



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: Eicher Excavating Incorporated

UPPAC Database Record ID: 4026

Report Date: 3/13/2013

Investigator: Howard Friend

Damage Date: 10/12/2012 1:39:05 PM

Damage Address: 1417 Waynedale Dr, Garrett, Dekalb

### The Parties

Excavator: **Eicher Excavating Incorporated**

Address: 10033 Barnett Road, Grabill, In 46741

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of Work Performed: Driveway

### 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: Yes

Indiana 811 Ticket Number: 1208273006

Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions: LOCATE ENTIRE PROPERTY

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

**Synopsis:** A natural gas service was damaged during excavation for a new drive.

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator's response to initial notice was received on 12/19/2012. The excavator reported the gas service to only be four (4) inches deep however; there was a failure to provide notice of excavation. A locate number was provided for this report and was expired by 26 days. The notice to excavate was reported on 8/27/12 and the damage occurred on 10/12/12.

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

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



150 West Market Street, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

January 31, 2013

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

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 4026  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 4026

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: 10/12/2012

Event Location: 1417 Waynedale Dr

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Eicher Excavating Incorporated

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 4026

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. 4026</b>	
Date of Event	10/12/2012
Event Location	1417 Waynedale Dr
Event City	Garrett
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Eicher Excavating Incorporated
Date of IURC Information Request	12/5/2012
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	Eicher Excavating Incorporated
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	10033 Barnett Road
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Grabill, IN 46741
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	260-657-5526
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	260-740-6042
EMAIL ADDRESS	EICHEREXCAVATING@GMAIL.COM
<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	<a href="mailto:morganthompson@usicinc.com">morganthompson@usicinc.com</a>
<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	1417 Waynedale Dr Lot 18
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Garrett, IN 46738
NEAREST INTERSECTION	Maple Knoll 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)	
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	Y
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	1
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	X
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	
RELEASE OF PRODUCT (YES/NO)	Y
IGNITION AND/OR FIRE (YES/NO)	N
EXCAVATOR NOTIFY 811 (YES/NO)	Y- 1210121792
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	N

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1208273006- expired ticket
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)	
POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	
AMBULANCE RESPONSE (YES/NO)	
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS</b>	
<p>Notification to one-call center made but not sufficient to identify area where damage occurred, and ticket had expired at time of damage.</p> <p>Nipsco emergency repair ticket 1210121879</p>	



The damage occurred next door at the existing house. No locate request at the property where the damage occurred.

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

Called in lot 18.

**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** 5/8 pl service cut

**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?** No

**IF YES, PLEASE LIST RECORD #(S)** n/a

NIPSCO 01028 IUPPSa 08/27/2012 16:37:54 1208273006-00A NORM NEW STRT

CASE #  
4026

NORMAL NOTICE

Ticket : 1208273006 Date: 08/27/2012 Time: 16:33 Oper: KSWANK Chan:063

State: IN Cnty: DEKALB Twp: KEYSER  
Cityname: GARRETT Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision: MAPLE GLEN Lot: 18

Address : 1417  
Street : WAYNEDEALE DR  
Cross 1 : MAPLE KNOLL DR Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE ENTIRE PROPERTY  
:  
Grids : 4120D8507B 4120D8507A  
Boundary: n 41.337406 s 41.335979 w -85.130508 e -85.128166

Work type : FOUNDATION WORK  
Done for : GRANITE RIDGE BUILDERS  
Start date: 08/29/2012 Time: 16:45 Hours notice: 48/48 Priority: NORM  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: N  
Duration : 1 DAY Depth: 8 FEET

Company : EICHER EXCAVATING INCORPORATED Type: CONT  
Co addr : 10033 BARNETT ROAD  
City : GRABILL State: IN Zip: 46741  
Caller : MARGARET EICHER Phone: (260)657-5526  
Contact : GENE EICHER - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (260)740-6042  
Fax : (260)657-5802  
Email : EICHEREXCAVATING@GMAIL.COM

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

Submitted date: 08/27/2012 Time: 16:33  
Members: AEPIN ID2885 ID3146 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

NIPSCO 00571 IUPPSa 10/12/2012 13:39:15 1210121792-00A EMER DAMG STRT

CASE #  
4026

DAMAGE DAMAGE

Ticket : 1210121792 Date: 10/12/2012 Time: 13:33 Oper: SPEOPLES Chan:036

State: IN Cnty: DEKALB Twp: KEYSER  
Cityname: GARRETT Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision: MAPLE GLEN Lot: 18

Address : 1417  
Street : WAYNE DALE DR  
Cross 1 : MAPLE KNOLL DR Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE ENTIRE PROPERTY  
:  
Grids : 4120D8507B 4120D8507A  
Boundary: n 41.337406 s 41.335979 w -85.130508 e -85.128166

Work type : FOUNDATION WORK  
Done for : GRANITE RIDGE BUILDERS  
Start date: 10/12/2012 Time: 13:33 Hours notice: 0/0 Priority: EMER  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y  
Duration : 1 DAY Depth: 8 FEET

Company : EICHER EXCAVATING INCORPORATED Type: CONT  
Co addr : 10033 BARNETT ROAD  
City : GRABILL State: IN Zip: 46741  
Caller : MARGARET EICHER Phone: (260)657-5526  
Contact : DAVID EICHER---CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (260)740-6044  
Fax : (260)657-5802  
Email : EICHEREKCAVATING@GMAIL.COM

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
PER MARGARET - GAS LINE HAS BEEN DAMAGED - UTILITY IS NIPSCO - GAS LINE WAS  
BLOWING AND COULD BE SMELT BUT NOW IT IS PINCHED OFF - LINE WAS DAMAGED  
INBETWEEN THE ADDRESS AT 1417 WAYNE DALE DRIVE AND ROAD - DESCRIPTION OF LINE IS  
UNKNOWN- 911 HAS NOT BEEN CALLED - HAVE ADVISED TO CALL 911 - CREW IS ON SITE -  
UTILITY HAS NOT BEEN CALLED - HAVE ADVISED TO CALL UTILITY - PREVIOUS TICKET  
NUMBER 1208273006 - THANK YOU  
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO  
:

Submitted date: 10/12/2012 Time: 13:33  
Members: AEPIN ID2885 ID3146 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

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

REPORTING OPERATING AREA: Angola MAXIMO WO #: M582702
OPERATING AREA CONTACT: Jon Thomas JOB ORDER #: 571297
TRACKING NUMBER: 018 2012 1012 905 LOCATE REF #: None
Locate Performed By:

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT: 10-12-2012, 1:49 PM DATE OF REPORT: 10-12-12
PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY): 1417 Wagnon Rd, Garrett

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

OTHER (DESCRIBE):

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

DEPTH OF FACILITY (inches): 4" 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: 1

DURATION OF INTERRUPTION: TIME REPORTED: 1:49 PM TIME SHUT OFF: 1:03 PM ET? TIME RESTORED: 4:30 PM ET?

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): Dave Eicher Eicher

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY): 10033 Barnett Rd, Garrett 46741

WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK SITE AT TIME OF DAMAGE: Dave Eicher

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: 021837 (ATTACH PHOTOS TO REPORT)
MEDIA ON-SITE YES ( ) NO ( )

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
( ) LANDSCAPING ( ) PIPELINE ( ) MILLING ( ) OTHER
( ) POLE/SIGN POST ( ) ROAD WORK ( ) SEWER

TYPE OF EQUIPMENT USED - CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW

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

REASON DAMAGE OCCURRED - CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW

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

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR COMMENTS AND DIAGRAM

COMMENTS: Contractor was excavating for new driveway & cut 3/4" pl. gas service. No locates were requested

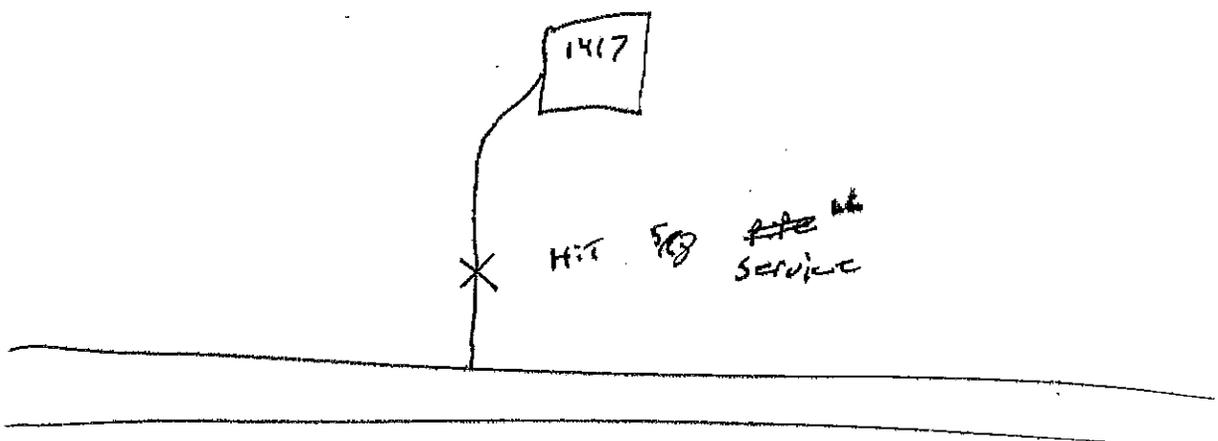
PERSON PREPARING REPORT Larry Lung

FIELD SUPERVISOR Joe Thomas 10-17-12

FIELD MANAGER Rachel Dun

- 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: [Margaret Eicher](#)  
To: [IURC PipelineDamageCase](#)  
Subject: case # 4026  
Date: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 5:40:30 PM  
Attachments: [ResizedImage951350068027233.jpg](#)

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**Eicher Excavating Inc.**

12/19/12

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
Barnett Rd.

10033

**Grabill, In 46741**

Dear Sirs: To whom this may concern, in regards to the gas line that was cut at Waynedale Drive, Garrett Dekalb county by "Eicher Excavating Inc."(case # 4026). It was not done by neglect or an act of carelessness. The yellow flags representing "Northern Indiana Public Service Company's" gas lines were visible along the side of the street, but were not present in the yard, due to previous construction. The final grade had already been completed and there was a pile of dirt remaining in the back yard that needed to be hauled out. Eicher Excavatings employee used a skid loader to carry the dirt to the side of the house while waiting for the dump truck to return, placing it a lot closer to the truck. While in the process of scooping up the dirt, the teeth on the bucket cut below the final grade surface approximately four inches, severing the gas line.

Now it seems to us that four inches of cover is not sufficient for a gas line. Enclosed is a picture showing how deep it was. Various people working there, including the gasline repair employees commented on how shallow it was burried. We hope this explains the situation from our point of view. If we can not depend that a gas line is burried 12" deep or deeper, we would need to uncover an entire gas line in order to final grade a yard.

Sincerely Yours,  
Tim Eicher  
Eicher Excavating Inc.