



Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

Investigation regarding: Mel Graber Excavating

UPPAC Database Record ID: 4586

Report Date: 8/13/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 3/28/2013 2:55:30 PM

Damage Address: Lane 260A Crooked Lk, Pleasant, Steuben

The Parties

Excavator: **Mel Graber Excavating**

Address: 10025 Graber Road, Grabill, In 46741

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of Work Performed: Grading

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
3/19/2013

Indiana 811 Ticket Number: 1303151370

Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions: THIS IS FOR THE ADDRESSES 115 AND 135 LANE 260A CROOKED LK---LOCATE FROM THE REAR WALL OF THE HOUSE TO THE FRONT OF THE PROPERTY TO INCLUDE LOCATING THE RIGHT OF WAYS AND STREET IN FRONT OF THE ADDRESSES

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

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

Findings: Reported by Indiana 811; excavator did not respond to initial notice mailed 5/1/2013. The excavator failed to maintain required clearance from the gas main with the backhoe.

Conclusion: There was a failure to use hand tools to expose facility prior to excavation within the tolerance zone.

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

May 31, 2013

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

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 4586
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 4586

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: 3/28/2013
Event Location: Lane 260a Crooked Lk
City: Pleasant
Facility Owner: Nipsco
Excavator: Mel Graber Excavating
Other Party: N/A
Pipeline Division Case No. 4586

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

IURC INFORMATION REQUEST	
Pipeline Safety Division Case No. 4586	
Date of Event	3/28/2013
Event Location	Lane 260a Crooked Lk
Event City	Pleasant
Facility Owner	Nipsco
Excavator	Mel Graber Excavating
Date of IURC Information Request	May 1, 2013
THE PARTIES	
EXCAVATOR:	
BUSINESS NAME	Mel Graber Excavating
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	10025 Graber Road
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Grabill/ IN / 46741
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	(260)627-2991
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	(260)410-5854
EMAIL ADDRESS	mgrabr100@gmail.com
FACILITY INFORMATION - OWNER/OPERATOR OF UTILITY LINE:	
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
LOCATOR SERVICE INFORMATION	
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@usinc.com
OTHER (WITNESS, POLICE, FIRE, OTHER) INFORMATION	
PERSONAL CONTACT	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	

ADDRESS	
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
UTILITY LINE IMPACT	
LOCATION OF DAMAGE	
ADDRESS	115-135 Lane 260A Crooked Lk
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Angola / IN /
NEAREST INTERSECTION	W Orland Road
PRODUCT TYPE (Select One)	
NATURAL GAS	X
LIQUID PIPELINE	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
FACILITY TYPE (Select One)	
DISTRIBUTION	
GATHERING	
SERVICE/DROP	X
TRANSMISSION	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
SIZE (DIAMETER/ETC.)	1/2"
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) (\$)	
CAUSE OF DAMAGE INFORMATION:	
TYPE OF EQUIPMENT (Select One)	
Auger	
Backhoe/Trackhoe	X
Boring/Drilling	
Directional Drilling	
Explosives	
Farm Equipment	
Grader/Scraper	
Hand Tools	
Milling Equipment	
Probing Device	

Trencher	
Vacuum Equipment	
Unknown/Other	
TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED (Select One)	
Agriculture	
Cable TV	
Curb/Sidewalk	
Bldg. Construction	
Bldg. Demolition	
Drainage	
Driveway	
Electric	
Engineering/Surveying	
Fencing	
Grading	X
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 – 1303282492
LOCATE INFORMATION:	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Y

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1303151370
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
INCIDENT IMPACT INFORMATION	
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
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS	
Failure to use hand tools where required.	

Facility: Transmission Lines; Folder: N/A; Assigned To: N/A

NIPSCO 00377 IUPPSa 03/15/2013 12:42:24 1303151370-00A NORM NEW GRID

NORMAL NOTICE

Ticket : 1303151370 Date: 03/15/2013 Time: 12:38 Oper: JSMITH Chan:088

State: IN Cnty: STEUBEN Twp: PLEASANT
Cityname: ANGOLA Inside: N Near: Y
Subdivision:

Address :

Street : LANE 260A CROOKED LK

Cross 1 : W ORLAND RD Within 1/4 mile: Y

Location: THIS IS FOR THE ADDRESSES 115 AND 135 LANE 260A CROOKED LK---LOCATE
FROM THE REAR WALL OF THE HOUSE TO THE FRONT OF THE PROPERTY TO INCLUDE LOCATING
THE RIGHT OF WAYS AND STREET IN FRONT OF THE ADDRESSES

:

Grids : 4141C8504B 4141C8504C 4141D8504B 4141D8504C

Boundary: n 41.690028 s 41.687354 w -85.076350 e -85.072783

Work type : INSTALLING SEWER/WATER LINES

Done for : HOME OWNER

Start date: 03/19/2013 Time: 13:00 Hours notice: 96/048 Priority: NORM

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

Duration : 1 DAY Depth: 6 FEET

Company : MEL GRABER EXCAVATING Type: CONT

Co addr : 10025 GRABER ROAD

City : GRABILL State: IN Zip: 46741

Caller : MEL GRABER Phone: (260)627-2991

Contact : MEL GRABER---CELL Phone:

BestTime:

Mobile : (260)410-5854

Fax : (260)627-2241

Email : MGRABER100@GMAIL.COM

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

:

Submitted date: 03/15/2013 Time: 12:38

Members: ID3015 ID3563 ID4844 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

Facility: Transmission Lines; Folder: N/A; Assigned To: N/A

NIPSCO 00834 IUPPSa 03/28/2013 14:55:30 1303282492-00A EMER DAMG GRID

DAMAGE SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1303282492 Date: 03/28/2013 Time: 14:50 Oper: BLIEVERTZ Chan:025

State: IN Cnty: STEUBEN Twp: PLEASANT
Cityname: ANGOLA Inside: N Near: Y
Subdivision:

Address :

Street : LANE 260A CROOKED LK

Cross 1 : W ORLAND RD Within 1/4 mile: Y

Location: THIS IS FOR THE ADDRESSES 115 AND 135 LANE 260A CROOKED LK---LOCATE
FROM THE REAR WALL OF THE HOUSE TO THE FRONT OF THE PROPERTY TO INCLUDE LOCATING
THE RIGHT OF WAYS AND STREET IN FRONT OF THE ADDRESSES

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Grids : 4141C8504B 4141C8504C 4141D8504B 4141D8504C

Boundary: n 41.690028 s 41.687354 w -85.076350 e -85.072783

Work type : INSTALLING SEWER/WATER LINES

Done for : HOME OWNER

Start date: 03/28/2013 Time: 14:50 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 : MEL GRABER EXCAVATING Type: CONT

Co addr : 10025 GRABER ROAD

City : GRABILL State: IN Zip: 46741

Caller : DAVID GRABER Phone: (260)627-2991

Contact : MEL GRABER---CELL Phone:

BestTime:

Mobile : (260)410-5854

Fax : (260)627-2241

Email : MGRABER100@GMAIL.COM

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time
GAS LINE WAS HIT - NIPSCO GASLINE - NOT BLOWING - WITHIN 10 FEET OF THE METER ON
THE ROADSIDE OF 115 LANE 260A CROOKED LAKE - LINE IS YELLOW HALF INCH PLASTIC -
ADVISED CALLER TO CALL 911 - CALLERS CREW ON SITE - CALLER HAS CALLED NIPSCO TO
REPORT THE DAMAGE - PREVIOUS TICKET NUMBER IS 1303151370 - THANK YOU -
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO
:

Submitted date: 03/28/2013 Time: 14:50

Members: ID3015 ID3563 ID4844 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

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

REPORTING OPERATING AREA Marion Combs MAXIMO WO # M 710498
OPERATING AREA CONTACT Joe Thomas JOB ORDER # 571399
TRACKING NUMBER LOCATE REF # 1303151370
Locate Performed By:

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT 3-28 2013 3:03PM DATE OF REPORT 3-28-13
PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 115 Ln. 260 A Crooked Lake - Angola

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

OTHER (DESCRIBE)
GAS: SERVICE (X) MAIN () SIZE 1/2" MATERIAL: PLASTIC (X) STEEL () METER () REG STATION () STUB ()

DEPTH OF FACILITY (inches) 8" PRESSURE (PSI) 40 Lbs.
RELEASE OF GAS: YES (X) NO () IGNITION OF GAS: YES () NO (X) EVACUATION REQUIRED: YES () # NO (X)
INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE: YES (X) NO () NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS LOST: 4:20
DURATION OF INTERRUPTION: TIME REPORTED 3:03 TIME RESTORED 4:20
DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: 1/2"

LOCATE MARKS ON SITE: YES () DISTANCE BETWEEN FACILITY AND LOCATE MARKS 8-10" NO ()
HOW LOCATED: PAINT (X) FLAGS (X) BOTH (X) WHITE LINED ()

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) D+M Const.

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) 17125 Grabill Rd. - Grabill IN. 46741

WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK SITE AT TIME OF DAMAGE Mel Graber
WITNESS NAME AND ADDRESS

WITNESS REMARKS

AGENCIES NOTIFIED / ONSITE: POLICE () AGENCY REPORT #
FIRE () AGENCY REPORT #
OTHER () Any Injuries? () YES # NO (X)

PHOTOS TAKEN: YES (X) NO () TAKEN BY: 021732 (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
() BLDG CONSTRUCTION () DEMOLITION () DRAINAGE () WATER
() DRIVEWAY () ELECTRIC () SURVEYING () DRAINS/CULVERTS
() FENCING (X) 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 Bob Cat
() 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 (X) OTHER Failure to Hand expose

COMMENTS:

Failed to Hand Expose before grading

PERSON PREPARING REPORT

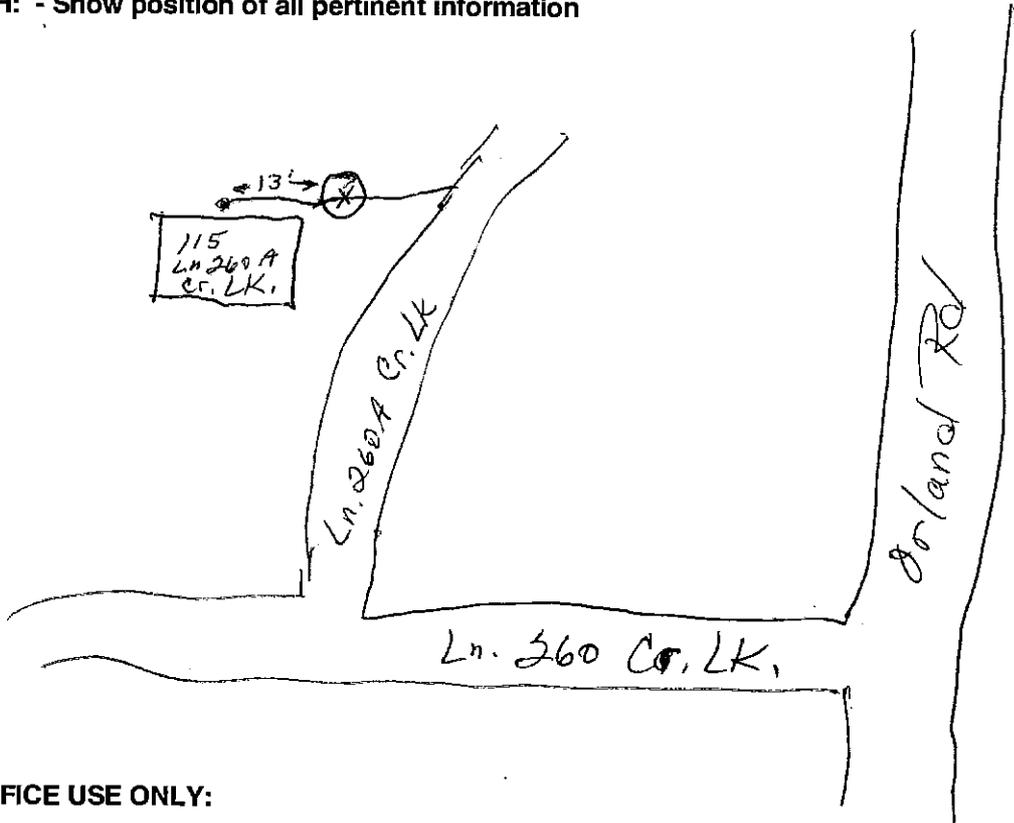
Marion Combs

FIELD SUPERVISOR

FIELD MANAGER

- 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:

Fact Based Investigation Report

Notification ID 01820130328005
Damage Date 03/28/2013 14:55
Notified By DAVID GRABER ()
Damage Address LANE 260A CROOKED LK
ANGOLA, IN
District Northern Indiana
Notification Date 03/28/2013 15:00

Damaged Customer NIPSCO

Investigation Date From 03/28/2013 15:50:00 **To** 03/28/2013 16:45:00

Excavator Involved MEL GRABER EXCAVATING
Type of Excavation GRADING

Orig. Locate Request 1303151370 **Start Date**
Type of Ticket **Locate Req. Info** N/A

Damage Request # **Start Date**

Pictures Taken By GEORGE MILLER **Date** 03/28/2013 16:00
Photography Type Digital **Frame #** 1

Investigator Emp. # 117460 **Investigator Name** GEORGE MILLER
Based on your investigation, is further investigation needed? No

Fact Based Investigation Customer Information

Facility Description Low Profile **Facility ID** main - 3/4" plastic
Locator Name & EMP # Miller George - 117460 **Locator Not Known**

Investigation Findings

Facility Marked Accurately

Other Notes

Investigation Methods

Visual, Facility Exposed At Time Of Investigation

Investigator Statement/Causal Factors

MOST MARK WIPED OUT. COMPARE PICTURES

Names of Utility Representatives Contacted or on Site and Statement

MIRIAM

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

MEL GRABER

Other individuals on site

N/A

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 2'

Replacement Footage

2'

Was contractor assistance required? If yes, who?

No N/A

What contractor equipment was used?

N/A

Is the facility shown on the utility records?

No

If yes, list record numbers

N/A



Property of United States Infrastructure Corporation
Photo taken on 3/18/2013 12:15:40 PM



Property of United States Infrastructure Corporation
Photo taken on 3/18/2013 12:15:30 PM