



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: **Bill Risner Jr.**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 4202

Report Date: 9/16/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 11/28/2012

Damage Address: 1041 Sunset Dr., Rensselaer, Jasper

### The Parties

Excavator: **Bill Risner Jr.**

Address: 440 E. Wood Rd., Rensselaer, In. 47978

Facility Owner: **Rensselaer Municipal Gas System, City of**

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of Work Performed: Electric

### Damage Impact

Product Release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: True

Number of Customers Affected: 1

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$50

### 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 electric work.

**Findings:** Reported by Carol Lockridge (Rensselaer Gas); excavator's response to initial notice was received on 2/19/2013. Excavator failed to provide notice of excavation. This case was returned to Pipeline Safety from the UPPAC for re-investigation.

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

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



## INFORMATION REQUEST

State Form 54909 (2-12)

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

**Case Number:** 4202

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*The Pipeline Safety Division of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission requests any and all information you can provide regarding the following criteria.*

*Upon completion of answers select email button for submission.*

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### The Parties

#### Excavator Information:

Business Name: Risner Excavating

Responsible Party Personal Name: Bill Risner

Title (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Address (number and street): 440 E. Wood Rd.

City, State and ZIP Code: Rensselaer, In. 47978

Preferred Telephone Number (area code): 219-866-3085

Cellular Telephone Number (area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Facility Information:

Business Name: City of Rensselaer

Responsible Party Personal Name: Carol Lockridge

Title (if any): Superintendent

Address (number and street): 706 N. Cullen St.

City, State and ZIP Code: Rensselaer, In. 47978

Preferred Telephone Number (area code): 219-866-5206

Cellular Telephone Number (area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: clockridge@cityofrensselaerin.com

**Locator Service Information:**

Business Name: City of Rensselaer Gas Utility

Responsible Party Personal Name: Carol Lockridge

Title (if any): Superintendent

Address (number and street): 706 N. Cullen St.

City, State and ZIP Code: Rensselaer, In. 47978

Preferred Telephone Number (area code): 219-866-5206

Cellular Telephone Number (area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: clockridge@cityofrensselaerin.com

**Cause of Damage Information**

Type of Equipment (select one): Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of Work Performed (select one): Electric

**Other Information (Witness, Police, Fire, Other):**

Personal Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Address (number and street): \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Telephone Number (area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Cellular Telephone Number (area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Utility Line Impact

#### Location of Damage:

Address (*number and street*): 1041 W. Sunset Dr. \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and ZIP Code: Rensselaer, In. 47978 \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest Intersection: Sparling Ave. \_\_\_\_\_

Product Type (*select one*): Natural Gas

Facility Type (*select one*): Service/Drop

Size (Diameter/etc.): <sup>1/2</sup>" \_\_\_\_\_

Pressure (PSIG/Inches): <sup>30</sup> psi \_\_\_\_\_

Interruption in Service:  Yes  No Number of Customers Affected: <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation:  Yes  No If yes, How Many Evacuated? \_\_\_\_\_

Repair Cost (if known): \$ <sup>50</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Release of Product:  Yes  No

Ignition and/or Fire:  Yes  No

Excavator Notify 811:  Yes  No

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### Locate Information

Excavator Request Locate:  Yes  No

Indiana 811 Locate Ticket Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Locate Marks Visible:**  Yes  No

**Locate Marks Correct:**  Yes  No

**Excavator "White Lined":**  Yes  No

**Maps Used to Mark Facilities:**  Yes  No

**Was Locate Provided within Two (2) Working Days:**  Yes  No

**Operator Employees On-site during Excavation:**  Yes  No

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### Incident Impact Information

**Number of Outpatient Treated:** <sup>0</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Inpatient Treated:** <sup>0</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Fatalities:** <sup>0</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

**Fire Department Response:**  Yes  No

**Police Department Response:**  Yes  No

**Ambulance Response:**  Yes  No

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### Additional Information / Comments

I think that over all the lack of attentiveness when working around the utilities is the frustrating part of this contractor, and not calling in his own locates for his excavation. There were previous locates called in for this property by other contractors such as ourselves to complete different aspects of the house construction. This instance the building contractor had his employees uncover with hand digging the gas line and the contractor still hit the line. This is not the first time we have had problems with this contractor using other peoples locates to work on his job assignment. The charges were minimal and the line had a EVF installed so no product was released. We certainly have spoken to this contractor on several occasions about the importance of locates and diligence in working around utilities.

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT**

Your Pipeline Safety Division Case Number: 4202

Your Full Name: Carol Lockridge

Full Name of Business / Entity (if applicable): City of Rensselaer Gas Utility

Your Business Title (if applicable): Superintendent

Address (number and street): 706 N. Cullen St.

City: Rensselaer State: In. ZIP Code: 47978

Your E-mail Address: clockridge@cityofrensselaerin.com

Today's Date (month, day, year): 2/15/2013

Your Signature: Carol Lockridge Title (if any) Superintendent

Please return your Narrative Statement to:

**Pipeline Safety Division – Case Number 4202**  
**Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission**  
**101 West Washington Street, 1500E**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46204**

Or scan the statement and Email to:

[PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov](mailto:PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov)



## DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

State Form 54122 (R2 / 7-11)

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

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### Who is submitting this information?

Name of person providing this information: Carol Lockridge (Rensselaer Gas)

Business address (*number and street*): 706 N. Cullen St

City, State, and ZIP code: Rensselaer, IN. 47978

Telephone number (*area code*): 219-866-5206

Fax number (*area code*): 219-866-5259

E-mail address: clockridge@cityofrensselaerin.com

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### Excavator Information, if known

Full name: Bill Risner Jr.

Business address (*number and street*): 400 E. Wood Rd.

City, State, and ZIP code: Rensselaer, IN. 47978

Telephone number (*area code*): 219-866-3085

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

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Contractor

Excavation or demolition equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Electric

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**Date and Location of Damage**

Date of damage (*month, day, year*): Nov 28, 2012

County: Jasper

City: Rensselaer

Street address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):  
1041 Sunset Dr.

Nearest intersection: Sparling Ave.

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? \_\_\_\_\_

Was there a customer service interruption? No

If yes, how many affected? \_\_\_\_\_

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 \$ 0

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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? 18

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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?

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:

If other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Was site marked by "White Lining"?

Were special instructions part of the locate request?

Were maps used to complete the locate request?

Were pipeline company representatives on site during excavation? No

Did the excavator notify the operator in the event of this damage? Unknown/Other

Did the excavator notify Indiana 811 in the event of this damage? Unknown/Other

Did the excavator notify 911 in the event of a release of product? No

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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**

This is new home construction, the excavating contractor was digging in the underground electric. (The gas service line had been installed on 11/19/2012, locate # 1211132488). The building contractor had his employees dig up and expose the 1/2 inch PE gas line prior to the excavator beginning his work with a small trackhoe. The gas service trench was still visible. Even with the pipe exposed he hit and tore the 1/2 inch PE line in half. The line did have an EFV in place; therefore, the gas release was very minimal. The excavating contractor did not request a locate.