



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: Dolph Excavating Septic Service

UPPAC Database Record ID: 4270

Report Date: 9/16/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 12/6/2012 4:28:09 PM

Damage Address: 10594 N Grove Rd, Milford, Kosciusko

### The Parties

Excavator: **Dolph Excavating Septic Service**

Address: P O Box 609, Elkhart, In 46515

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Unknown/Other

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: 1211290862

Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions: LOCATE THE FRONT PROPERTY FROM THE FRONT OF HOUSE OUT TO AND INCLUDE IN AND BOTH SIDES OF N GROVE RD

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

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

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator did not respond to initial notice mailed 2/14/2013. Excavator had a valid locate ticket; however, the gas operator self reported a failure to provide facility locate markings of a live in-service gas stub. Also, the excavator crimped off the gas line after damage.

**Conclusion:** There was a failure to provide facility locate markings of the live in-service gas stub.

**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

March 7, 2013

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

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 4270  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 4270

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: 12/6/2012

Event Location: 10594 N Grove Rd

City: Milford

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Dolph Excavating Septic Service

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 4270

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. 4270</b>	
Date of Event	12/6/2012
Event Location	10594 N Grove Rd
Event City	Milford
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Dolph Excavating Septic Service
Date of IURC Information Request	2/13/2013
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	Dolph Excavating Septic Service
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	PO Box 609
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Elkhart / IN / 46515
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	(574) 220-3847
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	10594 N Grove Road
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Milford / IN / 46542
NEAREST INTERSECTION	E Mock Road
<b>PRODUCT TYPE (Select One)</b>	
NATURAL GAS	X
LIQUID PIPELINE	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
<b>FACILITY TYPE (Select One)</b>	
DISTRIBUTION	
GATHERING	
SERVICE/DROP	X in service gas stub
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	

Trencher	
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 1212062424
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Y

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1211290862
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)	N/A
POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N/A
AMBULANCE RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N/A
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS</b>	
Facility could not be found/located (in-service gas stub).	

### Fact Based Investigation Report

NOTIFICATION ID: 01820121206010

DISTRICT: Northern IN

DAMAGE DATE: 12/6/2012 3:45:00 PM

NOTIFICATION DATE: 12/6/2012 4:15:04 PM

NOTIFIED BY: ANGELA SHIPPER Facility Owner

DAMAGE ADDRESS: 10594 N GROVE RD X N STEFFEN DR

CITY: MILFORD

ST: IN ZIP:

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DAMAGED CUSTOMER: NIPSCO

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INVESTIGATION DATE: 12/07/2012

FROM: 11:00:00

TO: 12:00:00

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EXCAVATOR INVOLVED: DOLPH EXCAVATING

TYPE OF EXCAVATION: sewer and water install

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ORIG. LOCATE REQ.: 1211290862

START DATE/TIME:

TYPE OF TICKET: Routine

LOCATE REQ. INFO N/A:

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DIG UP/DAMAGE REQ.: M73021652

START DATE/TIME:

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PICTURES TAKEN BY: josh schiebelhut DATE/TIME: 12/7/2012 11:30:00 AM

PHOTOGRAPHY TYPE: Digital

FRAME #:

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INVESTIGATOR EMP#: 129852

INVESTIGATOR NAME: jesse thomas

BASED ON YOUR INVESTIGATION, IS FURTHER INVESTIGATION NEEDED? No

### Fact Based Investigation Customer Information

NOTIFICATION ID: 01820121206010

SELECT A CUSTOMER: NIPSCO

CUSTOMER #: (optional)

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FACILITY DESCRIPTION: LOWPROF

FACILITY ID: Gas Service

LOCATOR NAME & EMP #: Cunningham Andrew - 131784

LOCATOR NOT KNOWN:

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CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO INVESTIGATION:

Other

Other: Mismarked

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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

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INVESTIGATOR STATEMENT/CAUSAL FACTORS:

gas svc was stubbed off at a curb box. This used to run to old house that sat on this property. New house had no riser or any sign of gas. There wasn't a wire in the curb box to locate by and tech tried to back feed the stub from the neighbors house.

NIPSCO went ahead and ran the gas service to the new house from the curb box and removed the curb box.

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

n/a

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

n/a

**LIST ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS ON SITE:**

n/a

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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?** No

**WAS THE EXCAVATION WITHIN THE TOLERANCE ZONE OF MARKS?** Yes

**EXTENT OF FACILITY DAMAGE** hit abandoned svc

**REPLACEMENT FOOTAGE** n/a

**WAS CONTRACTOR ASSISTANCE REQUIRED? IF YES, WHO?** No

**WHAT CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT WAS USED?** back hoe

**IS THE FACILITY SHOWN ON THE UTILITY RECORDS?** No

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

NIPSCO 00278 IUPPSa 11/29/2012 09:50:30 1211290862-00A NORM NEW GRID

NORMAL NOTICE

Ticket : 1211290862 Date: 11/29/2012 Time: 09:42 Oper: CJODOM Chan:056

State: IN Cnty: KOSCIUSKO Twp: VAN BUREN  
Cityname: MILFORD Inside: N Near: Y  
Subdivision:

Address : 10594  
Street : N GROVE RD  
Cross 1 : E MOCK RD Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE THE FRONT PROPERTY FROM THE FRONT OF HOUSE OUT TO AND INCLUDE  
IN AND BOTH SIDES OF N GROVE RD  
\*\*\*Boring Where = NORTH GROVE ROAD

:  
Grids : 4122A8549B 4123D8549B 4122A8549A 4123D8549A 4123C8549A  
Grids : 4123D8550D 4123C8550D  
Boundary: n 41.388889 s 41.381992 w -85.836006 e -85.826874

Work type : INSTALL SEPTIC SYSTEMS  
Done for : BILL BONTRAGER  
Start date: 12/03/2012 Time: 10:00 Hours notice: 96/48 Priority: NORM  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: Y Railroad: N Emergency: N  
Duration : 2 DAYS Depth: 6 FEET

Company : DOLPH EXCAVATING SEPTIC SERIVCE Type: OTHR  
Co addr : P O BOX 609  
City : ELKHART State: IN Zip: 46515  
Caller : BILL BONTRAGER Phone: (574)220-3847  
Contact : BILL BONTRAGER - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (574)361-4895

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

Submitted date: 11/29/2012 Time: 09:42  
Members: ID2034 ID7362 ID7634 NIPSCO ID5857 SM

NIPSCO 00716 IUPPSa 12/06/2012 16:28:13 1212062424-00A EMER DAMG GRID

DAMAGE SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1212062424 Date: 12/06/2012 Time: 16:24 Oper: SLUCAS Chan:060

State: IN Cnty: KOSCIUSKO Twp: VAN BUREN  
Cityname: MILFORD Inside: N Near: Y  
Subdivision:

Address : 10594  
Street : N GROVE RD  
Cross 1 : E MOCK RD Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE THE FRONT PROPERTY FROM THE FRONT OF HOUSE OUT TO AND INCLUDE  
IN AND BOTH SIDES OF N GROVE RD  
\*\*\*Boring Where = NORTH GROVE ROAD

:  
Grids : 4122A8549A 4122A8549B 4123C8549A 4123C8550D 4123D8549A  
Grids : 4123D8549B 4123D8550D  
Boundary: n 41.388889 s 41.381992 w -85.836006 e -85.826874

Work type : INSTALL SEPTIC SYSTEMS  
Done for : BILL BONTRAGER  
Start date: 12/06/2012 Time: 16:24 Hours notice: 0/000 Priority: EMER  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: Y Railroad: N Emergency: Y  
Duration : 2 DAYS Depth: 6 FEET

Company : DOLPH EXCAVATING SEPTIC SERVICE Type: OTHR  
Co addr : P O BOX 609  
City : ELKHART State: IN Zip: 46515  
Caller : BILL BONTRAGER Phone: (574)220-3847  
Contact : BILL BONTRAGER - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (574)361-4895

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
A NIPSCO LINE HAS BEEN HIT IN THE FRONT OF THE PROPERTY - CREW IS ON THE SITE -  
GAS LINE IS NOT BLOWING AND CAN NOT BE SMELLED - CALLER HAS NOT CALLED 911 BUT  
WAS ADVISED TO DO SO - CALLER HAS CALLED THE UTILITY - PREVIOUS TICKET NUMBER IS  
1211290862 - THANK YOU

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

:

Submitted date: 12/06/2012 Time: 16:24  
Members: ID2034 ID5857 ID7362 ID7634 NIPSCO SM

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY  
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

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

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

OPERATING AREA CONTACT Mark Kalsky JOB ORDER # 547382

TRACKING NUMBER 018 2012 1206 010 LOCATE REF # 1211290862

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

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT 12-06-12 3:58 PM DATE OF REPORT 12-06-12

PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 10594 N Grove Rd. Milford

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) 18" PRESSURE (PSI) 50 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 3:58pm TIME RESTORED N/A (retired service, contractor crimped)

DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: cut thru 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) Curtis Excavating 264-6384  
Dolph Excavating Septic Service

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) PO Box 609, Elkhart, IN 46515 (574)220-3847

WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK SITE AT TIME OF DAMAGE 574-361-4895

WITNESS NAME AND ADDRESS Bill C. Boatrager 2420 Villa Court Elkhart In 46517

WITNESS REMARKS Home Builder subcontracted Curtis Excavating

AGENCIES NOTIFIED / ONSITE: POLICE ( ) AGENCY N/A REPORT # \_\_\_\_\_

FIRE ( ) AGENCY N/A REPORT # \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER ( ) N/A 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <u>Miss locate</u> |

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR COMMENTS AND DIAGRAM

COMMENTS: misslocated, no marks at hit, no wire found from  
main to hit <sup>Tracer</sup>

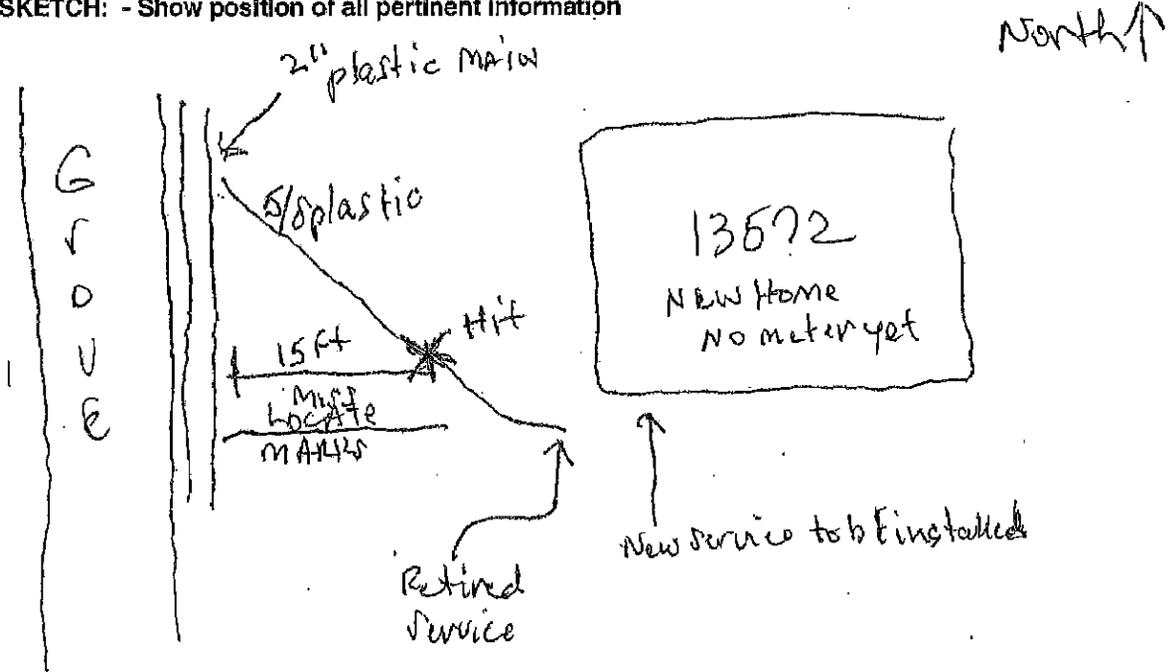
PERSON PREPARING REPORT George W Freeman

FIELD SUPERVISOR Mark Kusky

FIELD MANAGER Rick Gray

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