



Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

Investigation regarding: Merrill Properties, LLC

UPPAC Database Record ID: 5025

Report Date: 9/23/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 6/27/2013 3:44:14 PM

Damage Address: 12820 In Rt 23, Harris, St Joseph

The Parties

Excavator: Merrill Properties, LLC

Address: P O Box 179, Granger, In 46530

Facility Owner: NIPSCO

Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Hand Tools

Type of Work Performed: Sewer

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
6/27/2013

Indiana 811 Ticket Number: 1306250145

Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions: LOCATE THE NORTH AND EAST SIDES OF THE STORE

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

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

Findings: Reported by Indiana 811; excavator did not respond to initial notice mailed 8/6/2013. Excavator had a valid locate ticket and was utilizing hand tools; however, when the excavator damaged the service line, the excavator taped it; then, clamped it and left the scene without providing the gas operator knowledge of the damage. PS considers this action reckless.

Conclusion: There was a failure to plan the excavation to avoid a hazard to public safety.

Violation: IC 8-1-26-20(a)(1) Failure to plan excavation to avoid damage or interference with underground facilities.



150 West Market Street, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

August 26, 2013

Via Electronic Transmission – PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 5025
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 5025

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: 6/27/2013

Event Location: 12820 IN RT 23

City: HARRIS

Facility Owner: NIPSCO

Excavator: MERRILL PROPERTIES, LLC

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 5025

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. 5025	
Date of Event	6/27/2013
Event Location	12820 IN RT 23
Event City	HARRIS
Facility Owner	NIPSCO
Excavator	MERRILL PROPERTIES, LLC
Date of IURC Information Request	July 26, 2013
THE PARTIES	
EXCAVATOR:	
BUSINESS NAME	Merrill Properties LLC
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	PO Box 179
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Granger / IN / 46530
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	574-272-0618
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	574-276-9892
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	12820 ST RD 23
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Granger / IN /
NEAREST INTERSECTION	
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"
PRESSURE (PSIG/INCHES)	35
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	Yes
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	1
EVACUATION (YES/NO)	No
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	
Grading	
Irrigation	
Landscaping	
Liquid Pipeline	
Milling	
Natural Gas	
Pole	
Public Transit Authority	
Railroad Maintenance	
Road Work	
Sewer (Sanitary/Storm)	X
Site Development	
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 - 1306273026
LOCATE INFORMATION:	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Yes

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1306250145
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	Yes
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	Yes
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	Yes
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 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	
<p>Excavator hit service with shovel then taped and clamped it and left the scene. USIC technician discovered the damage.</p> <p>NIPSCO Emergency Repair Ticket Number: 1306272768.</p>	

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

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

REPORTING OPERATING AREA 060 MAXIMO WO # _____
 OPERATING AREA CONTACT Armstrong JOB ORDER # 602808
 TRACKING NUMBER 018 0013 0627 015 LOCATE REF # _____
 Locate Performed By: _____

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT 6-27 2013 1430 M DATE OF REPORT 6-27-13
 PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 12820 St. Rd 23

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

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

DEPTH OF FACILITY (inches) 30 PRESSURE (PSI) 35# Lbs.

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

INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE: YES () NO () NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS LOST: 1

DURATION OF INTERRUPTION: TIME REPORTED 14:30 TIME SHUT OFF 16:45 TIME RESTORED 19:30

DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: 1/4 slot

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

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) Merrill Properties

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) 12619 Sandy Ln. P.O. Box 179 Granger, IN 465

WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK SITE AT TIME OF DAMAGE Chris

WITNESS NAME AND ADDRESS Same as above

WITNESS REMARKS None

AGENCIES NOTIFIED / ONSITE: POLICE () AGENCY _____ REPORT # _____
 FIRE () AGENCY _____ 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
- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <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 type="checkbox"/> MILLING | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |
| <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"/> HAND TOOLS | <input type="checkbox"/> BACKHOE/TRACKHOE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MILLING EQUIPMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PROBING DEVICE | <input type="checkbox"/> BORING / DRILLING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLOSIVES | <input type="checkbox"/> TRENCHER | <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 type="checkbox"/> CARELESS MACHINE OPERATOR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NO NOTIFICATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MARKS DISTURBED | <input type="checkbox"/> STUB |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <u>hit while got hole</u> |

COMMENTS :

PERSON PREPARING REPORT

Jenny Mullins

FIELD SUPERVISOR

Greg King

FIELD MANAGER

Ray O'Neil

- 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 00053 IUPPSa 06/25/2013 07:19:09 1306250145-00A NORM NEW GRID

NORMAL NOTICE REMARK SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1306250145 Date: 06/25/2013 Time: 07:11 Oper: DSEGO Chan:087
Old Tkt: 1306172712 Date: 06/17/2013 Time: 13:21 Oper: SMCCLURE Rev: 00A

State: IN Cnty: ST JOSEPH Twp: HARRIS
Cityname: GRANGER Inside: Y Near: N
Subdivision:

Address : 12820
Street : IN RT 23
Cross 1 : BITTERSWEET RD Within 1/4 mile: Y
Location: LOCATE THE NORTH AND EAST SIDES OF THE STORE
:
Grids : 4145C8606A 4145C8606B 4145C8607D 4145D8606A 4145D8606B
Grids : 4145D8607D
Boundary: n 41.754723 s 41.751904 w -86.118355 e -86.109980

Work type : INSTALL SEWER LATERAL
Done for : KABELIN ACE HARDWARE
Start date: 06/27/2013 Time: 07:30 Hours notice: 48/048 Priority: NORM
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: N
Duration : 2 DAYS Depth: 4 FEET

Company : MERRILL PROPERTIES, LLC Type: CONT
Co addr : P O BOX 179
City : GRANGER State: IN Zip: 46530
Caller : CHRIS MERRILL Phone: (574)272-0618
Contact : CHRIS MERRILL - CELL Phone:
BestTime:
Mobile : (574)276-9892

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time
REMARK DUE TO CONSTRUCTION
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? YES
:

Submitted date: 06/25/2013 Time: 07:11
Members: AEPIN COMCN ID0918 ID1639 ID2600 ID2601 ID5845 ID7053 ID7762 ID8240
NIPSCO SBCIN SM

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

NIPSCO 00868 IUPPSa 06/27/2013 15:44:14 1306273026-00A EMER DAMG GRID

DAMAGE SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1306273026 Date: 06/27/2013 Time: 15:44 Oper: SWOODFORD Chan:058

State: IN Cnty: ST JOSEPH Twp: HARRIS
Cityname: GRANGER Inside: Y Near: N
Subdivision:

Address : 12820
Street : IN RT 23
Cross 1 : BITTERSWEET RD Within 1/4 mile: Y
Location: LOCATE THE NORTH AND EAST SIDES OF THE STORE
:
Grids : 4145C8606A 4145C8606B 4145C8607D 4145D8606A 4145D8606B
Grids : 4145D8607D
Boundary: n 41.754723 s 41.751904 w -86.118355 e -86.109980

Work type : INSTALL SEWER LATERAL
Done for : KABELIN ACE HARDWARE
Start date: 06/27/2013 Time: 15:44 Hours notice: 0/000 Priority: EMER
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y
Duration : 2 DAYS Depth: 4 FEET

Company : MERRILL PROPERTIES, LLC Type: CONT
Co addr : P O BOX 179
City : GRANGER State: IN Zip: 46530
Caller : CHRIS MERRILL Phone: (574)272-0618
Contact : CHRIS MERRILL - CELL Phone:
BestTime:
Mobile : (574)276-9892

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time
PER CHRIS MERRILL A NIPSCO GAS LINE HAS BEEN DAMAGED--WAS DIGGING ON THE NORTH
SIDE OF THE PROPERTY--THE GAS LINE HAS BEEN PINCHED OFF--THIS IS A PINKISH LINE
APPROX 1 1/4 INCH IN DIAMETER--NIPSCO IS ON SITE--THERE IS NO CREW ON
SITE--PREVIOUS TICKET NUMBER 1306250145. PER CALLER LINE WAS HIT WITH A SHOVEL.
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? YES
:

Submitted date: 06/27/2013 Time: 15:44
Members: AEPIN COMCN ID0918 ID1639 ID2600 ID2601 ID5845 ID7053 ID7762 ID8240
NIPSCO SBCIN SM

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

NIPSCO 00786 IUPPSa 06/27/2013 15:10:01 1306272768-00A EMER NEW GRID

EMERGENCY SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1306272768 Date: 06/27/2013 Time: 15:03 Oper: MMOELLER Chan:039

State: IN Cnty: ST JOSEPH Twp: HARRIS
Cityname: GRANGER Inside: Y Near: N
Subdivision:

Address : 12820
Street : IN RT 23
Cross 1 : PRINCESS WAY Within 1/4 mile: Y
Location: LOCATE THE ENTIRE PROPERTY
:
Grids : 4145D8606A 4145D8607D
Boundary: n 41.754059 s 41.752881 w -86.120222 e -86.113134

Work type : REPAIR GAS LINE
Done for : NIPSCO
Start date: 06/27/2013 Time: 15:06 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 E 86TH AVE
City : MERRILLVILLE State: IN Zip: 46410
Caller : MARCIA KING Phone: (800)322-2806
Contact : TONY LOPEZ CELL Phone:
BestTime:
Mobile : (574)876-8107
Fax : (219)647-4764

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

Submitted date: 06/27/2013 Time: 15:03
Members: AEPIN COMCN ID0918 ID1639 ID2600 ID2601 ID4752 ID5845 ID7053 ID7762
ID8240 NIPSCO SBCIN SM

Fact Based Investigation Report

Notification ID 01820130627015
Damage Date 06/27/2013 13:30
Notified By TENNIELLE FORD (Facility Owner)
Damage Address 12820 SR 23 X ADAMS RD ST JOSEPH
GRANGER, IN
District Northern Indiana
Notification Date 06/27/2013 14:44

Damaged Customer NIPSCO

Investigation Date From 06/27/2013 13:50:00 **To** 06/27/2013 16:20:00

Excavator Involved MERRILL PROPERTIES, LLC

Type of Excavation INSTALL SEWER LATERAL

Orig. Locate Request 1306172712 **Start Date** 06/19/2013 13:30

Type of Ticket Ongoing Project **Locate Req. Info** N/A

Damage Request # 1306272768 **Start Date** 06/27/2013 15:05

Pictures Taken By Jason Mark **Date** 06/27/2013 14:10

Photography Type Digital **Frame #** see 1306250145

Investigator Emp. # 130534 **Investigator Name** Josh Scheibelhut

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 # Houghton Paul - 129851 **Locator Not Known**

Investigation Findings

Facility Marked Accurately

Other

Other Notes

See Below

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

USIC technician arrived on site for remark ticket 1306250145. Contractor was about to leave the job site and told technician they did not need any marks. As the contractor drove away, USIC technician walked the job site to double check current markings and found the gas service potholed and wrapped with duct tape and a pipe clamp. Technician contacted NIPSCO and reported the damage. Marks were still present on the fence near the damage site. Area had been marked accurately by USIC on first ticket and contractor cut the service with a shovel while potholing it.

Names of Utility Representatives Contacted or on Site and Statement

Larry, NIPSCO Robert Hayward, NIPSCO - Robert spoke to the contractor when he returned to the job site and told me they were planning to call NIPSCO about the damage once they had the piles of dirt moved so that the

business could allow their customers to safely walk around the property (area is part of an outdoor garden center).

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

n/a

Other individuals on site

Jason Mark, USIC

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	cut
Replacement Footage	splice
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