



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

## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: South Whitley Excavating

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3324

Report Date: 4/18/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 6/11/2012

Damage Address: 4970 E Smith St, Columbia City, Whitley

### The Parties

Excavator: **South Whitley Excavating**

Address: 8744 S 700 East, Piercton, In 46562

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of Work Performed: Demolition

### 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: 1205291858

Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions:

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

**Synopsis:** A natural gas service stub was damaged during excavation for demolition of a building.

**Findings:** Reported by NIPSCO; excavator failed to respond to initial notice.. The excavator had a valid locate request. The operator failed to provide locate marks for the undocumented service stub.

**Conclusion:** There was a failure to provide locate markings.

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

NOTE: The operator reported the failure to provide locate markings due to the line being undocumented.



## DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

State Form 54122 (R2 / 7-11)

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Submitted to IURC-Pipeline Safety on: Jul 9, 2012

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### Who is submitting this information?

Name of person providing this information: Carrie Ludwig (NIPSCO)

Business address (*number and street*): 3511 East 15th Ave

City, State, and ZIP code: Gary, IN 46403

Telephone number (*area code*): 219 962 0422

Fax number (*area code*): 219 962 0404

E-mail address: cludwig@nisource.com

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### Excavator Information, if known

Full name: South Whitley Excavating

Business address (*number and street*): 8744 S 700 East

City, State, and ZIP code: Piercton, IN 46562

Telephone number (*area code*): 260 609 5685

Fax number (*area code*):

E-mail address: AMSRACING06@YAHOO.COM

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### Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Contractor

Excavation or demolition equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Bldg. Demolition

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## Date and Location of Damage

Date of damage (*month, day, year*): Jun 11, 2012

County: Whitley

City: Columbia City

Street address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):  
4970 E Smith St

Nearest intersection: E 500 S

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? No

If yes, how many affected? 0

Time to restore service (*in hours*): 0

Enter number of injuries, if applicable and known: 0

Enter number of fatalities, if applicable and known: 0

Property damage, Estimate \$

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## 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? 16

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## Notification, Locating, Marking

Did excavator request locates prior to commencing work? Yes

Enter Indiana 811 ticket number, if known: 1205291858

Was the locate request completed within two working days? Yes

If locates were performed, were they done so by a contractor or pipeline employee? Contract Locator

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

Were facility marks visible in the area of excavation? Yes

Were facilities marked correctly? Unknown/Other

Type of markings used: Paint

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? Yes

Were pipeline company representatives on site during excavation? No

Did the excavator notify the operator in the event of this damage? Yes

Did the excavator notify Indiana 811 in the event of this damage? No

Did the excavator notify 911 in the event of a release of product? Unknown/Other

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### **Description of Cause**

Select from the list the most accurate cause for the damage: --Facility was not located or marked

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### **Additional Comments**

Excavator hit untoneable stub

Nipsco emergency repair ticket #: 1206110975

Excavator is not at fault. Gas operator failed to locate or provided incorrect locate markings. MAO 7/10/2012.



101 West Ohio Street, Suite 1707  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

August 13, 2012

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

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 3324  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 3324

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: 6/11/2012

Event Location: 4970 E Smith St, Columbia City

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: South Whitley Excavating

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 3324

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. 3324</b>	
Date of Event	6/11/2012
Event Location	4970 E Smith St, Columbia City
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	South Whitley Excavating
Date of IURC Information Request	7/13/2012
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	South Whitley Excavating
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	8744 South 700 East
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Pierceton, IN 46562
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	260 609 5685
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	260 609 5685
EMAIL ADDRESS	<a href="mailto:Amsracing06@yahoo.com">Amsracing06@yahoo.com</a>
<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 Locating Service
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	9045 North River Road, Suite 300
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Indianapolis, IN 46240
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
<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	4970 E Smith St
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Columbia City, IN 46725
NEAREST INTERSECTION	500 E.
<b>PRODUCT TYPE (Select One)</b>	
NATURAL GAS	X
LIQUID PIPELINE	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
<b>FACILITY TYPE (Select One)</b>	
DISTRIBUTION	
GATHERING	
SERVICE/DROP	X
TRANSMISSION	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
SIZE (DIAMETER/ETC.)	5/8 plastic
PRESSURE (PSIG/INCHES)	45
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	No
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	0
EVACUATION (YES/NO)	No
IF YES, HOW MANY EVACUATED	0
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	

Trencher	
Vacuum Equipment	
Unknown/Other	
<b>TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED (Select One)</b>	
Agriculture	
Cable TV	
Curb/Sidewalk	
Bldg. Construction	
Bldg. Demolition	X
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)	Yes
IGNITION AND/OR FIRE (YES/NO)	No
EXCAVATOR NOTIFY 811 (YES/NO)	No
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Yes

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1205291858
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	Yes
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	No
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	No
MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITIES (YES/NO)	Yes
OPERATOR EMPLOYEES ON-SITE DURING EXCAVATION (YES/NO)	No
<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>Facility was not located accurately. Line was a stub.  Nipsco emergency repair ticket #: 1206110975</p>	

# Fact Based Investigation Report

01820120611005  
Northern IN  
6/11/2012 8:25:00 AM  
6/11/2012 9:46:49 AM  
SHERRI Facility Owner  
4970 E SMITH ST X 500 E  
COLUMBIA CITY  
ST: IN ZIP:

---

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

NIPSCO

---

DAMAGED CUSTOMER:

06/11/2012  
09:45:00  
10:15:00

---

INVESTIGATION DATE:  
FROM:  
TO:

SOUTH WHITLEY EXCAVATING  
Demolition

---

EXCAVATOR INVOLVED:  
TYPE OF EXCAVATION:

1205291858  
Routine

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

1206110975

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

Jeff Jagger  
6/11/2012 10:00:00 AM  
Digital

---

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

113190

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INVESTIGATOR EMP#:  
INVESTIGATOR NAME:

Jeff Jagger  
**BASED ON YOUR INVESTIGATION, IS FURTHER INVESTIGATION NEEDED?**  
No

## Fact Based Investigation Customer Information

01820120611005

NIPSCO

*(optional)*

**NOTIFICATION ID:**

**SELECT A CUSTOMER:**

**CUSTOMER #:**

LOWPROF

Gas Service

Jagger Jeff - 113190

**FACILITY DESCRIPTION:**

**FACILITY ID:**

**LOCATOR NAME & EMP #:**

**LOCATOR NOT KNOWN:**

**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO INVESTIGATION:**

Other

**Other:** See Below

**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 was demolishing an old building on the property. There was a stub that was hidden in the bushes and trees by the building that did not have a riser. Tech walked around the building two times and could not find a service. Service will be capped off as it is an abandoned line.

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

NA

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

NA

**LIST ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS ON SITE:**

NA

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Yes	<b>WERE ANY MARKINGS VISIBLE ON THE DAMAGE SITE UPON ARRIVAL?</b>
Yes	<b>WERE ANY OTHER INDICATORS OF FACILITY PRESENT IN THE AREA?</b>
No	<b>WAS THE EXCAVATION WITHIN THE TOLERANCE ZONE OF MARKS?</b>
severed	<b>EXTENT OF FACILITY DAMAGE</b>
none	<b>REPLACEMENT FOOTAGE</b>
No	<b>WAS CONTRACTOR ASSISTANCE REQUIRED? IF YES, WHO?</b>
nA	<b>WHAT CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT WAS USED?</b>
No	<b>IS THE FACILITY SHOWN ON THE UTILITY RECORDS?</b>
NA	<b>IF YES, PLEASE LIST RECORD #(S)</b>



NIPSCO 00575 IUPPSa 05/29/2012 11:51:37 1205291858-00A NORM NEW GRID

NORMAL NOTICE

Ticket : 1205291858 Date: 05/29/2012 Time: 11:45 Oper: DWILSON Chan:006

# 3324

State: IN Cnty: WHITLEY Twp: UNION  
Cityname: COESSE Inside: N Near: Y  
Subdivision:

Address : 4970

Street : E SMITH ST

Cross 1 : E 500 S Within 1/4 mile: Y

Location: LOCATE--ENTIRE PROPERTY--

:

Grids : 4107B8523B 4107B8523A 4107C8523B 4107C8523A

Boundary: n 41.126720 s 41.124691 w -85.397354 e -85.394371

Work type : DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS/INSTALLING POND

Done for : MIKE AND WANDA SMITH

Start date: 05/31/2012 Time: 12:00 Hours notice: 48/48 Priority: NORM

Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: N

Duration : 1 WEEK Depth: 14 FEET

Company : SOUTH WHITLEY EXCAVATING Type: OTHR

Co addr : 8744 SOUTH 700 EAST

City : PIERCETON State: IN Zip: 46562

Caller : KURT SMITH Phone: (260)609-5685

Contact : TIM MOYER--CELL Phone:

BestTime:

Mobile : (260)609-5685

Email : AMSRACING06@YAHOO.COM

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

:

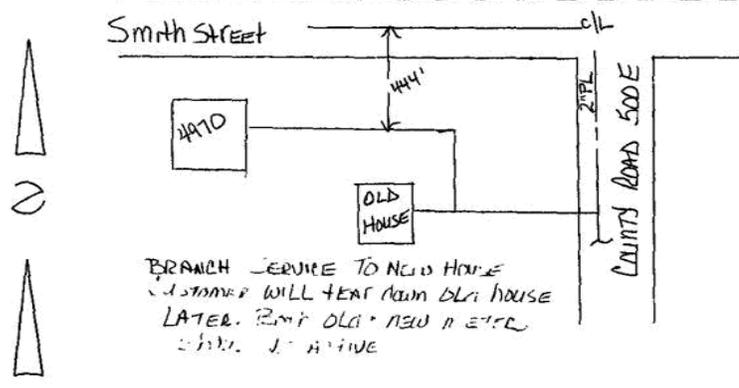
Submitted date: 05/29/2012 Time: 11:45

Members: AEPIN ID2034 ID7053 NIPSCO ID5857

**SERVICE RECORD**

STREET AND NO. 4970 E. South TOWN COENGE SUBDIV. NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOWNSHIP Union COUNTY Whitley BLOCK NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
 TRANSMISSION DISTRICT SHEET NO. 45C 117A INQUIRY SERV. NO. \_\_\_\_\_ LOT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

GAS  LP  NG  HP



IDENTIFY STREETS AND ALLEYS

SERVICE ACTIVITY RECORD

DAVID DEANER  
BS 9035426 1/3/91  
ON CAD 3-12-91  
22-24310E

---

SERVICE CONNECTION  
 SIZE TAP 1/2"  
 KIND AND SIZE CONNECTION \_\_\_\_\_

Order - GAS LEAK - Meter #

Order Selected Edit View Help

**Order/Ticket Charges = \$ 0.00, Ticket # 537154201, Order # 528216207**

Type	Date/Time	Operator	Se
FEDBACK-COMplete	06/11/2012-10:25AM	WMNIPRD	
COMPLETE IN FIELD	06/11/2012-10:25AM	WMNIPRD	
ON-SITE	06/11/2012-09:11AM	WMNIPRD	
ENROUTE	06/11/2012-08:50AM	WMNIPRD	
ASSIGNED	06/11/2012-08:48AM	WMNIPRD	
ACCEPTED	06/11/2012-08:42AM	LOPEZ, DANIEL L	
SCHEDULED	06/11/2012-08:39AM	PATTON, TANISHA D	
UNSCHEDULED	06/11/2012-08:39AM	PATTON, TANISHA D	

Order Status Comments

contractor broke stop off riser capped service 6' from riser not being used

General  
 Order Activity  
 Feedback  
 Gas Leak  
 Related Orders



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David Schaafsma | Leader of Damage Prevention | Gas System Integrity & Design | ✉: [dschaafsma@nsource.com](mailto:dschaafsma@nsource.com)

NIPSCO | 3511 E. 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. | Gary, IN 46403 ☎: (M) 219-688-6552 | ☎: (O) 219-962-0448

**It's better to lose one minute in life... than to lose life in a minute.**



# DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

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

Submitted to IURC-Pipeline Safety on: Jul 9, 2012

## Who is submitting this information?

Name of person providing this information: Carrie Ludwig

Business address (*number and street*): 3511 East 15th Ave

City, State, and ZIP code: Gary, IN 46403

Telephone number (*area code*): 219 962 0422

Fax number (*area code*): 219 962 0404

E-mail address: cludwig@nisource.com

## Excavator Information, if known

Full name: South Whitley Excavating

Business address (*number and street*): 4970 E Smith St

City, State, and ZIP code: Piercton, IN 46562

Telephone number (*area code*): 260 609 5685

Fax number (*area code*): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: AMSRACING06@YAHOO.COM

## Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Contractor

Excavation or demolition equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Bldg. Demolition

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**Date and Location of Damage**Date of damage (*month, day, year*): Jun 11, 2012

County: Whitley

City: Columbia City

Street address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):  
4970 E Smith St Columbia City IN

Nearest intersection: E 500 S

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? No

If yes, how many affected? 0

Time to restore service (*in hours*): 0

Enter number of injuries, if applicable and known: 0

Enter number of fatalities, if applicable and known: 0

Property damage, Estimate \$

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**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? 16

---

**Notification, Locating, Marking**

Did excavator request locates prior to commencing work? Yes

Enter Indiana 811 ticket number, if known: 1205291858

Was the locate request completed within two working days? Yes

If locates were performed, were they done so by a contractor or pipeline employee? Contract Locator

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

Were facility marks visible in the area of excavation? Yes

Were facilities marked correctly? Unknown/Other

Type of markings used: Paint

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? Yes

Were pipeline company representatives on site during excavation? No

Did the excavator notify the operator in the event of this damage? Yes

Did the excavator notify Indiana 811 in the event of this damage? Unknown/Other

Did the excavator notify 911 in the event of a release of product? Unknown/Other

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### **Description of Cause**

Select from the list the most accurate cause for the damage: Other

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### **Additional Comments**

Excavator hit untoneable stub

Nipsco emergency repair ticket #: 1206110975



150 West Market Street, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

February 15, 2013

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

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 3324  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Notification of Possible Violations; Pipeline Division Case No. 3324  
Date of Event: 6/11/12  
Event Location: 4970 E Smith St, Columbia City  
Excavator: South Whitley Excavating  
Other Party: N/A

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter responds to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, Division of Pipeline Safety, Notification of Possible Violations for Case No. 3324 (as detailed above) identifying potential violations of Indiana law dated January 16, 2013. NIPSCO has not identified any additional information related to this incident not already provided in its August 13, 2012 response.

If there are any additional questions, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher C. Earle".

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