



Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

Investigation regarding: Action Fence

UPPAC Database Record ID: 4633

Report Date: 7/24/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 4/16/2013 3:40:08 PM

Damage Address: 401 Decatur St, Michigan, Laporte

The Parties

Excavator: Action Fence

Address: P O Box 1123, Michigan City, In 46361

Facility Owner: NIPSCO

Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Hand Tools

Type of Work Performed: Fencing

Damage Impact

Product Release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: True

Number of Customers Affected: 1

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$656

Excavator Activities/Cause of Damage Information:

Excavator Request Locates: No

Indiana 811 Ticket Number: Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions: LOCATE BACKYARD

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

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

Findings: Reported by Indiana 811; excavator's response to initial notice was received on 6/5/2013. The excavator was replacing an existing fence and widening the post holes to concrete the new posts and nicked a gas service line without benefit of a locate ticket.

Conclusion: There was a failure to provide notice of excavation.

Violation: IC 8-1-26-16(g) Failure to provide notice of excavation.



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. 4633
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 4633

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: 4/16/2013
Event Location: 401 Decatur St
City: Michigan
Facility Owner: Nipsco
Excavator: Action Fence
Other Party: N/A
Pipeline Division Case No. 4633

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. 4633	
Date of Event	4/16/2013
Event Location	401 Decatur St
Event City	Michigan
Facility Owner	Nipsco
Excavator	Action Fence
Date of IURC Information Request	May 1, 2013
THE PARTIES	
EXCAVATOR:	
BUSINESS NAME	Action Fence
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	PO Box 1123
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Michigan City / IN / 46361
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	(219)861-7606
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
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@usicinc.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	401 Decatur Street
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Michigan City / IN / 46360
NEAREST INTERSECTION	N/A
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.)	5/8"
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) (\$)	
CAUSE OF DAMAGE INFORMATION:	
TYPE OF EQUIPMENT (Select One)	
Auger	
Backhoe/Trackhoe	
Boring/Drilling	
Directional Drilling	
Explosives	
Farm Equipment	
Grader/Scraper	
Hand Tools	X
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	X
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 – 1304162997
LOCATE INFORMATION:	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	N

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	N/A
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	N
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	N/A
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	N
MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITIES (YES/NO)	N
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)	Y
POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N/A
AMBULANCE RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N/A
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS	
<p>No notification made to the one-call center.</p> <p>Emergency ticket# 1304161695.</p>	

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

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

REPORTING OPERATING AREA LA PORTE MAXIMO WO # _____
OPERATING AREA CONTACT Rich Elm JOB ORDER # 581617-16
TRACKING NUMBER 018-2013-0416-003 LOCATE REF # _____
Locate Performed By: _____

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT 4/16 2013 10:21 AM DATE OF REPORT 4/16/13
PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 407 Decatur ST MC

DAMAGE WAS TO:
ELECTRIC - POLE / TRANSFORMER: # _____ SIZE 7/A YEAR INSTALLED _____ BROKEN YES () NO ()
OTHER (DESCRIBE) _____

GAS: SERVICE MAIN () SIZE _____ MATERIAL: PLASTIC STEEL () METER () REG STATION () STUB ()
OTHER (DESCRIBE) _____

DEPTH OF FACILITY (inches) 20" 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: _____

DURATION OF INTERRUPTION: TIME REPORTED 10:21 AM TIME RESTORED 1:00

DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: 5/8" CUT IN HALF

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

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) Action Fence

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) _____

WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK SITE AT TIME OF DAMAGE Tim Holinger

WITNESS NAME AND ADDRESS _____

WITNESS REMARKS _____

AGENCIES NOTIFIED / ONSITE: POLICE () AGENCY _____ REPORT # _____

FIRE AGENCY MC FD 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 () MOWING
() LANDSCAPING () PIPELINE () MILLING () OTHER _____
() POLE/SIGN POST () ROAD WORK () SEWER

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:

No Locates - Cut Service with Post hole
Diss.

PERSON PREPARING REPORT

W. F. LIE

FIELD SUPERVISOR

RICH ELM

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: _____

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

NIPSCO 01014 IUPPSa 04/16/2013 15:40:12 1304162997-00A EMER DAMG STRT

DAMAGE SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1304162997 Date: 04/16/2013 Time: 15:33 Oper: DHIGHBAUGH Chan:091

State: IN Cnty: LAPORTE Twp: MICHIGAN
Cityname: MICHIGAN CITY Inside: Y Near: N
Subdivision:

Address : 401
Street : DECATUR ST
Location: LOCATE BACKYARD
:
Grids : 4142C8653C 4142D8653C
Boundary: n 41.704391 s 41.703292 w -86.891383 e -86.888920

Work type : TEARING OUT OLD FENCE AND INSTALL NEW ON
Done for : AUDREY BROOKS
Start date: 04/16/2013 Time: 15:36 Hours notice: 0/000 Priority: EMER
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y
Duration : 2 DAYS Depth: 3 FEET

Company : ACTION FENCE Type: OTHR
Co addr : P O BOX 1123
City : MICHIGAN CITY State: IN Zip: 46361
Caller : TIM HULLINGER Phone: (219)861-7606
Contact : TIM HULLINGER---CELL Phone:
BestTime:
Mobile : (219)861-7606

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time
PER TIM HULLINGER----NIPSCO GAS LINE HAS BEEN HIT IN THE BACKYARD BY THE
ALLEY---LINE IS PLACTIC 5/8 IN DIAMETER---COLOR UNKNOWN---LINE IS NOT
BLOWING---NIPSCO HAS BEEN CONTACTED---911 HAS BEEN CONTACTED---CREW IS NOT ON
SITE---NO PREVIOUS TICKET NUMBER---THANK YOU
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO
:

Submitted date: 04/16/2013 Time: 15:33
Members: COMCN ID0148 ID6683 NIPSCO SBCIN SM

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

NIPSCO 00552 IUPPSa 04/16/2013 12:12:34 1304161695-00A EMER NEW STRT

EMERGENCY SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1304161695 Date: 04/16/2013 Time: 12:08 Oper: AGRIGGS Chan:074

State: IN Cnty: LAPORTE Twp: MICHIGAN
Cityname: MICHIGAN CITY Inside: Y Near: N
Subdivision:

Address : 407
Street : DECATUR ST
Cross 1 : OAK ST Within 1/4 mile: Y
Location: LOCATETHE ENTIRE PROPERTY
:
Grids : 4142C8653C 4142D8653C
Boundary: n 41.704391 s 41.703292 w -86.891383 e -86.888920

Work type : GAS LEAK REPAIR
Done for : NIPSCO
Start date: 04/16/2013 Time: 12:10 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 : JOEL DEJESUS Phone: (800)322-2806
Contact : STEVE GEORGIAN - CELL Phone:
BestTime:
Mobile : (219)363-1033
Fax : (219)647-4764

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: 04/16/2013 Time: 12:08
Members: COMCN ID0148 ID6683 NIPSCO SBCIN SM

Fact Based Investigation Report

Notification ID 01820130416003
Damage Date 04/16/2013 00:00
Notified By ANESSIA BALIEY (Facility Owner)
Damage Address 407 DECATUR ST X OAK ST (LAPORTE COUNTY)
MICHIGAN CITY, IN
District Northern Indiana
Notification Date 04/16/2013 12:20

Damaged Customer NIPSCO

Investigation Date From 04/16/2013 12:00:00 **To** 04/16/2013 12:20:00

Excavator Involved HOME OWNER

Type of Excavation Fence Install

Orig. Locate Request **Start Date** 04/16/2013 00:00
Type of Ticket **Locate Req. Info** N/A Yes

Damage Request # M84963074 **Start Date** 04/16/2013 11:30

Pictures Taken By Chris Deniston **Date** 04/16/2013 12:00
Photography Type Digital **Frame #** 4-16

Investigator Emp. # 117867 **Investigator Name** Chris Deniston

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 # - **Locator Not Known** Yes

Investigation Findings

No Locate Req. By Contractor

Other Notes

Investigation Methods

Visual, Facility Exposed At Time Of Investigation

Investigator Statement/Causal Factors

Homeowner hit gas service with a shovel installing a fence. No locate request.

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

Other individuals on site

n/a

Were any markings visible on the damage site upon arrival? No

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

Was the excavation within the tolerance zone of marks? No

Extent of facility damage cut 1/2

Replacement Footage	3'
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, list record numbers	



INFORMATION REQUEST

State Form 54909 (R / 3-13)

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

Case Number: 4633

Date of Damage (month, day, year): 4-16-2013

Location of Damage:

Address (number and street): 401 Decatur Street

City, State and ZIP Code: Michigan City, IN 46360

Nearest Intersection: South and Decatur

Excavator Information:

Business Name: Action Fence

Responsible Party Personal Name: Tim Hullinger

Title (if any): President

Address (number and street): P.O. Box 1123

City, State and ZIP Code: Michigan City, IN 46361

Preferred Telephone Number (area code): 219-879-4886

Email Address: action213@comcast.net

Utility Information:

Utility Name: Nipsco

Contact Person: unknown

Title (if any): _____

Cause of Damage Information

Type of Equipment (*select one*):

Hand Tools

Type of Work Performed (*select one*):

Fencing

Repair Cost: \$ 656.36

- Did a leak result from damage: Yes No
- Was there ignition: Yes No
- Excavator Notify 911 due to leak: Yes No
- Excavator Notify 811 upon damage: Yes No
- Excavator Notify Utility upon Damage: Yes No
-

Locate Information

- Excavator Request Locate: Yes No
- Indiana 811 Locate Ticket Number: _____
- Locate Marks Visible: Yes No
- Locate Marks Correct: Yes No
- Excavator "White Lined": Yes No
- Was Locate Provided within Two (2) Working Days: Yes No
- Utility Employees On-site during Excavation: Yes No
-

Incident Information:

- Fire Department Response: Yes No
- Police Department Response: Yes No
- Ambulance Response: Yes No
-

Additional Information / Comments

Please forgive me this mishap I beg of you. I have been fencing for 23 years and this oversight has caused me great distress, not to mention a large NIPSCO bill.

I have no excuse obviously, but here's my plea. My crew showed up to the site which we had worked on before to remove an old chain-link fence and install a new one. The posts were pulled straight up out of their hole (no cement was in them) and we dug and put new posts exactly where the old ones were but we widened the holes for cement this time. This is when the NEIGHBORS GAS LINE was nicked and I called in all people necessary. We worked as I said here before and we knew our clients utilities were out front of her house. I believe even if we had a ticket for our address, there would not have been any marking on the other side of the fence for the NEIGHBORS gas line. (Not trying to excuse my mistake, but don't you think this would be true?)

Once again I am very sorry to have caused this inconvenience for everyone, I know there are more important things to do than clean up after mistakes.

Respectfully,
Tim Hullinger

Printed Name: Tim Hullinger

Signature: Tim Hullinger Date (month, day, year): 6/5/13

**If submitting this form electronically, typing your name in the signature box will act as an electronic signature.*

Please return completed form to:

PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov

Or mail to:

**Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
Pipeline Safety Division - Case Number _____
101 West Washington Street, 1500E
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

**Or fax to:
317-233-2410**