



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: **William McMahon**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3750

Investigator: Howard Friend

Report Date: 12/26/2012

Damage Date: 8/23/2012

Damage Address: 356 W Valparaiso St

City: Westville

County: Laporte

### The Parties

Excavator: **William McMahon**

Contact:

Address: 356 W Valparaiso St Po Box 464, Westville, In, 46391

Telephone: (219)608-0958

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: William McMahon**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3750

**Damage Impact**

Product release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: True

Number of Customers Affected: 1

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$

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

Excavator request locates: No    Indiana 811 ticket Number:

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Landscaping

**Synopsis:** Damage to a natural gas service occurred during excavation to remove a tree stump.

**Findings:** Reported by NIPSCO; excavator's response to initial notice was received on 12/12/2012. The excavator indicated he provided notice of excavation however, the only locate for this address was called in on 5/15/12.

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

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

**From:** [Bill McMahon](#)  
**To:** [IURC PipelineDamageCase](#)  
**Subject:** Stump removal accident Case No. 3750  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 12, 2012 2:07:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [IMG\\_0609.JPG](#)

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As you can see from the pictures included, I had the lines marked before I'd started excavating. Half of the house shown was torn down, I'm in the process of putting up a small garage. The pictures show the trees to the left of the yellow gas line, those were cut down. I leveled the back half of the house and had rented a machine to load the debris into roll-off boxes. I was using the machine to clear the lot and remove the stumps from the ground, the roots caught a gas line that ran across the lot towards the center of the house. I had hand dug in the vicinity of the line and thought I'd be clear, but when I pulled the stump free, the removal of the root system disturbed the older utility infrastructure.

Please let me know if you need any additional pictures or information.  
Stump removal accident  
Case No. 3750

-William McMahon  
P.O. Box 464  
Westville IN, 46391  
219.608.0958





## DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

State Form 54122 (R2 / 7-11)

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Submitted to IURC-Pipeline Safety on: Aug 30, 2012

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### Who is submitting this information?

Name of person providing this information: Steve Noffsinger (NIPSCo)

Business address (*number and street*): 3511 E 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: William McMahon

Business address (*number and street*): 356 W Valparaiso St

City, State, and ZIP code: Westville, IN, 46391

Telephone number (*area code*): (219)608-0958

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

E-mail address: FULLTHROTTLEINC@YAHOO.COM

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### Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Contractor

Excavation or demolition equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Landscaping

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**Date and Location of Damage**

Date of damage (*month, day, year*): Aug 23, 2012

County: Laporte

City: Westville

Street address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):  
356 W Valparaiso St

Nearest intersection: Railroad St

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*): 1

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? 24

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**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"? No

Were special instructions part of the locate request? No

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

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### **Description of Cause**

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

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### **Additional Comments**

Had a old locate for drainage work ticket 1205152633  
Nipsco emergency repair ticket 1208230899