



Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

Investigation regarding: **Austgen Equipment Incorporated**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 469

Investigator: Howard Friend

Report Date: 02/29/2012

Damage Date: 06/08/2011 11:53:31 AM

Damage Address: 1475 E North Street

City: Crown Point

County: Lake

The Parties

Excavator: **Austgen Equipment Incorporated**

Contact: David J Austgen, Owner

Address: Po Box 366, Lowell, In 46356

Telephone: (219) 690-1850

Facility Owner: NIPSCO

Contact: Kit Earle

Address: 101 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Investigation regarding: Austgen Equipment Incorporated

UPPAC Database Record ID: 469

Damage Impact

Product release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: True

Number of Customers Affected: 1

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$1158

Excavator Activities/Cause of damage information:

Excavator request locates: Yes Indiana 811 ticket Number: 1105232166

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Site Development

Synopsis: Damage to a natural gas service occurred during excavation for site work for a parking lot for the city of Crown Point.

Findings: Reported by Indiana 811; excavator responded to initial notice on 12/09/2011. Excavator called Indiana 811 on 05/23/2011 and requested re-marks for ticket number 1105170173. This information was submitted by NIPSCO, including a copy of ticket number 1105232166 that clearly requests "Remark due to construction." Given this information, however, there is no evidence that the excavator honored the marks, if they remained on the day of damage. The pipeline safety division concludes that the excavator failed to maintain required clearance from the buried gas facility with mechanized equipment.

Conclusion: There was a failure on the part of the excavator to maintain clearance with mechanized equipment.

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

Austgen Equipment Incorporated currently has 2 reports of damages in the record, between 06/08/2011 11:53:31 AM and 08/22/2011 11:41:21 AM.

NO

LOCATE

TICKET

PROVIDED



101 West Ohio Street
Suite 1707
Indianapolis, IN 46204

March 2, 2012

Via Electronic Transmission – PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 469
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 469

To Whom It May Concern:

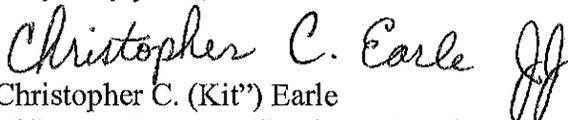
Attached please find Northern Indiana Public Service Company's ("NIPSCO") written information relating to the following event:

Date of Event: 6/8/2011
Event Location: 1475 E North St, Crown Point
Facility Owner: NIPSCO
Excavator: Austgen Equipment Incorporated
Other Party: N/A
Pipeline Division Case No. 469

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.

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. 469****469**

Date of Event 6/8/2011
Event Location 1475 E North St, Corwn Point
Facility Owner Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator Austgen Equipments Incorporated
Date of IURC Information Request 1/12/2012

THE PARTIES**EXCAVATOR:**

BUSINESS NAME Austgen Construction
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME
TITLE (IF ANY)
ADDRESS PO Box 366
CITY/ STATE/ZIP Lowell, IN
PREFERRED TELEPHONE 219-690-1850
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE
EMAIL ADDRESS MHAKOS@Austgen.net

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	Unknown
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME	Unknown
TITLE (IF ANY)	Unknown
ADDRESS	Unknown
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Unknown
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	Unknown
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	Unknown
EMAIL ADDRESS	Unknown
UTILITY LINE IMPACT	
LOCATION OF DAMAGE	
ADDRESS	1475 E North St.
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Crown Point, In.
NEAREST INTERSECTION	Church St
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 1/8" Plastic Service
PRESSURE (PSIG/INCHES)	35
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	No
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	0
EVACUATION (YES/NO)	No
IF YES, HOW MANY EVACUATED	

REPAIR COST (IF KNOWN) (\$) | Unknown

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

Trancher

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

Irrigation

Landscaping

Liquid Pipeline

Milling

Natural Gas

Pole

Public Transit Authority

Railroad Maintenance

Road Work	
Sewer (Sanitary/Storm)	
Site Development	X
Steam	
Storm Drain/Culvert	
Street Light	
Telecommunications	
Traffic Signal	
Traffic Sign	
Water	
Waterway Improvement	
Unknown/Other	
RELEASE OF PRODUCT (YES/NO)	Yes
IGNITION AND/OR FIRE (YES/NO)	No
EXCAVATOR NOTIFY 811 (YES/NO)	Yes
LOCATE INFORMATION:	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Yes
INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1105232166 and 1106072450 (REMARK)
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	No, due to construction and REMARK was not due yet
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	No marks visible
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	No
MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITIES (YES/NO)	Yes
OPERATOR EMPLOYEES ON-SITE DURING EXCAVATION (YES/NO)	No
INCIDENT IMPACT INFORMATION	
NUMBER OF OUTPATIENT TREATED	0
NUMBER OF INPATIENT TREATED	0
NUMBER OF FACILITIES	0
FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	Unknown
FPOLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	Unknown
AMBULANCE RESPONSE (YES/NO)	No
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS	NIPSCO gas service struck and damage during excavation. Contractor had called in for a REMARK on 6/7 (1106072450) that was not due until 6/9, he dug on 6/8 before line was remarked and struck the line.

NIPSCO 00503 IUPPSa 06/08/2011 11:53:37 1106081474-00A EMER DAMG STRT

#469

DAMAGE SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1106081474 Date: 06/08/2011 Time: 11:50 Oper: ABOND Chan:000

State: IN Cnty: LAKE Twp: CENTER
Cityname: CROWN POINT Inside: Y Near: N
Subdivision:

Address : 1475
Street : E NORTH ST
Cross 1 : CHURCH ST Within 1/4 mile: Y
Location: LOCATE ENTIRE PROPERTY
:
Grids : 4125D8720B 4125D8720A
Boundary: n 41.420750 s 41.419632 w -87.347801 e -87.342316

Work type : NEW ROADS-PARKING LOT-UG UTILITIES
Done for : CITY OF CROWN POINT
Start date: 06/08/2011 Time: 11:51 Hours notice: 0/0 Priority: EMER
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y
Duration : 90 DAYS Depth: 15 FEET

Company : AUSTGEN EQUIPMENT INCORPORATED Type: CONT
Co addr : PO BOX 366
City : LOWELL State: IN Zip: 46356
Caller : MIKE HAKOS Phone: (219)690-1850
Contact : MIKE HAKOS - CELL Phone:
BestTime:
Mobile : (219)689-6148
Fax : (219)690-1852
Email : MHAKOS@AUSTGEN.NET

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time
3/4 INCH NIPSCO SERVICE GAS LINE WAS CUT 35 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTH PARKS
BUILDING - GAS LINE IS BLOWING - CALLER CAN SMELL GAS - CREW IS ON SITE - UNSURE
IF ANYBODY WITHOUT SERVICE - GAVE NUMBER FOR NIPSCO - PREVIOUS TICKET 1105232166
- THANKS
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO
:

Submitted date: 06/08/2011 Time: 11:50
Members: BE COMCN IB ID2287 NIPSCO SM

NIPSCO 00639 IUPPSa 05/23/2011 12:54:18 1105232166-00A NORM NEW STRT

NORMAL NOTICE REMARK

469

Ticket : 1105232166 Date: 05/23/2011 Time: 12:53 Oper: KLUCK Chan:086

State: IN Cnty: LAKE Twp: CENTER
Cityname: CROWN POINT Inside: Y Near: N
Subdivision:

Address : 1475
Street : E NORTH ST
Cross 1 : CHURCH ST Within 1/4 mile: Y
Location: LOCATE ENTIRE PROPERTY
:
Grids : 4125D8720B 4125D8720A
Boundary: n 41.420750 s 41.419632 w -87.347801 e -87.342316

Work type : NEW ROADS-PARKING LOT-UG UTILITIES
Done for : CITY OF CROWN POINT
Start date: 05/25/2011 Time: 13:15 Hours notice: 48/48 Priority: NORM
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: N
Duration : 90 DAYS Depth: 15 FEET

Company : AUSTGEN EQUIPMENT INCORPORATED Type: CONT
Co addr : PO BOX 366
City : LOWELL State: IN Zip: 46356
Caller : MIKE HAKOS Phone: (219)690-1850
Contact : MIKE HAKOS - CELL Phone:
BestTime:
Mobile : (219)689-6148
Fax : (219)690-1852
Email : MHAKOS@AUSTGEN.NET

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time
REMARK DUE TO CONSTRUCTION - PREVIOUS TICKET 1105170173
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO
:

Submitted date: 05/23/2011 Time: 12:53
Members: BE COMCN IB ID2287 NIPSCO SM

Information Request

Pipeline Safety Division Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

Case No. 469

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:

Business Name: Austgen Equipment, Inc

Responsible Party Personal Name: David J Austgen

Title (if any): Owner

Address: P.O. Box 366

City, State Zip: Lowell, IN 46356

Preferred Telephone: 219-690-1850

Cell Phone Number:

Email Address:

Facility Information:

Business Name: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Responsible Party Personal Name:

Title (if any):

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Preferred Telephone:

Cell Phone Number:

Email Address:

Locator Service Information:

Business Name:

Responsible Party Personal Name:

Title (if any):

Address:

City, State Zip:

Preferred Telephone:

Cell Phone Number:

Email Address:

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

Personal Contact:
Business/Organization Name:
Title (if any)
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Preferred Telephone:
Cell Phone Number:
Email Address:

Utility Line Impact:

Location of Damage:

Address:
City, State Zip:
Nearest Intersection:

Product Type (circle one):

Natural Gas
 Liquid Pipeline
 Unknown/Other

Facility Type (circle one):

Distribution
 Gathering
 Service/Drop
 Transmission
 Unknown/Other

Size (Diameter/etc.): 3/8 - 1/2"

Pressure (PSIG/Inches): ?

Interruption in Service: Yes No Number of Customers Affected: 1

Evacuation: Yes No If yes, How Many Evacuated? None

Repair Cost (if known): \$ 1158.00

Cause of Damage Information:

Type of Equipment (circle one):

- Auger
- Backhoe/Trackhoe
- Boring /Drilling
- Directional Drilling
- Explosives
- Farm Equipment
- Grader/Scraper
- Hand Tools
- Milling Equipment
- Probing Device
- Trencher
- Vacuum Equipment
- Unknown/Other

Type of Work Performed (circle one):

- 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

Release of Product: Yes / No
Ignition and/or Fire: Yes / No
Excavator Notify 811: Yes / No

Locate Information:

Excavator Request Locate: Yes / No
Indiana 811 Locate Ticket Number: 1105041259/Damage Ticket No. 1106081474
Locate Marks Visible: Yes / No
Locate Marks Correct: Yes / No
Excavator "White Lined": Yes / No
Maps Used to Mark Facilities: Yes / No
Was Locate Provided within Two (2) Working Days: Yes / No
Operator Employees On-site during Excavation: Yes / No

Incident Impact Information:

Number of Outpatient Treated: 0
Number of Inpatient Treated: 0
Number of Fatalities: 0
Fire Department Response: Yes / No
Police Department Response: Yes / No
Ambulance Response: Yes / No

Additional Information/Comments: Locate marks were covered with dirt at curve of located utilities. Drop was very shallow and in the subgrade of new parking lot of the City Of Crown Point. Other locate NO'S for the project were 1104182410, 1104182388, 1104182390, 1104182407, 1105041259, 1105170173, 1106072450, 1107152412, 1109142113, 1109290161, 1107262202, 1111231035. Austgen Equipment as a General Contractor schools employees on utility locates and tried to be an advicate of protection of all utilities.

YOUR PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION CASE NO. 469

YOUR FULL NAME: David J Austgen

FULL NAME OF BUSINESS/ENTITY (if applicable): Austgen Equipment, Inc.

YOUR BUSINESS TITLE (if applicable): Owner

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 366

CITY: Lowell STATE: IN ZIP CODE: 46356

YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER: (219) 690 - 1850 SECOND NO. () -

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS: tclark@austgen.net

TODAY'S DATE: 12-9-2011

YOUR SIGNATURE:  TITLE (if any) _____

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

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

Or scan document(s) and Email to:

PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov