



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: **Rex Construction**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3675

Report Date: 9/11/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 8/24/2012 11:48:59 AM

Damage Address: Georgia St, Merrillville, Lake

### The Parties

Excavator: **Rex Construction**

Address: 700 Schiller Ave, Schererville, In 46375

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Unknown/Other

Type of Work Performed: Road Work

### 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: 1208060911

Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions:

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

**Synopsis:** Excavator struck and damaged an underground natural gas service while performing road work.

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator did not respond to initial notice mailed 9/14/2012. Excavator had a valid locate ticket; however, the gas operator self reported a failure to locate a live service stub.

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

**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

October 22, 2012

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

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 3675  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 3675

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: 8/24/2012

Event Location: Georgia St, Merrillville

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Rex Construction

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 3675

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher 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)

<b>IURC INFORMATION REQUEST</b>	
<b>Pipeline Safety Division Case No. 3675</b>	
Date of Event	8/24/2012
Event Location	Georgia St, Merrillville
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Rex Construction
Date of IURC Information Request	9/18/2012
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	Rex Construction
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	700 Schiller Ave
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Schererville, IN 46375
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	219 322 8090
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	LSELKING@NISOURCE.COM
<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@usinc.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	West of 751 E 81st Pl Ste 1
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Merrillville, IN 46410
NEAREST INTERSECTION	Georgia 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 In service stub
SIZE (DIAMETER/ETC.)	N/A
PRESSURE (PSIG/INCHES)	N/A
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	N/A
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	N/A
EVACUATION (YES/NO)	N/A
IF YES, HOW MANY EVACUATED	N/A
REPAIR COST (IF KNOWN) (\$)	N/A
<b>CAUSE OF DAMAGE INFORMATION:</b>	
<b>TYPE OF EQUIPMENT (Select One)</b>	
Auger	
Backhoe/Trackhoe	
Boring/Drilling	
Directional Drilling	
Explosives	
Farm Equipment	
Grader/Scraper	
Hand Tools	
Milling Equipment	

Probing Device	
Trencher	
Vacuum Equipment	
Unknown/Other	X
<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	X
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)	N/A
EXCAVATOR NOTIFY 811 (YES/NO)	Yes 1208241459
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	

EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Yes
INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1208060911
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	Yes
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	Yes
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 FATALITIES	0
FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	
POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	
AMBULANCE RESPONSE (YES/NO)	
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS</b>	
Facility was not located or marked – untoneable Excavator hit shallow in service stub under road	

NIPSCO 00534 IUPPSa 08/24/2012 11:49:00 1208241459-00A EMER DAMG GRID

DAMAGE SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1208241459 Date: 08/24/2012 Time: 11:45 Oper: JSMITH Chan:088

State: IN Cnty: LAKE Twp: ROSS  
Cityname: MERRILLVILLE Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision:

# 3675

Address :  
Street : GEORGIA ST  
Cross 1 : E 82ND AVE Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE THE EAST SIDE OF GEORGIA ST FROM 82ND AVE GOING NORTH TO THE  
CURVE AND SOUTH TO 83RD AVE  
:  
Grids : 4128D8719B 4128C8719B  
Boundary: n 41.471119 s 41.466885 w -87.329170 e -87.325417

Work type : SEWER AND ROAD WORK  
Done for : TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
Start date: 08/24/2012 Time: 11:45 Hours notice: 0/0 Priority: EMER  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y  
Duration : 2 WEEKS Depth: 5 FEET

Company : REX CONSTRUCTION Type: CONT  
Co addr : 700 SCHILLER AVE  
City : SCHEERERVILLE State: IN Zip: 46375  
Caller : NORMA MUNOZ Phone: (219)322-8090  
Contact : JEFF REX - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (219)242-9430  
Fax : (219)322-0031

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
NIPSCO GAS LINE WAS CUT ON THE EAST SIDE OF GEORGIA STREET WEST OF 751 81ST  
AVENUE--GAS LINE IS BLOWING--CALLER HAS BEEN ADVISED TO PLEASE CALL NIPSCO AND  
911 TO NOTIFY THEM OF THE DAMAGED GAS LINE--CALLER IS UNSURE OF THE COLOR SIZE  
OR MATERIAL OF THE CUT LINE--CREW IS ON SITE--PREVIOUS TICKET NUMBER IS  
1208060911--THANK YOU!!  
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO  
:

Submitted date: 08/24/2012 Time: 11:45  
Members: COMCN IB ID2227 ID2245 ID6784 NIPSCO SM

NIPSCO 00314 IUPPSa 08/06/2012 09:30:17 1208060911-00A NORM NEW GRID

NORMAL NOTICE

Ticket : 1208060911 Date: 08/06/2012 Time: 09:25 Oper: KSWANK Chan:063

State: IN Cnty: LAKE Twp: ROSS  
Cityname: MERRILLVILLE Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision:

#3675

Address :  
Street : GEORGIA ST  
Cross 1 : E 82ND AVE Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE THE EAST SIDE OF GEORGIA ST FROM 82ND AVE GOING NORTH TO THE  
CURVE AND SOUTH TO 83RD AVE

:  
Grids : 4128D8719B 4128C8719B  
Boundary: n 41.471119 s 41.466885 w -87.329170 e -87.325417

Work type : SEWER AND ROAD WORK  
Done for : TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
Start date: 08/08/2012 Time: 09:45 Hours notice: 48/48 Priority: NORM  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: N  
Duration : 2 WEEKS Depth: 5 FEET

Company : REX CONSTRUCTION Type: CONT  
Co addr : 700 SCHILLER AVE  
City : SCHERERVILLE State: IN Zip: 46375  
Caller : NORMA MUNOZ Phone: (219)322-8090  
Contact : JEFF REX - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (219)242-9430  
Fax : (219)322-0031

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

Submitted date: 08/06/2012 Time: 09:25  
Members: COMCN IB ID2227 ID2245 ID6784 NIPSCO SM



Investigation Results Verified By Utility Representative

---

**INVESTIGATOR STATEMENT/CAUSAL FACTORS:**

This area is all part of an ongoing project that has had numerous locates. Rex construction was digging in this area and cut a gas service that was retired but never capped off at the main. The service ran shallow under the road and still had pressure in it. Nipsco capped the service close to the main as needed. No buildings affected.

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

Nipsco crew called to retire service properly.

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

Rex construction on site.

**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?** Yes

**WAS THE EXCAVATION WITHIN THE TOLERANCE ZONE OF MARKS?** No

**EXTENT OF FACILITY DAMAGE** cut abandon service

**REPLACEMENT FOOTAGE** None

**WAS CONTRACTOR ASSISTANCE REQUIRED? IF YES, WHO?** No

**WHAT CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT WAS USED?** Backhoe

**IS THE FACILITY SHOWN ON THE UTILITY RECORDS?** No

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