



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: Ridge Petroleum Contractors

UPPAC Database Record ID: 4540

Report Date: 8/13/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 3/6/2013 4:47:07 PM

Damage Address: 4105 Us Rt 30, Center, Porter

### The Parties

Excavator: **Ridge Petroleum Contractors**

Address: 3225 South Hoyt Avenue Po Box 2249, Muncie, In 47307

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of Work Performed: Unknown/Other

### 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  
2/25/2013

Indiana 811 Ticket Number: 1302211346

Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions: LOCATE THE ENTIRE LOT

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

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

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator did not respond to initial notice mailed 3/27/2013. The excavator failed to maintain locate marks by requesting a re-marking of facilities due to weather.

**Conclusion:** There was a failure to maintain locate markings by calling IN811 for facility re-marking.

**Violation:** IC 8-1-26-20(a)(3)(b) Failure to notify IN811 when locate markings have become illegible



150 West Market Street, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

April 23, 2012

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

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 4540  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 4540

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: 3/6/2013

Event Location: 4105 / Us Rt 30

City: Center

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Ridge Petroleum Contractors

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 4540

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. 4540</b>	
Date of Event	3/6/2013
Event Location	4105 / Us Rt 30
Event City	Center
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Ridge Petroleum Contractors
Date of IURC Information Request	3/27/2012
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	Ridge Petroleum Contractors
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	3225 South Hoyt Avenue
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Muncie / IN / 47307
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	(765)282-3778
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	4105 US Highway 30
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Valparaiso / IN / 46383
NEAREST INTERSECTION	Montdale Drive
<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 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	
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 – 1303061523
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Y

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1303061323
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)	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)	Y
POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N/A
AMBULANCE RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N/A
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS</b>	
<p>Failure to maintain the marks (excavator should have called in for refresh marks).</p> <p>Emergency ticket# 1303061387.</p>	

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

NIPSCO 00318 IUPPSa 03/06/2013 15:57:23 1303061323-00A NORM NEW GRID

NORMAL NOTICE REMARK

Ticket : 1303061323 Date: 03/06/2013 Time: 15:51 Oper: AHUNTER Chan:037  
Old Tkt: 1302211346 Date: 02/21/2013 Time: 13:43 Oper: JJENNE Rev: 00A

State: IN Cnty: PORTER Twp: CENTER  
Cityname: VALPARAISO Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision:

Address : 4105  
Street : US RT 30  
Cross 1 : MONDALE DR Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE THE ENTIRE LOT  
:  
Grids : 4126A8700A 4126A8700B 4126A8700C 4126A8700D 4126A8701D  
Grids : 4126B8700C 4126B8700D  
Boundary: n 41.449624 s 41.445536 w -87.017787 e -87.001954

Work type : BURY TANK  
Done for : PILOT TRAVEL CENTER  
Start date: 03/08/2013 Time: 16:00 Hours notice: 48/048 Priority: NORM  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: N  
Duration : 3 DAYS Depth: 14 FEET

Company : RIDGE PETROLEUM CONTRACTORS Type: CONT  
Co addr : 3225 SOUTH HOYT AVENUE PO BOX 2249  
City : MUNCIE State: IN Zip: 47307  
Caller : BOBBY RIDGE Phone: (765)282-3778  
Contact : TYLER RIDGE-CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (765)748-1812

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
REMARK NEEDED DUE TO WEATHER-- PLEASE USE HEAVY PAINT AND FLAGS-- THANK YOU  
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO  
:

Submitted date: 03/06/2013 Time: 15:51  
Members: COMCN ID3800 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

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

NIPSCO 00354 IUPPSa 03/06/2013 16:47:09 1303061523-00A EMER DAMG GRID

DAMAGE SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1303061523 Date: 03/06/2013 Time: 16:41 Oper: BLIEVERTZ Chan:025

State: IN Cnty: PORTER Twp: CENTER  
Cityname: VALPARAISO Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision:

Address : 4105  
Street : US RT 30  
Cross 1 : MONTDALD DR Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE THE ENTIRE LOT  
:  
Grids : 4126A8700A 4126A8700B 4126A8700C 4126A8700D 4126A8701D  
Grids : 4126B8700C 4126B8700D  
Boundary: n 41.449624 s 41.445536 w -87.017787 e -87.001954

Work type : BURY TANK  
Done for : PILOT TRAVEL CENTER  
Start date: 03/06/2013 Time: 16:42 Hours notice: 0/000 Priority: EMER  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y  
Duration : 3 DAYS Depth: 14 FEET

Company : RIDGE PETROLEUM CONTRACTORS Type: CONT  
Co addr : 3225 SOUTH HOYT AVENUE PO BOX 2249  
City : MUNCIE State: IN Zip: 47307  
Caller : PAULA RIDGE Phone: (765)282-3778  
Contact : TYLER RIDGE-CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (765)748-1812

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
A NIPSCO GAS LINE WAS HIT IN AN UNKNOWN PLACE ON THE PROPERTY - UNKNOWN IF THE  
LINE IS BLOWING CALLER IS NOT ON SITE - LINE IS UNKNOWN SIZE/COLOR/MATERIAL -  
ADVISED CALLER TO CALL 911 - CALLERS CREW IS ON SITE - NIPSCO CREW IS ON SITE -  
FIRE DEPARTMENT IS ON SITE - NIPSCO WAS CALLED AND THE DAMAGE WAS REPORTED -  
PREVIOUS TICKET NUMBER IS 1302211346  
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO  
:

Submitted date: 03/06/2013 Time: 16:41  
Members: COMCN ID3800 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

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

NIPSCO 00335 IUPPSa 03/06/2013 16:06:45 1303061387-00A EMER NEW GRID

EMERGENCY SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1303061387 Date: 03/06/2013 Time: 16:00 Oper: BMORRIS Chan:016

State: IN Cnty: PORTER Twp: WASHINGTON  
Cityname: VALPARAISO Inside: N Near: Y  
Subdivision:

Address : 4105  
Street : E US RT 30  
Cross 1 : MURVIHILL RD Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE ENTIRE PROPERTY  
:  
Grids : 4126A8700A 4126A8700B 4126A8700C 4126B8700A 4126B8700B  
Grids : 4126B8700C  
Boundary: n 41.448320 s 41.444527 w -87.013531 e -87.006200

Work type : REPAIR GAS LINE  
Done for : NIPSCO  
Start date: 03/06/2013 Time: 16:01 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 : RICK SMITH---CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (219)252-4057  
Fax : (219)647-4764

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

Submitted date: 03/06/2013 Time: 16:00  
Members: COMCN ID3800 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY  
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

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

REPORTING OPERATING AREA VAPAHAIS MAXIMO WO # C094 5247200  
OPERATING AREA CONTACT Rick Smith JOB ORDER # 597396  
TRACKING NUMBER 018 2013 0306 006 LOCATE REF # 130221B46  
Locate Performed By: VJC

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT March 6 2013 14:30 p M DATE OF REPORT 3-6-13  
PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 4105 E US Highway, 30, VAPAHAIS, IN 46383

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) 20" 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: 1

DURATION OF INTERRUPTION: TIME REPORTED 15:30 TIME RESTORED contractor squeezed gas himself  
DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: 1/8 lights done @ 17:30

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

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) Ridge Petroleum

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) 5771 Park Plaza Court, Indianapolis, IN 46220

WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK SITE AT TIME OF DAMAGE Tyler Ridge (317) 596-9334

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: \_\_\_\_\_ (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 ( ) MILLING ( ) MOWING Petroleum tank  
( ) LANDSCAPING ( ) PIPELINE ( ) SEWER ( ) OTHER  
( ) POLE/SIGN POST ( ) ROAD WORK

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

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 Hit Service while Digging  
For New Gas Tank

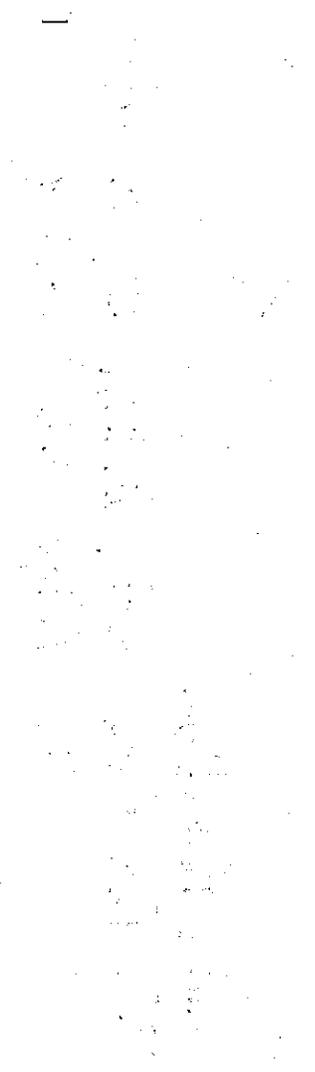
PERSON PREPARING REPORT Sake Robertson

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 <sup>HR</sup> ZONE | YES | NO |
| • EXPIRED LOCATE   | YES | NO |
| • WAS WHITE LINING INDICATED ON LOCATE REQUEST               | YES | NO |

COMPLETED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Fact Based Investigation Report

**Notification ID** 01820130306007  
**Damage Date** 03/06/2013 16:47  
**Notified By** PAULA RIDGE ()  
**Damage Address** 4105 US RT 30  
VALPARAISO, IN  
  
**District** Northern Indiana  
**Notification Date** 03/06/2013 16:50

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**Damaged Customer** NIPSCO

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**Investigation Date From** 03/06/2013 15:35:00 **To** 03/06/2013 16:25:00

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**Excavator Involved** Ridge Petroleum Contractors  
**Type of Excavation** Bury Tank

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**Orig. Locate Request** 1302211346 **Start Date** 02/25/2013 14:00  
**Type of Ticket** Routine **Locate Req. Info** N/A

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**Damage Request #** 1303061523 **Start Date** 03/06/2013 16:40

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**Pictures Taken By** Anita Whitis **Date** 03/06/2013 15:45  
**Photography Type** Digital **Frame #** 1

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**Investigator Emp. #** 131983 **Investigator Name** Anita Whitis  
**Based on your investigation, is further investigation needed?** No

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Fact Based Investigation Customer Information

**Facility Description** Low Profile **Facility ID** Gas Service  
**Locator Name & EMP #** Whitis Anita - 131983 **Locator Not Known**

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**Investigation Findings**

Facility Marked Accurately  
Relocate Needed

**Other Notes**

Original markings destroyed

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**Investigation Methods**

Investigation Results Verified By Utility Representative  
Investigator Verified Existing Marks By Hooking Up  
Visual, Facility Exposed At Time Of Investigation

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**Investigator Statement/Causal Factors**

This is at a Pilot truck stop. Contractor used backhoe to excavate for an underground tank. Hit gas service line on the south end of the excavation. This area was marked on Feb 25th. I was on site with Anita that day and saw locates being done. It was raining and all locates were done in pavement. Since that time we've had more rain and snow that destroyed the markings. The contractor never called for a remark.

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

Nipsco on site made repairs as needed.

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

He said that it was not marked and that his office called for a locate 02-23-2013. Anita relayed to him that it had been marked on 02-25-2013 and that locates were on the pavement and there was still a gas flag in the grass by the back fence.

**Other individuals on site**

N/A

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<b>Were any markings visible on the damage site upon arrival?</b>	Yes
<b>Were any other indicators of facility present in the area?</b>	Yes
<b>Was the excavation within the tolerance zone of marks?</b>	Yes
<b>Extent of facility damage</b>	Cut gas service
<b>Replacement Footage</b>	N/A
<b>Was contractor assistance required? If yes, who?</b>	No
<b>What contractor equipment was used?</b>	Backhoe
<b>Is the facility shown on the utility records?</b>	No
<b>If yes, list record numbers</b>	