



Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

Investigation regarding: **Pats Tree Service**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3468

Investigator: Howard Friend

Report Date: 10/29/2012

Damage Date: 6/25/2012

Damage Address: 18 Greenacres

City: Laporte

County: Laporte

The Parties

Excavator: **Pats Tree Service**

Contact: Patrick Lapaich

Address: 4455 N 325 W, Laporte, In

Telephone: 219 362 5058

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: Pats Tree Service

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3468

Damage Impact

Product release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: True

Number of Customers Affected: 1

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$2176

Excavator Activities/Cause of damage information:

Excavator request locates: No Indiana 811 ticket Number:

Type of Equipment: Unknown/Other

Type of work performed: Landscaping

Synopsis: A natural gas service was damaged during stump grinding activity.

Findings: Reported by NIPSCO; excavator did not respond to initial notice mailed 9/14/2012. The excavator failed to provide notice of excavation.

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

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



101 West Ohio Street, Suite 1707
Indianapolis, IN 46204

October 16, 2012

Via Electronic Transmission – PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 3468
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 3468

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: 6/25/2012

Event Location: 18 Greenacres, Laporte

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Pats Tree Service

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 3468

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

IURC INFORMATION REQUEST	
Pipeline Safety Division Case No. 3468	
Date of Event	6/25/2012
Event Location	18 Greenacres, Laporte
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Pats Tree Service
Date of IURC Information Request	9/18/2012
THE PARTIES	
EXCAVATOR:	
BUSINESS NAME	Pat's Tree Service
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	Patrick Lapaich
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	4455 N. 325 W.
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	LaPorte, IN 46350
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	219 362-5058
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
FACILITY INFORMATION - OWNER/OPERATOR OF UTILITY LINE:	
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	LSELKING@NISOURCE.COM
LOCATOR SERVICE INFORMATION	
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	
EMAIL ADDRESS	morganthompson@usicinc.com
OTHER (WITNESS, POLICE, FIRE, OTHER) INFORMATION	
PERSONAL CONTACT	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	

ADDRESS	
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
UTILITY LINE IMPACT	
LOCATION OF DAMAGE	
ADDRESS	18 Greenacres
CITY/STATE/ZIP	LaPorte, IN 46350
NEAREST INTERSECTION	
PRODUCT TYPE (Select One)	
NATURAL GAS	X
LIQUID PIPELINE	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
FACILITY TYPE (Select One)	
DISTRIBUTION	
GATHERING	
SERVICE/DROP	X
TRANSMISSION	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
SIZE (DIAMETER/ETC.)	1 ¼" steel
PRESSURE (PSIG/INCHES)	45
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	Yes
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	1
EVACUATION (YES/NO)	No
IF YES, HOW MANY EVACUATED	0
REPAIR COST (IF KNOWN) (\$)	2,175.81
CAUSE OF DAMAGE INFORMATION:	
TYPE OF EQUIPMENT (Select One)	
Auger	
Backhoe/Trackhoe	
Boring/Drilling	
Directional Drilling	
Explosives	
Farm Equipment	
Grader/Scraper	
Hand Tools	
Milling Equipment	
Probing Device	

Trancher	
Vacuum Equipment	
Unknown/Other	X Stump Grinder
TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED (Select One)	
Agriculture	
Cable TV	
Curb/Sidewalk	
Bldg. Construction	
Bldg. Demolition	
Drainage	
Driveway	
Electric	
Engineering/Surveying	
Fencing	
Grading	
Irrigation	
Landscaping	X
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
LOCATE INFORMATION:	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	No

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	N/A
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	N/A
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	N/A
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	N/A
MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITIES (YES/NO)	N/A
OPERATOR EMPLOYEES ON-SITE DURING EXCAVATION (YES/NO)	No
INCIDENT IMPACT INFORMATION	
NUMBER OF OUTPATIENT TREATED	0
NUMBER OF INPATIENT TREATED	0
NUMBER OF FATALITIES	0
FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N/A
POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N/A
AMBULANCE RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N/A
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS	
<p>No notification made to the one call center.</p> <p>No original or damage tickets.</p> <p>Nipsco emergency repair ticket 1206251593.</p>	

Fact Based Investigation Report

NOTIFICATION ID: 01820120625004 **DISTRICT:** Northern IN
DAMAGE DATE: 6/25/2012 10:50:00 AM **NOTIFICATION DATE:** 6/25/2012 11:16:01 AM
NOTIFIED BY: LAURA Facility Owner
DAMAGE ADDRESS: 18 GREENACRES
CITY: LA PORTE **ST:** IN **ZIP:**

DAMAGED CUSTOMER: NIPSCO

INVESTIGATION DATE: 06/25/2012
FROM: 10:45:00 **TO:** 12:30:00

EXCAVATOR INVOLVED: PAT'S TREE SERVICE
TYPE OF EXCAVATION: Grinding Stump

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

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

PICTURES TAKEN BY: John Novak **DATE/TIME:** 6/25/2012 10:50:00 AM
PHOTOGRAPHY TYPE: Digital **FRAME #:**

INVESTIGATOR EMP#: 116375 **INVESTIGATOR NAME:** Joe Hendrickson
BASED ON YOUR INVESTIGATION, IS FURTHER INVESTIGATION NEEDED? No

Fact Based Investigation Customer Information

NOTIFICATION ID: 01820120625004
SELECT A CUSTOMER: NIPSCO
CUSTOMER #: *(optional)*

FACILITY DESCRIPTION: LOWPROF **FACILITY ID:** Gas Service
LOCATOR NAME & EMP #: Novak Jonathan - 131987
LOCATOR NOT KNOWN:

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO INVESTIGATION:
No Locate Req. By Contractor

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 was grinding stumps on the property. They said they thought they were clear. No ticket could be found for this address.

NAMES OF UTILITY REPRESENTATIVES CONTACTED OR ON SITE AND STATEMENT:

Adam Danielson - Stated that they would be repairing the steel gas service with a plastic one.

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? Yes

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? Stump grinder

IS THE FACILITY SHOWN ON THE UTILITY RECORDS? No

IF YES, PLEASE LIST RECORD #(S) N/A

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

** COMPLETE FORM FOR ALL DAMAGES TO NIPSCO FACILITIES **

REPORTING OPERATING AREA LaPorte MAXIMO WO #

OPERATING AREA CONTACT Rich Elm JOB ORDER # 569738-16

TRACKING NUMBER 018-2012-0625-004 LOCATE REF # 1206251539
Locate Performed By: Jonathan Novak USIC (877) 376-6928

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT June 25 2012 09:19 AM DATE OF REPORT June 25 2012

PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 18 Greengraves LaPorte

DAMAGE WAS TO:

ELECTRIC - POLE / TRANSFORMER: # _____ SIZE _____ YEAR INSTALLED _____ BROKEN YES () NO ()

OTHER (DESCRIBE) _____

GAS: SERVICE MAIN () SIZE 1 1/4" MATERIAL: PLASTIC () STEEL METER () REG STATION () STUB ()
OTHER (DESCRIBE) _____

DEPTH OF FACILITY (inches) 14" PRESSURE (PSI) 45# Lbs.

RELEASE OF GAS: YES NO () IGNITION OF GAS: YES () NO EVACUATION REQUIRED: YES () # _____ NO ()

INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE: YES NO () NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS LOST: 1

DURATION OF INTERRUPTION: TIME REPORTED 10:00 AM TIME RESTORED 13:00 pm

DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: 1 1/4" cut in HAH

LOCATE MARKS ON SITE: YES () DISTANCE BETWEEN FACILITY AND LOCATE MARKS _____ NO
HOW LOCATED: PAINT () FLAGS () BOTH () WHITE LINED ()

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) Pat's Tree Service

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) 4455 N 325W LaPorte, In (219)362-5058

WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK SITE AT TIME OF DAMAGE Patrick Lapajich

WITNESS NAME AND ADDRESS _____

WITNESS REMARKS _____

AGENCIES NOTIFIED / ONSITE: POLICE () AGENCY _____ REPORT # _____

FIRE AGENCY _____ REPORT # _____

OTHER () _____ Any injuries? () YES # _____ () NO

PHOTOS TAKEN: YES () NO TAKEN BY: _____ (ATTACH PHOTOS TO REPORT)

MEDIA ON SITE: YES () NO

WORK IN PROGRESS WHEN FACILITY DAMAGED - CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW

- () AGRICULTURE/FARMING () CABLE TV () CURB/SIDEWALK
 - () BLDG CONSTRUCTION () DEMOLITION () DRAINAGE
 - () DRIVEWAY () ELECTRIC () SURVEYING
 - () FENCING () GRADING () IRRIGATION
 - LANDSCAPING () PIPELINE () MILLING
 - () POLE/SIGN POST () ROAD WORK () SEWER
- () TELECOMMUNICATIONS
 - () WATER
 - () DRAINS/CULVERTS
 - () MOWING
 - () OTHER _____

TYPE OF EQUIPMENT USED - CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW

- () AUGER () HAND TOOLS () BACKHOE/TRACKHOE
- () MILLING EQUIPMENT () PROBING DEVICE () BORING / DRILLING
- () EXPLOSIVES () TRENCHER () FARM EQUIPMENT
- () VACUUM EQUIPMENT () GRADER () OTHER stump grinder

REASON DAMAGE OCCURRED - CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW

- AUTOMOTIVE ACCIDENT () EXCAVATING BEFORE LOCATES DUE () CARELESS MACHINE OPERATOR
- NO NOTIFICATION () MARKS DISTURBED () STUB () OTHER _____

• SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR COMMENTS AND DIAGRAM

COMMENTS: NO LOCATES AT TIME OF DAMAGE

PERSON PREPARING REPORT Steve Sebert
FIELD SUPERVISOR Steve Georgian
FIELD MANAGER John Todd

- ORIGINAL REPORT AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION IS TO BE SENT TO FACILITY DAMAGE RECOVERY
- COPY OF REPORT IS TO BE SENT TO DAMAGE PREVENTION

SKETCH: - Show position of all pertinent information

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| • DID EXCAVATION OCCUR BEFORE LOCATES WERE DUE | YES | NO |
| • NO IN 811 LOCATE CALLED IN | YES | NO |
| • DAMAGE CAUSED FROM EXCAVATION WITHIN 24" ZONE | YES | NO |
| • EXPIRED LOCATE | YES | NO |
| • WAS WHITE LINING INDICATED ON LOCATE REQUEST | YES | NO |

COMPLETED BY: _____ DATE: _____



DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

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

Submitted to IURC-Pipeline Safety on: Aug 3, 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: Pats Tree Service

Business address (*number and street*): 4455 N 325 W

City, State, and ZIP code: Laporte, IN

Telephone number (*area code*): 219 362 5058

Fax number (*area code*): _____

E-mail address: _____

Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Contractor

Excavation or demolition equipment: Unknown/Other

Type of work performed: Landscaping

Date and Location of DamageDate of damage (*month, day, year*): Jun 25, 2012County: LaporteCity: LaporteStreet address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):
18 Greenacres Laporte, INNearest intersection: Kingsbury Ave

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? 1Time to restore service (*in hours*): 3Enter number of injuries, if applicable and known: 0Enter number of fatalities, if applicable and known: 0Property damage, Estimate \$

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? 14

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: Other

If other, please specify: no locates _____

Was site marked by "White Lining"?

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? 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

Description of Cause

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

Additional Comments

Excavator called in ticket after damage occurred 1206260951

Nipsco emergency repair ticket #: 1206251593