



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: **D And M Excavating Incorporated**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3835

Report Date: 9/11/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 9/18/2012 1:04:01 PM

Damage Address: 40 S Fish Lake St, Valparaiso, Porter

### The Parties

Excavator: **D And M Excavating Incorporated**

Address: 9896 West County Road 300 North, Michigan City, In 46360

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of Work Performed: Sewer

### 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: 1208282577

Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions: LOCATE THE FOOTPRINT OF THE NEW BUILDING AND PROPOSED LOCATIONS OF WATER AND SEWER LINES -- AREAS ARE WHITE LINED

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

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

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator did not respond to initial notice mailed 11/30/2012. Excavator had a valid locate ticket; however, the gas operator self reported a failure to provide facility locate markings for the live in-service gas 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.



150 West Market Street, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

January 29, 2012

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

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 3835  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 3835

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: 9/18/2012

Event Location: 40 S Fish Lake St

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: D And M Excavating Incorporated

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 3835

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. 3835</b>	
Date of Event	9/18/2012
Event Location	40 S Fish Lake St
Event City	Valparaiso
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	D And M Excavating Incorporated
Date of IURC Information Request	12/5/2012
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	D & M Excavating
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	Brian Whitcomb
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	9896 west county road 300 north
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Michigan City, IN 46360
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	219-872-9378
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	
EMAIL ADDRESS	morganthompson@usicinc.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	40 s Fish Lake Rd
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Valparaiso, IN 46383
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.)	5/8"
PRESSURE (PSIG/INCHES)	
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	N
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	0
EVACUATION (YES/NO)	N
IF YES, HOW MANY EVACUATED	
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	

Trancher	
Vacuum Equipment	
Unknown/Other	
<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	
Sewer (Sanitary/Storm)	X
Site Development	
Steam	
Storm Drain/Culvert	
Street Light	
Telecommunications	
Traffic Signal	
Traffic Sign	
Water	
Waterway Improvement	
Unknown/Other	
RELEASE OF PRODUCT (YES/NO)	Y
IGNITION AND/OR FIRE (YES/NO)	N
EXCAVATOR NOTIFY 811 (YES/NO)	Y
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Y

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1208282577
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	N
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	N
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	N
MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITIES (YES/NO)	N
OPERATOR EMPLOYEES ON-SITE DURING EXCAVATION (YES/NO)	N
<b>INCIDENT IMPACT INFORMATION</b>	
NUMBER OF OUTPATIENT TREATED	0
NUMBER OF INPATIENT TREATED	0
NUMBER OF FATALITIES	0
FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N
POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N
AMBULANCE RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS</b>	
Excavator hit in service gas stub.	

**Fact Based Investigation Report**

**NOTIFICATION ID:** 01820120918007

**DISTRICT:** Northern IN

**DAMAGE DATE:** 9/18/2012 1:04:01 PM

**NOTIFICATION DATE:** 9/18/2012 1:05:16 PM

**NOTIFIED BY:** MIKE ALBERT

**DAMAGE ADDRESS:** 40 S FISH LAKE ST

**CITY:** VALPARAISO

**ST:** IN **ZIP:**

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**DAMAGED CUSTOMER:** NIPSCO

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**INVESTIGATION DATE:** 09/18/2012

**FROM:** 13:15:00

**TO:** 14:15:00

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**EXCAVATOR INVOLVED:** D&M Excavating

**TYPE OF EXCAVATION:** Site Utilities

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**ORIG. LOCATE REQ.:** 1208282577

**START DATE/TIME:** 8/30/2012 2:30:00 PM

**TYPE OF TICKET:** Ongoing Project

**LOCATE REQ. INFO N/A:**

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**DIG UP/DAMAGE REQ.:** 1209182064

**START DATE/TIME:** 9/18/2012 1:00:00 PM

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**PICTURES TAKEN BY:** Anita Whitis

**DATE/TIME:** 9/18/2012 1:40:00 PM

**PHOTOGRAPHY TYPE:** Digital

**FRAME #:** 1

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**INVESTIGATOR EMP#:** 131983

**INVESTIGATOR NAME:** Anita Whitis

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

**Fact Based Investigation Customer Information**

**NOTIFICATION ID:** 01820120918007

**SELECT A CUSTOMER:** NIPSCO

**CUSTOMER #:** *(optional)*

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**FACILITY DESCRIPTION:** LOWPROF

**FACILITY ID:** Gas Service

**LOCATOR NAME & EMP #:** Anderson Bob - 117382

**LOCATOR NOT KNOWN:**

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**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO INVESTIGATION:**

Abandoned Facility

**Other:**

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**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO METHOD OF INVESTIGATION (at least one must be checked):**

Visual, Facility Exposed At Time Of Investigation,

Investigator Verified Existing Marks By Hooking Up,  
Investigation Results Verified By Utility Representative

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**INVESTIGATOR STATEMENT/CAUSAL FACTORS:**

The gas line that was hit was a retired gas service from an old building which sat back far off the road and was torn down years ago. The only thing left is a concrete slab and a big pile of wood chips and debris. Nipsco abandoned the line correctly at the main. Everything else was marked accurately.

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

Jim & Doug from Nipsco Valparaiso Gas cut the service and capped it next to the main so there would not be any line running across work area.

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

Crew from D&M on site. No statement.

**LIST ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS ON SITE:**

None

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**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 retired gas 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)** Main only on prints

NIPSCO 01009 IUPPSa 09/04/2012 14:02:10 1208282577-01A NORM 2NDR STRT

SECOND NOTICE SECOND NOTICE

Ticket : 1208282577 Date: 09/04/2012 Time: 13:58 Oper: ASCHLICHTER Chan:042  
Old Tkt: 1208282577 Date: 08/28/2012 Time: 14:19 Oper: CJODOM Rev: 00A

State: IN Cnty: PORTER Twp: PORTER  
Cityname: VALPARAISO Inside: N Near: Y  
Subdivision:

*CASE: 3835*

Address : 40  
Street : S FISH LAKE ST  
Cross 1 : W DIVISION RD Within 1/4 mile: N  
Location: LOCATE THE FOOTPRINT OF THE NEW BUILDING AND PROPOSED LOCATIONS OF  
WATER AND SEWER LINES -- AREAS ARE WHITE LINED

:  
Grids : 4125B8710C 4125A8710C  
Boundary: n 41.433083 s 41.429089 w -87.174248 e -87.172356

Work type : SITE UTILITIES AND FOOTINGS  
Done for : CHESTER CONSTRUCTION  
Start date: 08/30/2012 Time: 14:30 Hours notice: 0/0 Priority: NORM  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: N  
Duration : 2 WEEKS Depth: 5 FEET

Company : D AND M EXCAVATING INCORPORATED Type: CONT  
Co addr : 9896 WEST COUNTY ROAD 300 NORTH  
City : MICHIGAN CITY State: IN Zip: 46360  
Caller : MIKE ALBERT Phone: (219)872-9378  
Contact : BRIAN WHITCOMB - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (219)898-8601  
Fax : (219)874-3523

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
STILL NEED ALL UTILITIES EXCEPT REMC TO RESPOND AND MARK THE PROPERTIES AS  
REQUESTED ASAP - THANK YOU  
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? YES

:

Submitted date: 09/04/2012 Time: 13:58  
Members: COMCN ID2511 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

NIPSCO 00697 IUPPSa 09/18/2012 13:04:01 1209182064-00A EMER DAMG STRT

DAMAGE SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1209182064 Date: 09/18/2012 Time: 13:00 Oper: JSMITH Chan:088

State: IN Cnty: PORTER Twp: PORTER  
Cityname: VALPARAISO Inside: N Near: Y  
Subdivision:

Case: 3835

Address : 40  
Street : S FISH LAKE ST  
Cross 1 : W DIVISION RD Within 1/4 mile: N  
Location: LOCATE THE FOOTPRINT OF THE NEW BUILDING AND PROPOSED LOCATIONS OF  
WATER AND SEWER LINES -- AREAS ARE WHITE LINED

Grids : 4125B8710C 4125A8710C  
Boundary: n 41.433083 s 41.429089 w -87.174248 e -87.172356

Work type : SITE UTILITIES AND FOOTINGS  
Done for : CHESTER CONSTRUCTION  
Start date: 09/18/2012 Time: 13:00 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 : D AND M EXCAVATING INCORPORATED Type: CONT  
Co addr : 9896 WEST COUNTY ROAD 300 NORTH  
City : MICHIGAN CITY State: IN Zip: 46360  
Caller : MIKE ALBERT Phone: (219)872-9378  
Contact : BRIAN WHITCOMB - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (219)872-9378  
Fax : (219)874-3523

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
NIPSCO GAS LINE WAS CUT AT THE ADDRESS--CALLER IS UNSURE WHERE ON THE PROPERTY  
THE LINE WAS CUT--GAS LINE IS NOT BLOWING--CALLER IS UNSURE OF THE COLOR SIZE OR  
MATERIAL OF THE DAMAGED LINE--CREW IS ON SITE--NIPSCO HAS BEEN NOTIFIED--CALLER  
HAS BEEN ADVISED TO PLEASE NOTIFY 911 OF THE DAMAGED GAS LINE--PREVIOUS TICKET  
NUMBER IS 1208282577--THANK YOU!!

Will you be white-lining the dig site area? YES

Submitted date: 09/18/2012 Time: 13:00  
Members: COMCN ID2511 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY  
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

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

REPORTING OPERATING AREA 050 MAXIMO WO # \_\_\_\_\_

OPERATING AREA CONTACT Rick Smith JOB ORDER # 581192

TRACKING NUMBER 018-2012-0918-007 LOCATE REF # \_\_\_\_\_

Locate Performed By: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT 9/18 2012 1158AM DATE OF REPORT 9/18/12

PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 40 S. Fish Lake Rd, Valparaiso

DAMAGE WAS TO:

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

OTHER (DESCRIBE) \_\_\_\_\_

GAS: SERVICE  MAIN ( ) SIZE 5/8 MATERIAL: PLASTIC  STEEL ( ) METER ( ) REG STATION ( ) STUB ( )  
OTHER (DESCRIBE) \_\_\_\_\_

DEPTH OF FACILITY (inches) 20 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: 0

DURATION OF INTERRUPTION: TIME REPORTED 11:58 TIME RESTORED \_\_\_\_\_

DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: 5/8

LOCATE MARKS ON SITE: YES ( ) DISTANCE BETWEEN FACILITY AND LOCATE MARKS \_\_\_\_\_ NO

HOW LOCATED: PAINT ( ) FLAGS ( ) BOTH ( ) WHITE LINED ( )

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) O&M 219-872-9378

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) 9996 W. 352 N Michigan City 46382

WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK SITE AT TIME OF DAMAGE Brian Whitcomb

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

- |  |                                     |   |   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE/FARMING | <input type="checkbox"/> CABLE TV   | <input type="checkbox"/> CURB/SIDEWALK    | <input type="checkbox"/> TELECOMMUNICATIONS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BLDG CONSTRUCTION   | <input type="checkbox"/> DEMOLITION | <input type="checkbox"/> DRAINAGE         | <input type="checkbox"/> WATER              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DRIVEWAY            | <input type="checkbox"/> ELECTRIC   | <input type="checkbox"/> SURVEYING        | <input type="checkbox"/> DRAINS/CULVERTS    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FENCING             | <input type="checkbox"/> GRADING    | <input type="checkbox"/> IRRIGATION       | <input type="checkbox"/> MOWING             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPING         | <input type="checkbox"/> PIPELINE   | <input type="checkbox"/> MILLING          | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> POLE/SIGN POST      | <input type="checkbox"/> ROAD WORK  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SEWER |   |

TYPE OF EQUIPMENT USED - CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AUGER             | <input type="checkbox"/> HAND TOOLS     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BACKHOE/TRACKHOE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MILLING EQUIPMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PROBING DEVICE | <input type="checkbox"/> BORING / DRILLING           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLOSIVES        | <input type="checkbox"/> TRENCHER       | <input type="checkbox"/> FARM EQUIPMENT              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VACCUUM EQUIPMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> GRADER         | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____                 |

REASON DAMAGE OCCURRED - CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AUTOMOTIVE ACCIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> EXCAVATING BEFORE LOCATES DUE | <input type="checkbox"/> CARELESS MACHINE OPERATOR          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NO NOTIFICATION     | <input type="checkbox"/> MARKS DISTURBED               | <input type="checkbox"/> STUB                               |
|  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <u>No Locates</u> |

• SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR COMMENTS AND DIAGRAM