



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: Gatlin Plumbing Inc.

UPPAC Database Record ID: 4659

Report Date: 9/16/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 4/24/2013 3:29:22 PM

Damage Address: E 35th Ave, Hobart, Lake

### The Parties

Excavator: **Gatlin Plumbing Inc.**

Address: 1111 East Main Street, Griffith, In 46319

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Distribution

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of Work Performed: Water

### 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  
4/22/2013

Indiana 811 Ticket Number: 1304182157

Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions: FROM THE INTERSECTION LOCATE EAST FOR APPROX 500 FEET ON BOTH SIDES OF E 35TH AVE FROM ROW TO ROW STOPPING AT TEXAS ST

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

**Synopsis:** Excavator struck and damaged an underground natural gas main while performing water work.

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator's response to initial notice was received on 5/29/2013. Excavator had a valid locate ticket; however, the gas operator failed to provide all facility locate markings within two (2) full working days.

**Conclusion:** There was a failure to provide facility locate markings.

**Violation: IC 8-1-26-18(f) Operator failed to locate or provided incorrect locate markings.**



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. 4659  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 4659

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: 4/24/2013  
Event Location: E 35th Ave  
City: Hobart  
Facility Owner: Nipsco  
Excavator: Gatlin Plumbing Inc  
Other Party: N/A  
Pipeline Division Case No. 4659

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. 4659</b>	
Date of Event	4/24/2013
Event Location	E 35th Ave
Event City	Hobart
Facility Owner	Nipsco
Excavator	Gatlin Plumbing Inc
Date of IURC Information Request	May 1, 2013
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	Gatlin Plumbing Inc
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	1111 East Main Street
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Griffith / IN / 46319
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	(219)924-6972
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	(219)798-3788
EMAIL ADDRESS	gatlinplumbing@comcast.net
<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	<a href="mailto:LSELKING@NISOURCE.COM">LSELKING@NISOURCE.COM</a>
<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	Florida Street & E 35th Avenue
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Lake Station / IN /
NEAREST INTERSECTION	I-65
<b>PRODUCT TYPE (Select One)</b>	
NATURAL GAS	X
LIQUID PIPELINE	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
<b>FACILITY TYPE (Select One)</b>	
DISTRIBUTION	X
GATHERING	
SERVICE/DROP	
TRANSMISSION	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
SIZE (DIAMETER/ETC.)	4"
PRESSURE (PSIG/INCHES)	
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	N
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	0
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	X
Waterway Improvement	
Unknown/Other	
RELEASE OF PRODUCT (YES/NO)	Y
IGNITION AND/OR FIRE (YES/NO)	N
EXCAVATOR NOTIFY 811 (YES/NO)	Y – 1304242943
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Y

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1304182157
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>Contractor failed to wait for the untoneable process to be resolved.</p> <p>Emergency ticket# 1304242910.</p>	

Fact Based Investigation Report

**Notification ID** 01820130424008  
**Damage Date** 04/24/2013 14:05  
**Notified By** JOEL DEJUSES (Facility Owner)  
**Damage Address** FLORIDA ST X 35TH AVE LAKE/HOBART  
LAKE STATION, IN  
**District** Northern Indiana  
**Notification Date** 04/24/2013 15:31

---

**Damaged Customer** NIPSCO

---

**Investigation Date From** 04/24/2013 14:15:00 **To** 04/24/2013 15:30:00

---

**Excavator Involved** GATLIN PLUMBING  
**Type of Excavation** Water main project

---

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

---

**Damage Request #** 1304242910 **Start Date** 04/24/2013 15:25

---

**Pictures Taken By** Scott Day **Date** 04/24/2013 14:25  
**Photography Type** Digital **Frame #** 1

---

**Investigator Emp. #** 131986 **Investigator Name** Scott Day  
**Based on your investigation, is further investigation needed?** No

---

Fact Based Investigation Customer Information

**Facility Description** Low Profile **Facility ID** Gas Main

**Locator Name & EMP #** Day Scott - 131986 **Locator Not Known**

---

**Investigation Findings**

Facility Marked Accurately  
Other

**Other Notes**

Work started by different contractor

---

**Investigation Methods**

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

---

**Investigator Statement/Causal Factors**

AREA PREVIOUSLY MARKED WITH "DEAD END IN AREA" JUST WEST OF TREE ON CORNER AT EDGE OF STREET. ALSO UNTONEABLE RETIRED SERVICE IN THE AREA AND MARKED AS SUCH. REFER TO TICKET # 1304181009 FOR PHOTOS SHOWING THIS AREA.

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

MATT GRAY, SUPERVISOR WITH NIPSCO, SAID THEY WERE GOING TO DIG ON EAST SIDE OF BLOWING GAS TO WELD FITTINGS TO MAIN TO STOP THE GAS AND THEN REPAIR THE DAMAGE. THIS IS A DEAD END OF A MAIN.

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

CONTRACTOR STATED THEY WERE DIGGING AND HIT THE GAS MAIN. THEY DID NOT SEE THE UNTONEABLE SERVICE OR DEAD END MARKS BECAUSE THEY WERE COVERED UP WITH DIRT FROM THE HOLE. CREW DID KNOW THAT MAIN DID DEAD END IN THIS AREA FROM PREVIOUS LOCATES. NEW CHICAGO WATER WAS FIRST CREW DIGGING THIS AREA AND THEN HANDED IT OVER TO GATLIN AS THEIR EQUIPMENT COULD NOT DO THE JOB. GATLIN STARTED THE WORK WITH THE HOLE ALREADY OPEN AND WORK STARTED.

**Other individuals on site**

N/A

---

<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>	HIT DEAD END OF MAIN
<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>	Yes
<b>If yes, list record numbers</b>	NIPSCO GAS PRINTS/GARY DIST

**NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY  
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT**

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

REPORTING OPERATING AREA GARY MAXIMO WO # \_\_\_\_\_

OPERATING AREA CONTACT 886-5584 JOB ORDER # 475884

TRACKING NUMBER # 018-2613-0424-008 LOCATE REF # 1304242943

Locate Performed By: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT 4/24/13 20:13, 4402 M DATE OF REPORT 4/24/13

PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) INT OF 35th & FLORIDA LAKE STATION

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

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

**GAS:** SERVICE ( ) MAIN  SIZE 4" MATERIAL: PLASTIC ( ) STEEL  METER ( ) REG STATION ( ) STUB ( )  
OTHER (DESCRIBE) \_\_\_\_\_

DEPTH OF FACILITY (Inches) 4' PRESSURE (PSI) 40 Lbs.

RELEASE OF GAS: YES  NO ( ) IGNITION OF GAS: YES ( ) NO  EVACUATION REQUIRED: YES ( ) # \_\_\_\_\_ NO

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

DURATION OF INTERRUPTION: TIME REPORTED 14:07 TIME RESTORED 17:30

DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: 1"

LOCATE MARKS ON SITE: YES  DISTANCE BETWEEN FACILITY AND LOCATE MARKS Approx. 2" NO ( )  
HOW LOCATED: PAINT  FLAGS  BOTH ( ) WHITE LINED ( )

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) GATELIN PLUMBING

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) 111 E MAIN ST. GRIFFITH

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: ROBERT HEYWARD (ATTACH PHOTOS TO REPORT)

**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 type="checkbox"/> MOWING                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPING         | <input type="checkbox"/> PIPELINE   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILLING | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <u>SEWER</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> POLE/SIGN POST      | <input type="checkbox"/> ROAD WORK  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SEWER   |  |

**TYPE OF EQUIPMENT USED** - CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AUGER             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BACKHOE/TRACKHOE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MILLING EQUIPMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> BORING / DRILLING           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLOSIVES        | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> CARELESS MACHINE OPERATOR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NO NOTIFICATION     | <input type="checkbox"/> MARKS DISTURBED               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <u>STUCK RAGE</u>   |

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

NIPSCO 00630 IUPPSa 04/18/2013 14:14:10 1304182157-00A NORM NEW GRID

NORMAL NOTICE JOB EXTENSION

Ticket : 1304182157 Date: 04/18/2013 Time: 14:13 Oper: ALOUIE Chan:032  
Old Tkt: 1304022862 Date: 04/02/2013 Time: 15:01 Oper: SHARRIS Rev: 00A

State: IN Cnty: LAKE Twp: HOBART  
Cityname: LAKE STATION Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision:

Address :

Street : E 35TH AVE

Cross 1 : I 65 Within 1/4 mile: Y

Location: FROM THE INTERSECTION LOCATE EAST FOR APPROX 500 FEET ON BOTH SIDES OF  
E 35TH AVE FROM ROW TO ROW STOPPING AT TEXAS ST

:

Grids : 4133C8718B 4133C8718C 4133D8718B  
Boundary: n 41.555284 s 41.554146 w -87.311668 e -87.307932

Work type : INSTALL WATER MAIN

Done for : NEW CHICAGO WATERWORKS

Start date: 04/22/2013 Time: 14:30 Hours notice: 96/048 Priority: NORM

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

Duration : 3 WEEKS Depth: 5 FEET

Company : GATLIN PLUMBING INC Type: CONT

Co addr : 1111 EAST MAIN STREET

City : GRIFFITH State: IN Zip: 46319

Caller : MATT MURPHY Phone: (219)924-6972

Contact : AARON GRAHAM--CELL Phone:

BestTime:

Mobile : (219)798-3788

Fax : (219)924-1401

Email : GATLINPLUMBING@COMCAST.NET

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

:

Submitted date: 04/18/2013 Time: 14:13

Members: BE COMCN ID1158 ID5769 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

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

NIPSCO 01013 IUPPSa 04/24/2013 15:33:42 1304242943-00A EMER DAMG GRID

DAMAGE SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1304242943 Date: 04/24/2013 Time: 15:24 Oper: DMEYER Chan:034

State: IN Cnty: LAKE Twp: HOBART  
Cityname: LAKE STATION Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision:

Address :  
Street : E 35TH AVE  
Cross 1 : I 65 Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: FROM THE INTERSECTION LOCATE EAST FOR APPROX 500 FEET ON BOTH SIDES OF  
E 35TH AVE FROM ROW TO ROW STOPPING AT TEXAS ST  
:  
Grids : 4133C8718E 4133C8718C 4133D8718B  
Boundary: n 41.555284 s 41.554146 w -87.311668 e -87.307932

Work type : INSTALL WATER MAIN  
Done for : NEW CHICAGO WATERWORKS  
Start date: 04/24/2013 Time: 15:24 Hours notice: 0/000 Priority: EMER  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y  
Duration : 3 WEEKS Depth: 5 FEET

Company : GATLIN PLUMBING INC Type: CONT  
Co addr : 1111 EAST MAIN STREET  
City : GRIFFITH State: IN Zip: 46319  
Caller : MATT MURPHY Phone: (219)924-6972  
Contact : AARON GRAHAM--CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (219)798-3788  
Fax : (219)924-1401  
Email : GATLINPLUMBING@COMCAST.NET

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
PER MATT MURPHY --- HIT A GAS MAIN --- NIPSCO LINE --- THE GAS IS BLOWING ---  
DIGGING ON NORTH SIDE OF 35TH AVE JUST ON THE EAST SIDE OF FLORIDA ST --- 2 INCH  
GAS MAIN - BLACK METAL --- THEY DID CALL 911 AND FIRE DEPT AND NIPSCO ARE ON  
SITE --- CREW IS STILL ON SITE --- PREVIOUS TICKET 1304182157  
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO  
:

Submitted date: 04/24/2013 Time: 15:24  
Members: BE COMCN ID1158 ID5769 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

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

NIPSCO 00994 IUPPSa 04/24/2013 15:25:24 1304242910-00A EMER NEW STRT

EMERGENCY SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1304242910 Date: 04/24/2013 Time: 15:21 Oper: BLIEVERTZ Chan:025

State: IN Cnty: LAKE Twp: HOBART  
Cityname: LAKE STATION Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision:

Address :  
Street : FLORIDA ST  
Cross 1 : E 35TH AVE Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE A 200 FOOT RADIUS OF THE INTERSECTION  
:  
Grids : 4133C8718B  
Boundary: n 41.555263 s 41.554165 w -87.310620 e -87.309158

Work type : GAS LEAK REPAIR  
Done for : NIPSCO  
Start date: 04/24/2013 Time: 15:23 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 : MATT GRAY--CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (219)314-2967  
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: 04/24/2013 Time: 15:21  
Members: BE COMCN ID1158 ID5769 ID8000 NIPSCO SM



Property of United States Infrastructure Corporation

Photo taken on 4/18/2013 9:34:20 AM



Property of United States Infrastructure Corporation

Photo taken on 4/18/2013 9:34:12 AM



Property of United States Infrastructure Corporation

Photo taken on 4/24/2013 2:49:04 PM



Property of United States Infrastructure Corporation

Photo taken on 4/24/2013 2:46:09 PM



150 West Market Street, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

September 3, 2013

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

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 4659  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Notification of Possible Violations; Pipeline Division Case No. 4659  
Date of Event: 4/24/2013  
Event Location: E 35<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Excavator: Gatlin Plumbing Inc  
Other Party: N/A

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter responds to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, Division of Pipeline Safety, Notification of Possible Violations for Case No. 4659 (as detailed above) identifying potential violations of Indiana law dated August 5, 2013. NIPSCO has not identified any additional information related to this incident not already provided in its May 31, 2013 response.

**NIPSCO denies it was in violation of Ind. Code § 8-1-26-18(f).** The excavator causing the damage (Gatlin Plumbing) did not have a valid locate at the time of the damage.

If there are any additional questions, please contact the undersigned.

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)

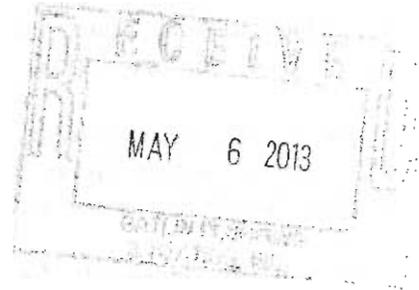


INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
101 W. WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 1500E  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-3407

<http://www.in.gov/iurc>  
Office: (317) 232-2701  
Facsimile: (317) 232-6758

May 1, 2013

Matt Murphy  
Gatlin Plumbing Inc  
1111 East Main Street  
Griffith, In 46319



**Re: Notice of Preliminary Determination of Violation  
Pipeline Safety Division Case No. 4659**

**Date of Event:** 4/24/2013  
**Event Location:** E 35th Ave, Hobart, Lake County  
**Excavator:** Gatlin Plumbing Inc  
**Facility Owner:** Nipsco

Dear Matt Murphy,

On behalf of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("Commission"), I am writing to inform you that information has been filed with the Commission's Pipeline Safety Division regarding an alleged violation of Indiana Code chapter 8-1-26, the Indiana Damage to Underground Facilities Act ("the Act"). You are receiving this letter because you have been identified as the Respondent Excavator.

To ensure safety, the Indiana Underground Plant Protection Service (Indiana 811) and gas operators routinely provide reports to the Pipeline Safety Division when an operator's facility is damaged. The Division has received a report from one of these entities that on **4/24/2013**, you or your business damaged a pipeline facility owned by **Nipsco** and located at **E 35th Ave, Hobart, Lake County**.

Based upon the information received, the Pipeline Safety Division is commencing an investigation into the event concerning you or your business to determine whether any statutory violations were committed regarding public safety, specifically the following:

- IC 8-1-26-16(g): Failure to provide notice of excavation.
- IC 8-1-26-16(h): Failure to perform required white lining.
- IC 8-1-26-20(b): Failure to maintain two (2) feet clearance with mechanized equipment.
- IC 8-1-26-18(f): Failure to properly locate facilities (operator violation)

The Division provides both you and Nipsco with an opportunity to send in documentation explaining what occurred. This may include maps, photographs, narrative statements, and any other evidence you wish to provide. You have thirty (30) days from the date this letter is received to send in information, but an extension may be given for good cause shown. Please note that the Division's investigation will be completed after this time period, even if you do not respond or fail to provide

**Information Request**  
**Pipeline Safety Division**  
**Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission**

**Case No. 4659**

The Pipeline Safety Division of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission requests any and all information you can provide regarding the following criteria:

The Parties:

Excavator Information: Gatlin Plumbing & Heating, Inc.  
Responsible Party Personal Name: Aaron Graham  
Title (if any): Estimator / Project Manager  
Address: 1111 E. Main Street  
City, State Zip: Griffith, IN 46319-2897  
Preferred Telephone: 219-924-6972  
Cell Phone Number: 219-798-3788  
Email Address: [gatlinplumbing@comcast.net](mailto:gatlinplumbing@comcast.net)

Facility Information:

Business Name: Nipsco  
Responsible Party Personal Name: Mary L. Lechowicz  
Title (if any): Leader Facility Damages  
Address: 801 E. 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
City, State Zip: Merrillville, IN 46410-6271  
Preferred Telephone: 219-647-4033  
Cell Phone Number: Unknown  
Email Address: [www.nipsco.com](http://www.nipsco.com)

Locator Service Information:

Business Name: USIC  
Responsible Party Personal Name: Unknown  
Title (if any): Unknown  
Address: Unknown  
City, State Zip: Unknown  
Preferred Telephone: Unknown  
Cell Phone Number: Unknown  
E-mail Address: Unknown

Other (Witness, Police, Fire, Other) Information:

Personal Contact: None

Business / Organization Name:

Title (if any): Unknown

Address: Unknown

City, State Zip: Unknown

Preferred Telephone: Unknown

Cell Phone Number: Unknown

E-mail Address: Unknown

Utility Line Impact:

Location of Damage: Lake County

Address: Intersection of 35<sup>th</sup> Ave & Florida Street

City, State Zip: Lake Station, IN

Nearest Intersection: 34<sup>th</sup> Ave & Florida Street

Product Type (circle one):

Natural Gas

Facility Type (circle one):

Service Line: 3/4" service off of main

Size (Diameter /etc): 3/4"

Pressure (PSIG/Inches): Unknown

Interruption in Service: Yes Number of Customers Affected: Unknown

Evacuation: No If yes, How Many Evacuated? None

Repair Cost (if known): N/A

Cause of Damage Information:

Type of Equipment : John Deere 200 Excavator

Type of Work Performed: Repairing Broken Water Main

Release of Product: Yes

Ignition and/or Fire: No

Excavator Notify 811: Yes

Locate Information:

Excavator Request Locate: Yes  
Indiana 811 Locate Ticket Number: 1304182157  
Locate Marks Visible: Yes  
Locates Marks Correct: No  
Excavator "White Lined": Discussed onsite with locator  
Maps Used to Mark Facilities: None  
Was Locate Provided within Two (2) Working Days: Yes  
Operator Employees On-site during Excavation: No

Incident Impact Information:

Number of Outpatient Treated: None  
Number of Inpatient Treated: None  
Number of Fatalities: None  
Fire Department Response: Yes  
Police Department Response: No  
Ambulance Response: No

Additional Information:

We were excavating the roadway to repair a 4" water main valve in Florida Street. The locate marks were visible, and the end of the main was located at the large tree shown in the picture.

The gas main continued past the marks more than 7 feet. We struck a ¾" tap located at the end of the gas main. Please see photos of break. Please note the blue handled shovel is located on top of the end of the main.

Crew on site: John Fasnacht. – Excavator Operator Larry Spolojoric – Loader Operator  
John Love – Foreman Tim Angel – Laborer Brian Waldo - Laborer

YOUR PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION CASE NO: 4659

YOUR FULL NAME: AARON GRAHAM  
FULL NAME OF BUSINESS ENTITY: GATLIN PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.  
YOUR BUSINESS TITLE: ESTIMATOR / PROJECT MANAGER  
ADDRESS: 1111 E. MAIN STREET  
CITY: GRIFFITH STATE: IN ZIP CODE: 46319  
YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER: 219-924-6972 CELL NO: 219-798-3788  
YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS: [GATLINPLUMBING@COMCAST.NET](mailto:GATLINPLUMBING@COMCAST.NET)

TODAY'S DATE: May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013

YOUR SIGNATURE: 

TITLE IF ANY: ESTIMATOR/PROJECT MANAGER

Please return your Narrative Statement and Answers to the above questions to:

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 4659  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, #1500E  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Or scan document(s) and Email to:

[PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov](mailto:PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov)







