



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: **Matt Smith Construction**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 4272

Report Date: 7/29/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 12/10/2012 12:38:43 PM

Damage Address: 1702 N Heckathorn Dr, North Manchester, Wabash

### The Parties

Excavator: **Matt Smith Construction**

Address: 4581 West 1300 North, Silver Lake, In 46982

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of Work Performed: Construction

### 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: 1212060704

Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions: LOCATE THE PROPERTY NORTH OF THE DRIVEWAY

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

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

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator did not respond to initial notice mailed 2/14/2013. The excavator had a valid locate ticket and the gas operator provided accurate locate markings; however, the facility was damaged with a backhoe.

**Conclusion:** There was a failure to maintain two (2) feet clearance.

**Violation:** IC 8-1-26-20(a)(2) Failure to maintain two (2) feet clearance with mechanized equipment.



150 West Market Street, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

March 7, 2013

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

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 4272  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 4272

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: 12/10/2012

Event Location: 1702 N Heckathorn Dr

City: North Manchester

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Matt Smith Construction

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 4272

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. 4272</b>	
Date of Event	12/10/2012
Event Location	1702 N Heckathorn Dr
Event City	North Manchester
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Matt Smith Construction
Date of IURC Information Request	2/13/2013
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	Matt Smith Construction
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	4581 West 1300 North
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Silver Lake / IN / 46982
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	(260) 352-0851
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	1702 Heckathorne
CITY/STATE/ZIP	North Manchester / IN / 46962
NEAREST INTERSECTION	Mary Knoll Lane
<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)	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	

Trencher	
Vacuum Equipment	
Unknown/Other	
<b>TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED (Select One)</b>	
Agriculture	
Cable TV	
Curb/Sidewalk	
Bldg. Construction	X
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	
RELEASE OF PRODUCT (YES/NO)	Y
IGNITION AND/OR FIRE (YES/NO)	N
EXCAVATOR NOTIFY 811 (YES/NO)	Y – Ticket# 1212101532
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Y

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1212060704
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	Y
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	Y
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	Y
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>	
<p>Failure to use hand tools where required (Excavator hit accurately marked facility with mechanized equipment).</p> <p>Emergency ticket# 1212101615.</p>	

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

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

REPORTING OPERATING AREA Peru MAXIMO WO # M624883
OPERATING AREA CONTACT Jim Panther JOB ORDER # JO 593 002-18
TRACKING NUMBER 018 2012121006 LOCATE REF # 1212101532
Locate Performed By:

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT 12:11pm Dec 10 2012, 12 M DATE OF REPORT 12-10-12
PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 1702 Hecathorne N Manchester 46962

DAMAGE WAS TO:

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

OTHER (DESCRIBE)

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

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

DURATION OF INTERRUPTION: TIME REPORTED 12:11pm TIME SHUT OFF 2:00pm TIME RESTORED N/A

DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: 5/8 Service was 5/8 at main.

LOCATE MARKS ON SITE: YES X DISTANCE BETWEEN FACILITY AND LOCATE MARKS NO ( )
HOW LOCATED: PAINT X FLAGS X BOTH ( ) WHITE LINED ( )

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) Matt Smith Construction P# 260-578-0851

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) 4581 W. 1300N Silver Lake 46982

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

WITNESS NAME AND ADDRESS

WITNESS REMARKS

AGENCIES NOTIFIED / ONSITE: POLICE ( ) AGENCY REPORT #

FIRE ( ) AGENCY REPORT #

OTHER ( ) Any Injuries? ( ) YES # X 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
X 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 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 X CARELESS MACHINE OPERATOR
( ) NO NOTIFICATION ( ) MARKS DISTURBED ( ) STUB ( ) OTHER

**Fact Based Investigation Report**

NOTIFICATION ID: 01820121210006 DISTRICT: Northern IN  
DAMAGE DATE: 12/10/2012 12:38:52 PM NOTIFICATION DATE: 12/10/2012 12:40:23 PM  
NOTIFIED BY: ELIZABETH SMITH  
DAMAGE ADDRESS: 1702 N HECKATHORN DR  
CITY: NORTH MANCHESTER ST: IN ZIP:

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DAMAGED CUSTOMER: NIPSCO

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INVESTIGATION DATE: 12/10/2012  
FROM: 13:30:00 TO: 15:45:00

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EXCAVATOR INVOLVED: Matt Smith Construction  
TYPE OF EXCAVATION: garage install

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ORIG. LOCATE REQ.: 1212060704 START DATE/TIME: 12/10/2012 9:30:00 AM  
TYPE OF TICKET: Routine LOCATE REQ. INFO N/A:

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DIG UP/DAMAGE REQ.: 1212101532 START DATE/TIME: 12/10/2012 1:40:00 PM

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PICTURES TAKEN BY: jason schlemmer DATE/TIME: 12/10/2012 3:35:00 PM  
PHOTOGRAPHY TYPE: Digital FRAME #:

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INVESTIGATOR EMP#: 121880 INVESTIGATOR NAME: jasonschlemmer

BASED ON YOUR INVESTIGATION, IS FURTHER INVESTIGATION NEEDED? No

**Fact Based Investigation Customer Information**

NOTIFICATION ID: 01820121210006  
SELECT A CUSTOMER: NIPSCO  
CUSTOMER #: (optional)

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FACILITY DESCRIPTION: LOWPROF FACILITY ID: Gas Service  
LOCATOR NAME & EMP #: Sluss Clint - 117331  
LOCATOR NOT KNOWN:

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CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO INVESTIGATION:

Facility Marked Accurately

Other:

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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,  
Investigation Results Verified By Utility Representative

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INVESTIGATOR STATEMENT/CAUSAL FACTORS:

service was marked accurately, contractor was digging within the tolerance zone of locate

**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?** Yes

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

**EXTENT OF FACILITY DAMAGE** cut

**REPLACEMENT FOOTAGE** unknown

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

**WHAT CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT WAS USED?** n/a

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

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

NIPSCO 00180 IUPPSa 12/06/2012 09:21:41 1212060704-00A NORM NEW STRT

NORMAL NOTICE

Ticket : 1212060704 Date: 12/06/2012 Time: 09:16 Oper: BLIEVERTZ Chan:025

State: IN Cnty: WABASH Twp: CHESTER  
Cityname: NORTH MANCHESTER Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision:

Address : 1702  
Street : N HECKATHORN DR  
Cross 1 : MARY KNOLL LN Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE THE PROPERTY NORTH OF THE DRIVEWAY  
:  
Grids : 4100A8547B 4101D8547A 4101D8547B  
Boundary: n 41.018471 s 41.016639 w -85.795894 e -85.793250

Work type : GARAGE INSTALL  
Done for : KIRK BORGMAN  
Start date: 12/10/2012 Time: 09:30 Hours notice: 96/048 Priority: NORM  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: N  
Duration : 4 WEEKS Depth: 3 FEET

Company : MATT SMITH CONSTRUCTION Type: CONT  
Co addr : 4581 WEST 1300 NORTH  
City : SILVER LAKE State: IN Zip: 46982  
Caller : ELIZABETH SMITH Phone: (260)352-0851  
Contact : MATT SMITH - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (260)578-0851  
Fax : (260)982-7522  
Email : MES46982@GMAIL.COM

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? YES  
:

Submitted date: 12/06/2012 Time: 09:16  
Members: ID0002 ID2146 ID2993 ID7053 ID7634 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

NIPSCO 00527 IUPPSa 12/10/2012 12:38:44 1212101532-00A EMER DAMG STRT

DAMAGE

Ticket : 1212101532 Date: 12/10/2012 Time: 12:36 Oper: RJOHNSON Chan:002

State: IN Cnty: WABASH Twp: CHESTER  
Cityname: NORTH MANCHESTER Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision:

Address : 1702  
Street : N HECKATHORN DR  
Cross 1 : MARY KNOLL LN Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE THE PROPERTY NORTH OF THE DRIVEWAY  
:  
Grids : 4100A8547B 4101D8547A 4101D8547B  
Boundary: n 41.018471 s 41.016639 w -85.795894 e -85.793250

Work type : GARAGE INSTALL  
Done for : KIRK BORGMAN  
Start date: 12/10/2012 Time: 12:36 Hours notice: 0/000 Priority: EMER  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y  
Duration : 4 WEEKS Depth: 3 FEET

Company : MATT SMITH CONSTRUCTION Type: CONT  
Co addr : 4581 WEST 1300 NORTH  
City : SILVER LAKE State: IN Zip: 46982  
Caller : ELIZABETH SMITH Phone: (260)352-0851  
Contact : MATT SMITH - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (260)578-0851  
Fax : (260)982-7522  
Email : MES46982@GMAIL.COM

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
GAS LINE HAS BEEN DAMAGED--NIPSCO IS THE UTILITY COMPANY INVOLVED--GAS LINE IS  
BLOWING--CAN HEAR AND SMELL IT--LINE IS DAMAGED IN THE FRONT OF THE PROPERTY  
NEAR THE DRIVEWAY--UNKNOWN DESCRIPTION OF THE DAMAGED LINE---HAVE CALLED  
911--CREW IS ON SITE--HAVE CALLED NIPSCO TO REPORT THE DAMAGED LINE--PREVIOUS  
TICKET 1212060704

Will you be white-lining the dig site area? YES  
:

Submitted date: 12/10/2012 Time: 12:36  
Members: ID0002 ID2146 ID2993 ID7053 ID7634 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

NIPSCO 00552 IUPPSa 12/10/2012 12:59:44 1212101615-00A EMER NEW STRT

EMERGENCY SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1212101615 Date: 12/10/2012 Time: 12:55 Oper: KREED Chan:090

State: IN Cnty: WABASH Twp: CHESTER  
Cityname: NORTH MANCHESTER Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision:

Address : 1702  
Street : E HECKATHORN DR  
Cross 1 : IN RT 13 Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE ENTIRE PROPERTY  
:  
Grids : 4100A8547B 4100A8547C  
Boundary: n 41.016046 s 41.014838 w -85.793668 e -85.789756

Work type : GAS LINE REPAIR  
Done for : NIPSCO  
Start date: 12/10/2012 Time: 12:57 Hours notice: 0/000 Priority: EMER  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y  
Duration : 1 DAY Depth: 6 FEET

Company : NIPSCO Type: MEMB  
Co addr : 801 EAST 86TH AVENUE  
City : MERRILLVILLE State: IN Zip: 46410  
Caller : TENNILLE FORD Phone: (800)322-2806  
Contact : JIM PANTHER - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (763)863-0247  
Fax : (219)647-4764

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

Submitted date: 12/10/2012 Time: 12:55  
Members: ID0002 ID1683 ID2993 ID7053 ID7634 ID8000 NIPSCO SM



Property of United States Infrastructure Corporation  
Photo taken on 12/18/2012 2:00:44 PM



Property of United States Infrastructure Corporation  
Photo taken on 03/16/2012 2:00:42 PM