



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: NIPSCO

UPPAC Database Record ID: 4489

Investigator: Grant Gray

Report Date: 5/3/13

### The Parties

Excavator: NIPSCO

Contact: Jamila Martin

Address (City, State): 22 S IN Route 49, Valparaiso, IN 46383

Telephone: 219-477-3201

### Facility Owner Information:

Business Name: NIPSCO

**Synopsis:** A 1 1/8" natural gas plastic service line was damaged during excavation related to installation of a new service on a natural gas main.

**Findings:** NIPSCO crew used a backhoe to excavate directly over a 2" steel main. Crew excavated by hand and probed in 6" increments to locate the steel main and found it approximately 28-30" from current elevation. NIPSCO then took a 6" cut with the backhoe and nicked a 1 1/8" service line. The crew was not aware of the 1 1/8" service line and it was not indicated in the work order folder. NIPSCO crew should not have assumed that there was only one line in the excavation area.

**Conclusion:** The excavator failed to maintain 2 feet of clearance with mechanized equipment.

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



150 West Market Street, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

April 22, 2012

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

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 4489  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 4489

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: 2/28/2013

Event Location: 1600 W Us Rt 20

City: Westchester

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Nipsco

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 4489

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. 4489</b>	
Date of Event	2/28/2013
Event Location	1600 W Us Rt 20
Event City	Westchester
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Nipsco
Date of IURC Information Request	3/27/2012
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	NIPSCO
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	22 S IN RT 49
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Valparaiso / IN / 46383
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	(219)477-3201
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	1600 US Highway 20
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Porter / IN /
NEAREST INTERSECTION	Stickney 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
TRANSMISSION	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
SIZE (DIAMETER/ETC.)	1/8"
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	

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)	
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 – 1302281669
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Y

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1302110697
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	Y
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	Y
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	N
MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITIES (YES/NO)	Y
OPERATOR EMPLOYEES ON-SITE DURING EXCAVATION (YES/NO)	Y
<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>	
RCA states that the correct records were not pulled for this Emergency ticket# 1302281636.	

Fact Based Investigation Report

**Notification ID** 01820130228005  
**Damage Date** 02/28/2013 14:35  
**Notified By** JAMILA/Nipsco (Other)  
**Damage Address** 1600 US Rt 20 Porter Cnty/Westchester Cnty  
Porter, IN  
**District** Northern Indiana  
**Notification Date** 02/28/2013 15:05

---

**Damaged Customer** NIPSCO

---

**Investigation Date From** 02/28/2013 14:15:00 **To** 02/28/2013 14:45:00

---

**Excavator Involved** NIPSCO  
**Type of Excavation** INSTALL GAS

---

**Orig. Locate Request** 1302271503 **Start Date**  
**Type of Ticket** **Locate Req. Info** N/A

---

**Damage Request #** 1302281669 **Start Date** 02/28/2013 13:50

---

**Pictures Taken By** STEVE KRESMINSKI **Date** 02/28/2013 14:30  
**Photography Type** Digital **Frame #** 1

---

**Investigator Emp. #** 117011 **Investigator Name** STEVE KRESMINSKI  
**Based on your investigation, is further investigation needed?** No

Fact Based Investigation Customer Information

**Facility Description** Low Profile **Facility ID** Gas Service  
**Locator Name & EMP #** McNally Timothy - 134730 **Locator Not Known**

---

**Investigation Findings**  
Facility Marked Accurately  
**Other Notes**

---

**Investigation Methods**  
Investigation Results Verified By Utility Representative  
Visual, Facility Exposed At Time Of Investigation

---

**Investigator Statement/Causal Factors**  
NIPSCO DUG ON TOP OF OUR MARKS WITH A BACKHOE AND CUT AND 1 1/8" PLASTIC GAS SERVICE.  
SERVICE WAS MARKED ACCURATELY WITHIN 6 INCHES.

**Names of Utility Representatives Contacted or on Site and Statement**

RICK SMITH-NIPSCO STATED WE MARKED IT GOOD

**Names of Excavator's Representatives Contacted or on Site and Statement**

RICK SMITH- NIPSCO

**Other individuals on site**

NA

---

**Were any markings visible on the damage site upon arrival?** Yes

**Were any other indicators of facility present in the area?** Yes

<b>Was the excavation within the tolerance zone of marks?</b>	Yes
<b>Extent of facility damage</b>	CUT IN HALF
<b>Replacement Footage</b>	2'
<b>Was contractor assistance required? If yes, who?</b>	No
<b>What contractor equipment was used?</b>	NA
<b>Is the facility shown on the utility records?</b>	No
<b>If yes, list record numbers</b>	NA

Facility: Transmission Lines; Folder: GM & T tickets; Assigned To: N/A

NIPSCO 00485 IUPPSa 02/28/2013 15:00:09 1302281669-00A EMER DAMG STRT

DAMAGE

Ticket : 1302281669 Date: 02/28/2013 Time: 14:54 Oper: CLICH Chan:029

State: IN Cnty: PORTER Twp: WESTCHESTER

Cityname: PORTER Inside: Y Near: N

Subdivision:

Address : 1600

Street : W US RT 20

Cross 1 : STICKNEY RD Within 1/4 mile: Y

Location: LOCATE ENTIRE PROPERTY AND FROM THE GAS RISER TO THE MAIN AND LOCATE FROM THE ELECTRIC METER TO THE POLE--PATH IS FLAGGED OR STAKED

:

Grids : 4136B8705A 4136B8706D

Boundary: n 41.612406 s 41.609992 w -87.101463 e -87.097513

Work type : INSTALL GAS SERVICE

Done for : NIPSCO

Start date: 02/28/2013 Time: 14:54 Hours notice: 0/000 Priority: EMER

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

Duration : 4 HOURS Depth: UNKNOWN

Company : NIPSCO Type: MEMB

Co addr : 22 S IN RT 49

City : VALPARAISO State: IN Zip: 46383

Caller : JAMILA MARTIN Phone: (219)477-3201

Contact : RYAN HUTNICK--OFFICE Phone:

BestTime:

Mobile : (219)477-3201

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time

A NIPSCO GAS LINE HAS BEEN CUT AT THE FRONT OF THE PROPERTY---THE SERVICE LINE

IS 1/8 OF AN INCH---ADVISED CALLER TO CALL 911--CREW IS ON SITE---NIPSCO UTILITY

HAS BEEN NOTIFIED--PREVIOUS TICKET NUMBER 1302110697

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

:

Submitted date: 02/28/2013 Time: 14:54

Members: COMCN ID2227 ID4212 ID8000 ID8240 NIPSCO SM

Facility: Transmission Lines; Folder: GM & T tickets; Assigned To: N/A

NIPSCO 00485 IUPPSa 02/28/2013 15:00:09 1302281669-00A EMER DAMG STRT

DAMAGE

Ticket : 1302281669 Date: 02/28/2013 Time: 14:54 Oper: CLICH Chan:029

State: IN Cnty: PORTER Twp: WESTCHESTER

Cityname: PORTER Inside: Y Near: N

Subdivision:

Address : 1600

Street : W US RT 20

Cross 1 : STICKNEY RD Within 1/4 mile: Y

Location: LOCATE ENTIRE PROPERTY AND FROM THE GAS RISER TO THE MAIN AND LOCATE FROM THE ELECTRIC METER TO THE POLE--PATH IS FLAGGED OR STAKED

:

Grids : 4136B8705A 4136B8706D

Boundary: n 41.612406 s 41.609992 w -87.101463 e -87.097513

Work type : INSTALL GAS SERVICE

Done for : NIPSCO

Start date: 02/28/2013 Time: 14:54 Hours notice: 0/000 Priority: EMER

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

Duration : 4 HOURS Depth: UNKNOWN

Company : NIPSCO Type: MEMB

Co addr : 22 S IN RT 49

City : VALPARAISO State: IN Zip: 46383

Caller : JAMILA MARTIN Phone: (219)477-3201

Contact : RYAN HUTNICK--OFFICE Phone:

BestTime:

Mobile : (219)477-3201

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time

A NIPSCO GAS LINE HAS BEEN CUT AT THE FRONT OF THE PROPERTY---THE SERVICE LINE

IS 1/8 OF AN INCH---ADVISED CALLER TO CALL 911--CREW IS ON SITE---NIPSCO UTILITY

HAS BEEN NOTIFIED--PREVIOUS TICKET NUMBER 1302110697

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

:

Submitted date: 02/28/2013 Time: 14:54

Members: COMCN ID2227 ID4212 ID8000 ID8240 NIPSCO SM

Facility: Transmission Lines; Folder: GM & T tickets; Assigned To: N/A

NIPSCO 00483 IUPPSa 02/28/2013 14:52:49 1302281636-00A EMER NEW STRT

EMERGENCY SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1302281636 Date: 02/28/2013 Time: 14:31 Oper: CLICH Chan:029

State: IN Cnty: PORTER Twp: WESTCHESTER

Cityname: PORTER Inside: Y Near: N

Subdivision:

Address : 1600

Street : US RT 20

Cross 1 : STICKNEY RD Within 1/4 mile: Y

Location: LOCATE ENTIRE PROPERTY

:

Grids : 4136B8705A 4136B8706D 4138B8701B 4138B8701C 4138C8701B

Grids : 4138C8701C

Boundary: n 41.644183 s 41.609992 w -87.101463 e -87.021788

Work type : GAS LINE REPAIR

Done for : NIPSCO

Start date: 02/28/2013 Time: 14:34 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 E 86TH AVE

City : MERRILLVILLE State: IN Zip: 46410

Caller : JAMILA MARTIN Phone: (800)762-0592

Contact : RICK SMITH--CELL Phone:

BestTime:

Mobile : (219)252-4057

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
CREW ON SITE

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

:

Submitted date: 02/28/2013 Time: 14:31

Members: COMCN ID2227 ID4212 ID8000 ID8240 NIPSCO SM

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY  
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

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

REPORTING OPERATING AREA Valpo MAXIMO WO # 1052893720602280125  
OPERATING AREA CONTACT Rick Smith JOB ORDER # \_\_\_\_\_  
TRACKING NUMBER 018 2013 0228 005 LOCATE REF # 1302110697  
Locate Performed By: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT February 28, 2013 13:05 DATE OF REPORT 02/28/13  
PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 1600 US HWY 20

DAMAGE WAS TO:

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

OTHER (DESCRIBE) \_\_\_\_\_

GAS: SERVICE  MAIN ( ) SIZE 1 1/8" MATERIAL: PLASTIC  STEEL ( ) METER ( ) REG STATION ( ) STUB ( )  
OTHER (DESCRIBE) \_\_\_\_\_

DEPTH OF FACILITY (Inches) 36" 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 13:25 TIME RESTORED 14:00

DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: 1/4"

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

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) NipSCO Valpo

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) \_\_\_\_\_

WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK SITE AT TIME OF DAMAGE \_\_\_\_\_

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: Rick Smith (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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOWING <u>Natural Gas</u>             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPING         | <input type="checkbox"/> PIPELINE   | <input type="checkbox"/> MILLING       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <u>Underground Construction</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> POLE/SIGN POST      | <input type="checkbox"/> ROAD WORK  | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> STUB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR COMMENTS AND DIAGRAM

COMMENTS: 1 1/8" plastic service hit w/back hoe during  
underground construction.

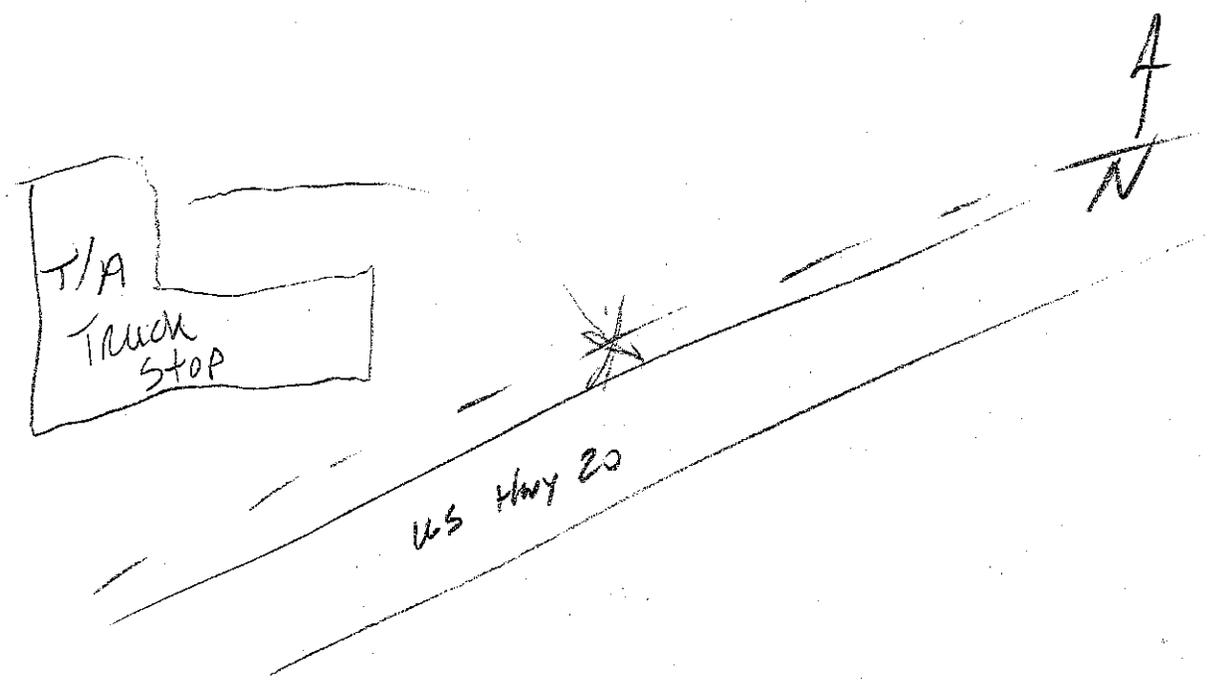
PERSON PREPARING REPORT Ryan Walsh

FIELD SUPERVISOR Rick Smith

FIELD MANAGER John Todd

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

# Root Cause Analysis:

---

**Incident Date** – Thursday February 28, 2013

**Incident Location** – 1600 West US 20 Porter, IN

**Environmental conditions** – Cloudy, cool, snow, rain, mid 30 degree temps.

**Crew Information** – 3 person Nipsco Construction Crew

**Work Assigned** – Installation of new service tee on main.

**Time in job classification** –

**Crew Experience** –

## **Time line of events preceding incident**

- Crew arrived at location at approximately 9:00am.
- Crew conducted Safety Briefing.
- Crew coordinated with Traffic Control and adjusted closure to accommodate excavation.
- Crew examined but did not validate locates.
- Crew examined GIS and engineered print supplied with work folder.
- Crew had concerns about a crossing a 2" Main
- Crew Contacted Supervisor Rick Smith for clarification.
- Crew waited approximately 2 hours for inclimate weather.
- Crew took lunch break.

- Crew began excavation by hand digging and probing in 6" increments to locate Steel Main.
- Crew located Steel Main with probe and measured approximately 28" to 30" from their current elevation.
- Crew took one more 6" cut.
- Crew nicked 1-1/8" line at 24" of depth.
- Crew called in hit to 811.
- Crew stated no gas was blowing.
- Crew hand dug back to pinch line and make repair.
- Crew backfilled excavation.
- Crew activated lost services to 4 customers.

## **Casual Factors**

- Difficult excavation conditions including coagulated slag road base, limited stabilization of the excavator due to 3/1 slope for ditch.
- Crew used hand tools, probes and an excavator.
- 1-1/8" line did not show up on any of the work folder documents.
- Locates were accurate.
- Traffic Control was sufficient.

## **Root Causes**

- Crew was forced to excavate directly over Steel Main because of right of way and casual factors.
- Crew was not given information about the 1-1/8" service in work order folder.
- Crew failed to verify service with field browser information.

- Engineering did not access service records in the design of the new service, which would have shown this 1-1/8" service sharing the trench approximately 28" to 30" directly above Steel Main.

### **Corrective Actions**

- Nipsco representatives, Supervisors, Operators and Technicians to meet for lessons learned.
- Nipsco representatives will meet with engineering to determine why this design did not include utilization of all available service records.



Property of United States Infrastructure Corporation  
Photo taken on 2/26/2019 2:21:00 PM



150 West Market Street, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

April 26, 2013

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

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 4489  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Notification of Preliminary Determination of Violation  
Date of Event: 2/28/2013  
Event Location: 1600 W Us Rt 20, Westchester  
Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company  
Excavator: Northern Indiana Public Service Company  
Other Party: N/A  
Pipeline Division Case No. 4489

To Whom It May Concern:

In response to the Notice of Preliminary Determination dated November 30, 2012, as detailed above, please refer to Northern Indiana Public Service Company's ("NIPSCO") facility owner response in Case No. 4489. All relevant documents, including both NIPSCO's operator records relevant to the damage as well as information that addresses the potential statutory violation by NIPSCO as an excavator are attached to that response.

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 me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Earle".

Christopher C. (Kit) Earle  
NiSource Corporate Services - Legal  
Phone: 317-684-4904  
Fax: 317-684-4918  
Email: [cearle@nisource.com](mailto:cearle@nisource.com)