



INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
101 W. WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 1500E  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-3407

<http://www.in.gov/iurc>  
Office: (317) 232-2701  
Facsimile: (317) 232-6758

## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: Geiger Excavating

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3995

Report Date: 7/17/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 10/4/2012 11:03:35 AM

Damage Address: W Auburn Dr, Auburn, Dekalb

### The Parties

Excavator: **Geiger Excavating**

Address: 811 Airport North Office Park, Ft Wayne, In 46825

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of Work Performed: Unknown/Other

### 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: 1209192788

Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions: LOCATE EAST SIDE OF INTERSTATE 69 - 500 FEET TO THE EAST OF INTERSTATE 69 OVERPASS - LOCATE 800 FEET PAST COUNTY ROAD 19 - NORTH AND SOUTH SIDE OF THE ROAD

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

**Synopsis:** Excavator struck a natural gas service during excavation of unknown work. The service was a stub left over from a retirement that was not done at the main, leaving the stub live.

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator's response to initial notice was received on 12/20/2012. Damaged gas line was a live stub that had been recorded as retired and abandoned. It was not located as there was no knowledge of its existence.

**Conclusion:** Operator failed to locate the live gas line prior to the commencement of work.

**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

February 4, 2013

*Via Electronic Transmission – PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov*

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 3995  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 3995

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: 10/4/2012

Event Location: W Auburn Dr

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Geiger Excavating

Other Party:

Pipeline Division Case No. 3995

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. 3995</b>	
Date of Event	10/4/2012
Event Location	W Auburn Dr
Event City	Auburn
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Geiger Excavating
Date of IURC Information Request	12/5/2012
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	Youngs Excavating
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	1905 Goodson
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	
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@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	1905 Goodson Ct
CITY/STATE/ZIP	South Bend, IN
NEAREST INTERSECTION	Auburn Dr
<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)	35
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	N
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	0
EVACUATION (YES/NO)	N
IF YES, HOW MANY EVACUATED	0
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)	
Site Development	
Steam	
Storm Drain/Culvert	
Street Light	
Telecommunications	
Traffic Signal	
Traffic Sign	
Water	
Waterway Improvement	
Unknown/Other	X
RELEASE OF PRODUCT (YES/NO)	Y
IGNITION AND/OR FIRE (YES/NO)	N
EXCAVATOR NOTIFY 811 (YES/NO)	Y 1210100663
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Y

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1210010720
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	Y
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	N
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	N
MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITIES (YES/NO)	Y
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)	
POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	
AMBULANCE RESPONSE (YES/NO)	
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS</b>	
<p>Facility could not be found/located. In service gas stub.  Nipsco emergency repair ticket #: 1210100787</p>	

NIPSCO 00465 IUPPSa 09/20/2012 11:07:57 1209192788-01A NORM 2NDR GRID

SECOND NOTICE SECOND NOTICE

Ticket : 1209192788 Date: 09/20/2012 Time: 11:01 Oper: SMCCCLURE Chan:049  
Old Tkt: 1209192788 Date: 09/19/2012 Time: 15:30 Oper: MARK.HIPLE Rev: 00A

State: IN Cnty: DEKALB Twp: UNION  
Cityname: AUBURN Inside: N Near: Y  
Subdivision:

*CASE: 3995*

Address :  
Street : W AUBURN DR  
Cross 1 : AUBURN DRIVE Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE EAST SIDE OF INTERSTATE 69 - 500 FEET TO THE EAST OF INTERSTATE  
69 OVERPASS - LOCATE 800 FEET PAST COUNTY ROAD 19 - NORTH AND SOUTH SIDE OF THE  
ROAD  
:  
Grids : 4120A8505C 4121D8505C 4120A8505B 4121D8505B 4120A8505A  
Grids : 4121D8505A  
Boundary: n 41.352745 s 41.347492 w -85.098427 e -85.089226

Work type : UTILITIES  
Done for : GEIGER EXCAVATING  
Start date: 09/21/2012 Time: 15:45 Hours notice: 28/28 Priority: NORM  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: N  
Duration : 30 DAYS Depth: 15'

Company : GEIGER EXCAVATING Type: CONT  
Co addr : 2808 W COLISEUM BLVD.  
City : FT WAYNE State: IN Zip: 46804  
Caller : MARK HIPLE Phone: (260)459-2005  
Contact : TODD DAVIS Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (260)417-6813  
Fax : (260)459-6034  
Email : MHIPL@GEIGEREXCAVATING.COM

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
PER TODD DAVIS - STILL NEED NIPSCO TO RESPOND TO THIS TICKET - THANK YOU  
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO  
:

Submitted date: 09/20/2012 Time: 11:01  
Members: ID1300 ID2708 ID2885 ID8000 NIPSCO SBCIN SM

NIPSCO 00376 IUPPSa 10/04/2012 11:03:47 1210041191-00A EMER DAMG GRID

DAMAGE DAMAGE

Ticket : 1210041191 Date: 10/04/2012 Time: 10:59 Oper: BBASTIN Chan:045

State: IN Cnty: DEKALB Twp: UNION  
Cityname: AUBURN Inside: N Near: Y  
Subdivision:

Case: 3995

Address :

Street : W AUBURN DR

Cross 1 : AUBURN DRIVE Within 1/4 mile: Y

Location: LOCATE EAST SIDE OF INTERSTATE 69 - 500 FEET TO THE EAST OF INTERSTATE  
69 OVERPASS - LOCATE 800 FEET PAST COUNTY ROAD 19 - NORTH AND SOUTH SIDE OF THE  
ROAD

Grids : 4120A8505C 4121D8505C 4120A8505B 4121D8505B 4120A8505A

Grids : 4121D8505A

Boundary: n 41.352745 s 41.347492 w -85.098427 e -85.089226

Work type : UTILITIES

Done for : GEIGER EXCAVATING

Start date: 10/04/2012 Time: 10:59 Hours notice: 0/0 Priority: EMER

Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y

Duration : 30 DAYS Depth: 15'

Company : GEIGER EXCAVATING Type: CONT

Co addr : 2808 W COLISEUM BLVD.

City : FT WAYNE State: IN Zip: 46804

Caller : TODD DAVIS Phone: (260)459-2005

Contact : TODD DAVIS Phone:

BestTime:

Mobile : (260)417-6813

Fax : (260)459-6034

Email : MHIPL@GEIGEREXCAVATING.COM

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
A GAS MAIN HAS BEEN UNCOVERED AND A PHONE LINE IN FRONT OF 2006 CO RT 48/AUBURN  
DR--GAS LINE IS NIPSCOS AND PHONE LINE WAS ATT--GAS LINE ISNT BLOWING--GAS LINE  
LINE IS 6INCH BLACK IRON PIPE--PHONE LINE WAS A SINGLE PAIR HOME LINE BLACK AND  
PLASTIC--CALLER DOES NOT KNOW PHONE NUMBER BUT SAYS AREA CODE IS 260--CALLER HAS  
CALLED NIPSCO AND ATT--PREV TICKET NUMBER IS 1209192788--THANK YOU

Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO

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Submitted date: 10/04/2012 Time: 10:59

Members: ID1300 ID2708 ID2885 ID8000 NIPSCO SBCIN SM



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

This line has been dead for years

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

n/a-none

**LIST ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS ON SITE:**

n/a-none

**WERE ANY MARKINGS VISIBLE ON THE DAMAGE SITE UPON ARRIVAL?** No

**WERE ANY OTHER INDICATORS OF FACILITY PRESENT IN THE AREA?** No

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

**EXTENT OF FACILITY DAMAGE** dead main exposed

**REPLACEMENT FOOTAGE** 2'

**WAS CONTRACTOR ASSISTANCE REQUIRED? IF YES, WHO?** No n/a

**WHAT CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT WAS USED?** none

**IS THE FACILITY SHOWN ON THE UTILITY RECORDS?** Yes

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

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

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

REPORTING OPERATING AREA SOUTH BEND MAXIMO WO #

OPERATING AREA CONTACT Tim Armstrong JOB ORDER #

TRACKING NUMBER 01820121010003 LOCATE REF #

Locate Performed By:

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT 10/10 2012, 9:00 AM DATE OF REPORT 10/10/12

PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 1905 GOODSON CT, SOUTH BEND

DAMAGE WAS TO:

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

OTHER (DESCRIBE)

GAS: SERVICE (X) MAIN ( ) SIZE 3/8 MATERIAL: PLASTIC (X) STEEL ( ) METER ( ) REG STATION ( ) STUB (X)
OTHER (DESCRIBE)

DEPTH OF FACILITY (inches) 32 PRESSURE (PSI) 35# Lbs.

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

INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE: YES ( ) NO (X) NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS LOST: 0

DURATION OF INTERRUPTION: TIME REPORTED 0900 TIME SHUT OFF 10:30 TIME RESTORED retired was a hit stub.

DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: 1/2"

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

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

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) Youngs Excavating

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) 3031 PRAIRIE AVE, SOUTH BEND, IN 46614

WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK SITE AT TIME OF DAMAGE UNKNOWN

WITNESS NAME AND ADDRESS NONE

WITNESS REMARKS

AGENCIES NOTIFIED / ONSITE: POLICE ( ) AGENCY REPORT #

FIRE ( ) AGENCY REPORT #

OTHER ( ) Any Injuries? ( ) YES # ( ) NO

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

MEDIA ON SITE YES ( ) NO (X)

WORK IN PROGRESS WHEN FACILITY DAMAGED - CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW

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

TYPE OF EQUIPMENT USED - CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW

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

REASON DAMAGE OCCURRED- CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW

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

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR COMMENTS AND DIAGRAM

**COMMENTS :**

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**PERSON PREPARING REPORT** PETE LEVEQUE / TIM ADAMS

**FIELD SUPERVISOR** Wangody

**FIELD MANAGER** Rick Kelly

- 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** [Clyde Pendergrass](#)  
**To:** [IURC PipelineDamageCase](#)  
**Subject:** Case NO. 3995 and 4011 - Initial Documents - Excavator  
**Date:** Thursday, December 20, 2012 2:04:24 PM

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We have reviewed our field and incident records and have found no damaged to any underground pipe lines during the course of our work along W Auburn Drive. We did uncover a unmarked abandoned black pipe natural main and called UPPS to have the gas company respond to the unmarked main.

Thanks,

Clyde Pendergrass

Geiger Excavating, Inc.  
811 Airport Office Park North  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Office Phone - 260-459-2005  
Cell Phone - 260403-2830