



Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

Investigation regarding: **Fulton County R.e.m.c.**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 4687

Report Date: 9/17/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 5/2/2013 2:29:15 PM

Damage Address: 2509 Captains Ct, Rochester, Fulton

The Parties

Excavator: **Fulton County R.e.m.c.**

Address: P.o. Box 230, Rochester, In 46975

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Trencher

Type of Work Performed: Electric

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
5/2/2013

Indiana 811 Ticket Number: 1304303039

Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions: LOCATE THE ENTIRE PROPERTY

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

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

Findings: Reported by Indiana 811; excavator's response to initial notice was received on 7/15/2013. Excavator had a valid locate ticket and the gas operator provided accurate locate markings; however, the excavator failed to maintain required clearance from the gas main with the trencher claiming the ground was too hard to hand dig to spot the facility, pinching it off after damage occurred.

Conclusion: There was a failure to maintain two (2) feet clearance with mechanized equipment.

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



INFORMATION REQUEST

State Form 54909 (R / 3-13)

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

Case Number: 4687

Date of Damage (month, day, year): 5/2/2013

Location of Damage:

Address (number and street): 2509 Captains Ct.

City, State and ZIP Code: Rochester IN. 46975

Nearest Intersection: Park Lane

Excavator Information:

Business Name: Fulton County REMC

Responsible Party Personal Name: Rick Banush

Title (if any): Operations Manager

Address (number and street): P.O. Box 230

City, State and ZIP Code: Rochester In. 46975

Preferred Telephone Number (area code): 574-223-3156

Email Address: rickb@fcremc.coop

Utility Information:

Utility Name: Same as above

Contact Person: _____

Title (if any): _____

Cause of Damage Information

Type of Equipment (*select one*):

Trencher

Type of Work Performed (*select one*):

Electric

Repair Cost: \$ _____

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: 1304303039

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

We was relocating an electric line. The gas line to the house was marked but we had to go under it. the ground was very hard so we went to take the top of the ground off with the backhoe so we could hand dig it up. The gas line was only 6 nches below the surface. As a result we hit it. We pinched it off and called Nipsco.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date (month, day, year): _____

**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**