



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: **Hoosier Foundation**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3422

Investigator: Howard Friend

Report Date: 12/4/2012

Damage Date: 7/26/2012 2:08:32 PM

Damage Address: 21232.5 Surface Ave

City: Lakeville

County: St Joseph

### The Parties

Excavator: **Hoosier Foundation**

Contact: Clarence Lehman, President

Address: 2265 W 175 N, Lagrange, In 46761

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: Hoosier Foundation**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3422

**Damage Impact**

Product release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: True

Number of Customers Affected: 1

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$438

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

Excavator request locates: Yes Indiana 811 ticket Number: 1207252450

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Driveway

**Synopsis:** A natural gas service was damaged during excavation for a drive.

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator's response to initial notice was received on 9/14/2012. The excavator provided notice of excavation on 7/25/12 at 2:27PM and damaged the line on 7/26/12 at 2:07PM.

**Conclusion:** The excavator started working prior to the locate ticket being good.

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

**From:** [first last](#)  
**To:** [IURC PipelineDamageCase](#)  
**Subject:** INITIAL DOCUMENTS-EXCAVATOR Case #3422  
**Date:** Friday, September 14, 2012 5:42:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [photo1-Newton Gas Line.JPG](#)  
[photo2-Newton gas line.JPG](#)

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Pipeline Safety Division Case No. 3422  
INITIAL DOCUMENTS-EXCAVATOR

I personally was not on site on July 26, 2012 when the gas line damage occurred, so I'm reporting the incident with the information I received from Newton Farm employees and the employees we had on the job. Jerry Gorka or someone from Newton Farm had called for a Utility Locate. The person that was doing the Locate was about 30 minutes away from being on the site when the gas line was punctured. One of our employees was grading the surface which had to be lowered to place concrete. He was about 8" down from the surface when the puncture occurred. He claims a rock punctured the gas line and not the machine he was using. He could not see the gas line, but saw gas vapor spewing up from the rocks.

I'm sending some pictures that appear the gas line burial was inconsistent. Quite frankly I'm not sure had it been marked that it wouldn't have gotten damaged anyway being it was buried so close to the surface and in the rocks. I personally was involved in building the building right next to it. The grade had to be raised and there is no reason the gas line was buried that close to the surface in the rocks. I have a bill from Nipsco in the amount of \$438.37 for repairs to the gas line. For all our safety if Nipsco buries a gas line that close to the surface they should put it in conduit for everyone's protection.

Sincerely,  
Clarence Lehman  
President  
Hoosier Foundation Inc  
2265 W 175 N  
Lagrange, IN 46761  
260-463-8781 office  
260-585-0363 cell  
260-463-0187 fax







101 West Ohio Street, Suite 1707  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

September 14, 2012

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

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 3422  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 3422

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: 7/26/2012

Event Location: 21232.5 Surface Ave, Lakeville

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Hoosier Foundation

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 3422

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. 3422</b>	
Date of Event	7/26/2012
Event Location	21232.5 Surface Ave, Lakeville
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Hoosier Foundation
Date of IURC Information Request	8/16/2012
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	Hoosier Foundation
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	Matt Huran
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	2265 W. 175 No
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Lagrange, IN 46761
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	260 585-0363 Clarence
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 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	21320 ½ Surface Avenue – Correct Address
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Lakeville, IN 46536
NEAREST INTERSECTION	
<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.)	2"
PRESSURE (PSIG/INCHES)	45
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	Yes
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	1
EVACUATION (YES/NO)	No
IF YES, HOW MANY EVACUATED	N/A
REPAIR COST (IF KNOWN) (\$)	438.37
<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	
Drainage	
Driveway	X
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)	Yes 1207262434
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	No

# Fact Based Investigation Report

01820120726013  
Northern IN  
7/26/2012 2:08:36 PM  
7/26/2012 2:10:12 PM  
JERRY GORKA  
21232 1/2 SURFACE AVE  
LAKEVILLE  
ST: IN ZIP:

---

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

NIPSCO

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DAMAGED CUSTOMER:

07/26/2012  
14:25:00  
15:10:00

---

INVESTIGATION DATE:  
FROM:  
TO:

Hoosier Foundation  
Install driveway

---

EXCAVATOR INVOLVED:  
TYPE OF EXCAVATION:

1207252450  
7/27/2012 2:45:00 PM  
Routine

---

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

1207262434  
7/26/2012 2:05:00 PM

---

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

Paul Bittle  
7/26/2012 3:00:00 PM  
Digital

---

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

116375  
Joe Hendrickson  
BASED ON YOUR INVESTIGATION, IS FURTHER INVESTIGATION NEEDED?

INVESTIGATOR EMP#:  
INVESTIGATOR NAME:

No

## Fact Based Investigation Customer Information

01820120726013

NIPSCO

(optional)

NOTIFICATION ID:

SELECT A CUSTOMER:

CUSTOMER #:

LOWPROF

Gas Service

Bittle Paul - 134294

FACILITY DESCRIPTION:

FACILITY ID:

LOCATOR NAME & EMP #:

LOCATOR NOT KNOWN:

**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO INVESTIGATION:**

Contractor Dug Before Ticket Due

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:**

No marks on site yet for this job. The ticket is not due yet and the contractor hit the gas service.

**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?**

No

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

No

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

No

**EXTENT OF FACILITY DAMAGE**

Cut gas service

**REPLACEMENT FOOTAGE**

N/A

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

No N/A

**WHAT CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT WAS USED?**

N/A

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

No

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

N/A

NIPSCO 00679 IUPPSa 07/26/2012 14:08:36 1207262434-00A EMER DAMG GRID

DAMAGE SEE REMARKS

Case 3422

Ticket : 1207262434 Date: 07/26/2012 Time: 14:07 Oper: SPOPE Chan:044

State: IN Cnty: ST JOSEPH Twp: UNION  
Cityname: LAKEVILLE Inside: N Near: Y  
Subdivision:

Address : 21232 1/2  
Street : SURFACE AVE  
Cross 1 : GRANT ST Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE BETWEEN 2 WHITE BARNS  
:  
Grids : 4132B8616C 4132A8616C 4132B8616B 4132A8616B  
Boundary: n 41.546925 s 41.544044 w -86.279007 e -86.271248

Work type : INSTALL DRIVEWAY  
Done for : NEWTON FARMS  
Start date: 07/26/2012 Time: 14:07 Hours notice: 0/0 Priority: EMER  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y  
Duration : 1 WEEK Depth: 1 FOOT

Company : HOOSIER FOUNDATION Type: OTHR  
Co addr : 2265 W 175 N  
City : LAGRANGE State: IN Zip: 46761  
Caller : JERRY GORKA Phone: (574)274-0789  
Contact : SCOTT MERRILL - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (574)274-0789  
Email : REMSCOTT5@GMAIL.COM

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
NIPSCO GAS LINE HAS BEEN CUT--LINE IS BLOWING--ADVISED TO CALL 911--NIPSCO HAS  
BEEN NOTIFIED--LINE WAS CUT BETWEEN THE 2 WHITE BARNS--2INCH YELLOW LINE--CREW  
ON SITE--PREV TICKET 1207252450--THANK YOU  
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? YES  
:

Submitted date: 07/26/2012 Time: 14:07  
Members: AEPIN ID2034 ID2885 NIPSCO SBCIN ID5857 SM

NIPSCO 00688 IUPPSa 07/25/2012 14:33:42 1207252450-00A NORM NEW GRID

NORMAL NOTICE

Case 3472

Ticket : 1207252450 Date: 07/25/2012 Time: 14:27 Oper: LPORTER Chan:046

State: IN Cnty: ST JOSEPH Twp: UNION  
Cityname: LAKEVILLE Inside: N Near: Y  
Subdivision:

Address : 21232 1/2  
Street : SURFACE AVE  
Cross 1 : GRANT ST Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE BETWEEN 2 WHITE BARNS  
:  
Grids : 4132B8616C 4132A8616C 4132B8616B 4132A8616B  
Boundary: n 41.546925 s 41.544044 w -86.279007 e -86.271248

Work type : INSTALL DRIVEWAY  
Done for : NEWTON FARMS  
Start date: 07/27/2012 Time: 14:45 Hours notice: 48/48 Priority: NORM  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: N  
Duration : 1 WEEK Depth: 1 FOOT

Company : HOOSIER FOUNDATION Type: CONT  
Co addr : 2265 W 175 N  
City : LAGRANGE State: IN Zip: 46761  
Caller : SCOTT MERRILL Phone: (574)274-0789  
Contact : SCOTT MERRILL - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (574)274-0789  
Email : REMSCOTT5@GMAIL.COM

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? YES  
:

Submitted date: 07/25/2012 Time: 14:27  
Members: AEPIN ID2034 ID2885 NIPSCO SBCIN ID5857 SM

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	See below
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	No
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	N/A
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	
MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITIES (YES/NO)	N/A
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 FATALITIES	
FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	
POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	
AMBULANCE RESPONSE (YES/NO)	
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS</b>	
<p>Excavation at 21320 ½ Surface. Locate request 1207252450 was for 21320 ½ Surface.  No notification made to the one call center</p>	