



Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

Investigation regarding: Lewis Backhoe, Inc.

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3925

Report Date: 7/31/2013

Investigator: William Boyd

Damage Date: 8/14/2012

Damage Address: 2934 S 300 W Lot 158, Peru, Miami

The Parties

Excavator: **Lewis Backhoe, Inc.**

Address: 1960 E 700 N, Rochester, In, 46975

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of Work Performed: Water

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: Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions:

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

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

Findings: Reported by Steve Noffsinger (NIPSCO); excavator's response to initial notice was received on 12/18/2012. The excavator failed to provide notification to the association (811) 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.



DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

State Form 54122 (R2 / 7-11)

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Submitted to IURC-Pipeline Safety on: Sep 28, 2012

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

Excavator Information, if known

Full name: Lewis Backhoe Service

Business address (*number and street*): 1960 E 700 N

City, State, and ZIP code: Rochester, IN, 46975

Telephone number (*area code*): 574-223-6602

Fax number (*area code*): _____

E-mail address: _____

Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Contractor

Excavation or demolition equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Sewer (Sanitary/Storm)

Date and Location of Damage

Date of damage (*month, day, year*): Aug 14, 2012

County: Miami

City: Peru

Street address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):
2934 S 300 W Lot 158

Nearest intersection: W 250 S

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 \$

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? 27

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? No

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

From: [Brandee Lewis](#)
To: [Boyd, William](#)
Subject: Case# 3925
Date: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 8:48:51 PM

Case# 3925

To Whom It May Concern-

I, Ty Lewis was called by BCMC Communities because they were experiencing a problem with a waterline that had shut down water to their trailer park. They had been trying to fix the problem but were unable to and the park had been without water since the day before. They called us for help and we went to see what we could do. They had rented a backhoe and had already been digging, so when we arrived we used their backhoe and hole and tried to make the hole just a little bigger. That is when the gas line was caught. The only reason we dug without a locate was because the park was on its second day without water and they already had a hole dug.

Our company calls for locates on our digging jobs and the only reason we did not on this job was because they called in a panic and we rushed there to help them. We try to follow all rules and are very sorry that on this occasion we did not and that the line was damaged in the process. This has changed are policies for emergency calls and we hope to never have this incident repeated.

If you have any additional questions or need any additional information please let me know.

Sincerely
Ty J. Lewis
President

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