

NO
EXCAVATOR
RESPONSE
PROVIDED