



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: **Underground Contractors Inc.**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 5036

Report Date: 10/1/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 7/1/2013 2:45:52 PM

Damage Address: Windover Trl, Perry, Allen

### The Parties

Excavator: **Underground Contractors Inc.**

Address: 6207 Milan Center Road, New Haven, In 46774

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Distribution

Type of Equipment: Directional Drilling

Type of Work Performed: Sewer

### Damage Impact

Product Release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: True

Number of Customers Affected: 2

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$

### Excavator Activities/Cause of Damage Information:

Excavator Request Locates: Yes  
6/19/2013

Indiana 811 Ticket Number: 1306171480

Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions: STARTING AT GUMP ROAD--LOCATE GOING NORTH FOR 1250 FEET--BOTH SIDES OF ROAD--ENTIRE R/O/W--INCLUDING ALL EASEMENTS AND SERVICE DROPS

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

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

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator's response to initial notice was received on 8/9/2013. The 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 back-reamer of the directional boring equipment.

**Conclusion:** There was a failure to maintain clearance with mechanical equipment within the tolerance zone.

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



150 West Market Street, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

August 26, 2013

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

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 5036  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 5036

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: 7/1/2013

Event Location: WINDOVER TRL

City: PERRY

Facility Owner: NIPSCO

Excavator: UNDERGROUND CONTRACTORS INC

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 5036

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. 5036</b>	
Date of Event	7/1/2013
Event Location	WINDOVER TRL
Event City	PERRY
Facility Owner	NIPSCO
Excavator	UNDERGROUND CONTRACTORS INC
Date of IURC Information Request	July 26, 2013
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	Underground Contractors Inc
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	6207 Milan Center Road
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	New Haven / IN / 46774
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	260-704-0180
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
<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	LSELKING@NISOURCE.COM
<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	15320 Windover Trail & Gump Road
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Fort Wayne / IN /
NEAREST INTERSECTION	
<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.)	2"
PRESSURE (PSIG/INCHES)	
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	Yes
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	1
EVACUATION (YES/NO)	No
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	
Boring/Drilling	
Directional Drilling	X
Explosives	
Farm Equipment	
Grader/Scraper	
Hand Tools	
Milling Equipment	
Probing Device	

Trencher	
Vacuum Equipment	
Unknown/Other	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
<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)	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 - 1307013216
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Yes

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1306171480
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	Yes
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	Yes
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	No
MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITIES (YES/NO)	Yes
OPERATOR EMPLOYEES ON-SITE DURING EXCAVATION (YES/NO)	No
<b>INCIDENT IMPACT INFORMATION</b>	
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
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS</b>	
<p>Failure to use hand tools where required.</p> <p>NIPSCO Emergency Repair Ticket Number: 1307013259.</p>	

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

NIPSCO 00455 IUPPSa 06/17/2013 10:26:48 1306171480-00A NORM NEW STRT

NORMAL NOTICE REMARK REMARK

Ticket : 1306171480 Date: 06/17/2013 Time: 10:24 Oper: DSEGO Chan:087  
Old Tkt: 1306133516 Date: 06/13/2013 Time: 16:10 Oper: LPORTER Rev: 00A

State: IN Cnty: ALLEN Twp: PERRY  
Cityname: FORT WAYNE Inside: N Near: Y  
Subdivision:

Address :  
Street : WINDOVER TRL  
Cross 1 : W GUMP RD Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: STARTING AT GUMP ROAD--LOCATE GOING NORTH FOR 1250 FEET--BOTH SIDES OF  
ROAD--ENTIRE R/O/W--INCLUDING ALL EASEMENTS AND SERVICE DROPS  
\*\*\*Boring Where = RIGHT OF WAY  
:  
Grids : 4113B8507B 4113B8507C 4113C8507B  
Boundary: n 41.228675 s 41.224748 w -85.126495 e -85.122441

Work type : INSTALL FORCE MAIN  
Done for : CITY OF FORT WAYNE  
Start date: 06/19/2013 Time: 10:45 Hours notice: 48/048 Priority: NORM  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: Y Railroad: N Emergency: N  
Duration : 8 MONTHS Depth: 10 FEET

Company : UNDERGROUND CONTRACTORS INC Type: CONT  
Co addr : 6207 MILAN CENTER ROAD  
City : NEW HAVEN State: IN Zip: 46774  
Caller : JAMES SCWARTZ Phone: (260)704-0180  
Contact : JAMES SCWARTZ - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (260)704-0180  
Fax : (260)493-3102

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

Submitted date: 06/17/2013 Time: 10:24  
Members: CC FW ID2885 ID6111 ID6794 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

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

NIPSCO 01126 IUPPSa 07/01/2013 14:51:50 1307013259-00A EMER NEW STRT

EMERGENCY SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1307013259 Date: 07/01/2013 Time: 14:46 Oper: DMEYER Chan:034

State: IN Cnty: ALLEN Twp: PERRY  
Cityname: FORT WAYNE Inside: N Near: Y  
Subdivision:

Address :  
Street : GUMP RD  
Cross 1 : WINDOVER TRL Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE 200 FOOT RADIUS OF THE INTERSECTION  
:  
Grids : 4113B8507B 4113C8507B  
Boundary: n 41.225839 s 41.224741 w -85.126504 e -85.125050

Work type : GAS LINE REPAIR  
Done for : NIPSCO  
Start date: 07/01/2013 Time: 14:48 Hours notice: 0/000 Priority: EMER  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y  
Duration : 1 DAY Depth: 76 FEET

Company : NIPSCO Type: MEMB  
Co addr : 801 EAST 86TH AVENUE  
City : MERRILLVILLE State: IN Zip: 46410  
Caller : TENNILLE FORD Phone: (800)322-2806  
Contact : JASON SPRUNGER CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (260)226-2330  
Fax : (219)647-4764

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
CREW ENROUTE

Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO  
:

Submitted date: 07/01/2013 Time: 14:46  
Members: CC FW ID2885 ID6111 ID6794 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

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

NIPSCO 01108 IUPPSa 07/01/2013 14:45:52 1307013216-00A EMER DAMG STRT

DAMAGE SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1307013216 Date: 07/01/2013 Time: 14:42 Oper: TSONS Chan:015

State: IN Cnty: ALLEN Twp: PERRY  
Cityname: FORT WAYNE Inside: N Near: Y  
Subdivision:

Address :  
Street : WINDOVER TRL  
Cross 1 : W GUMP RD Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: STARTING AT GUMP ROAD--LOCATE GOING NORTH FOR 1250 FEET--BOTH SIDES OF  
ROAD--ENTIRE R/O/W--INCLUDING ALL EASEMENTS AND SERVICE DROPS  
\*\*\*Boring Where = RIGHT OF WAY  
:  
Grids : 4113B8507B 4113B8507C 4113C8507B  
Boundary: n 41.228675 s 41.224748 w -85.126495 e -85.122441

Work type : INSTALL FORCE MAIN  
Done for : CITY OF FORT WAYNE  
Start date: 07/01/2013 Time: 14:43 Hours notice: 0/000 Priority: EMER  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: Y Railroad: N Emergency: Y  
Duration : 8 MONTHS Depth: 10 FEET

Company : UNDERGROUND CONTRACTORS INC Type: CONT  
Co addr : 6207 MILAN CENTER ROAD  
City : NEW HAVEN State: IN Zip: 46774  
Caller : JAMES SCWARTZ Phone: (260)704-0180  
Contact : JAMES SCWARTZ - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (260)704-0180  
Fax : (260)493-3102

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
A NIPSCO GAS LINE HAS BEEN HIT IN THE RIGHT OF WAY- THE LINE IS BLOWING AND CAN  
HEARD- THE LINE HAS UNKNOWN SIZE - UNKNOWN COLOR - AND UNKNOWN MATERIAL - BEEN  
ADVISED TO CALL 911 - CREW ON SITE - BEEN ADVISED TO CALL UTLITY COMPANY -  
PREVIOUS TICKET 1306171480

REMARK DUE TO CONSTRUCTION  
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO  
:

Submitted date: 07/01/2013 Time: 14:42  
Members: CC FW ID2885 ID6111 ID6794 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

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

REPORTING OPERATING AREA Angola MAXIMO WO # 918138200
OPERATING AREA CONTACT Joe Thomas JOB ORDER # 563614-9
TRACKING NUMBER 0810130701012 LOCATE REF # 1306171480
Locate Performed By: USIC

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT 7-1 2013, 3 PM DATE OF REPORT 7-1-13

PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) Intersection of Gomp Rd. and Windover Dr. Ft. Wayne, IN.

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

OTHER (DESCRIBE)

GAS: SERVICE ( ) MAIN SIZE 2" MATERIAL: PLASTIC STEEL ( ) METER ( ) REG STATION ( ) STUB ( )

DEPTH OF FACILITY (inches) 34" PRESSURE (PSI) 50 Lbs.

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

INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE: YES ( ) NO ( ) NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS LOST: 2

DURATION OF INTERRUPTION: TIME REPORTED 3:00 pm TIME SHUT OFF 6:15 pm TIME RESTORED 9:00 pm

DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: 2" x 1"

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

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) Underground Const.

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) 6207 Milan Ctr. Rd.

WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK SITE AT TIME OF DAMAGE Matt Swartz

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: Chet Smith (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

COMMENTS: Boring crew had spotted gas main & attempted  
to bore over main. They hit us while  
backreaming.

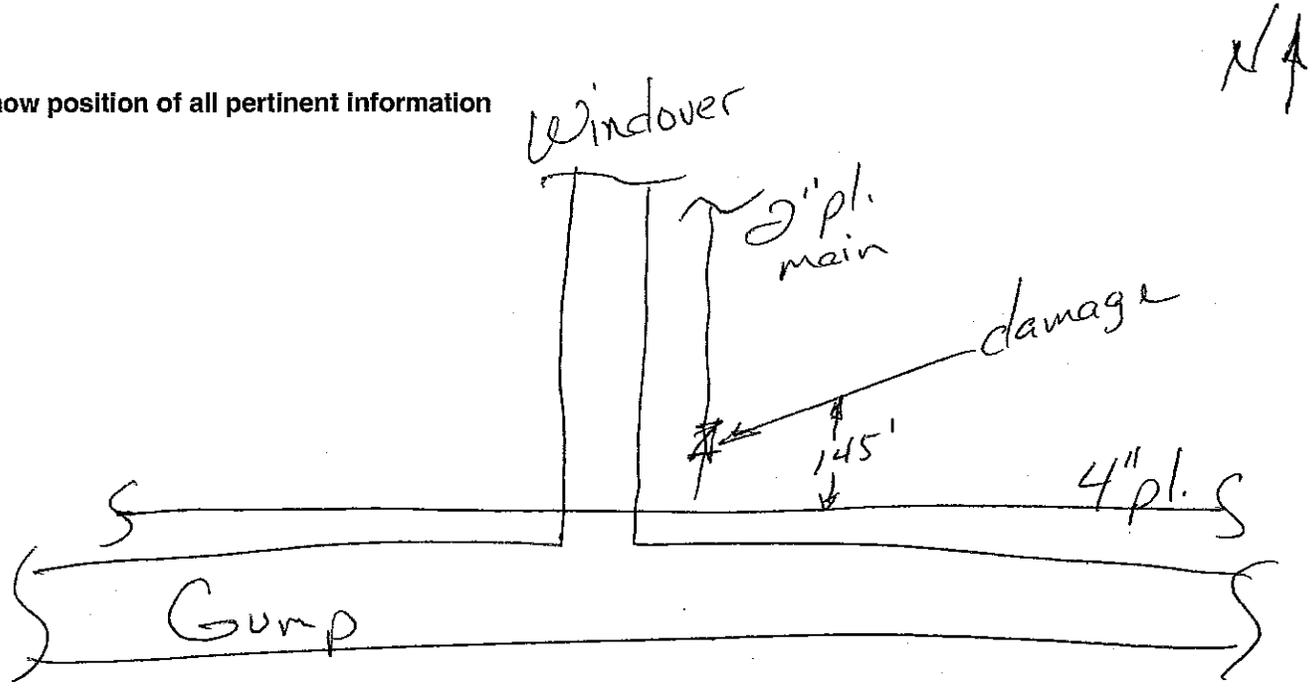
PERSON PREPARING REPORT Denny Spurgeon

FIELD SUPERVISOR Joe Thomas

FIELD MANAGER Joe Thomas

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Fact Based Investigation Report

**Notification ID** 01820130701012  
**Damage Date** 07/01/2013 14:55  
**Notified By** TENNILLE FORD (Facility Owner)  
**Damage Address** GUMP RD (ALLEN COUNTY) X WINDOVER TRL (PERRY TWSHP)  
FORT WAYNE, IN  
**District** Northern Indiana  
**Notification Date** 07/01/2013 15:03

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**Damaged Customer** NIPSCO

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**Investigation Date From** 07/01/2013 00:00:00 **To** 07/01/2013 00:05:00

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**Excavator Involved** UNDERGROUND CONTRACTORS

**Type of Excavation** install sewer

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**Orig. Locate Request** 1307013259 **Start Date**  
**Type of Ticket** **Locate Req. Info** N/A Yes

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**Damage Request #** **Start Date**

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**Pictures Taken By** cody thurman **Date** 07/01/2013 00:05

**Photography Type** Disposable **Frame #**

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**Investigator Emp. #** 136084 **Investigator Name** cody thurman

**Based on your investigation, is further investigation needed?** No

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**Fact Based Investigation Customer Information**

**Facility Description** Low Profile **Facility ID** main - 2"  
**Locator Name & EMP #** - **Locator Not Known** Yes

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**Investigation Findings**

Facility Marked Accurately

**Other Notes**

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**Investigation Methods**

Investigation Results Verified By Utility Representative  
Visual, Facility Exposed At Time Of Investigation

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**Investigator Statement/Causal Factors**

dup of 01820130701011

**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

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**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**

hit two inch main

**Replacement Footage**

n/a

**Was contractor assistance required? If yes, who?**

No

**What contractor equipment was used?**

bore machine

**Is the facility shown on the utility records?**

Yes

**If yes, list record numbers**

nipsco



Property of United States Infrastructure Corporation  
Photo taken on 7/1/2013 5:37:43 PM



Property of United States Infrastructure Corporation

Photo taken on 7/1/2013 6:27:43 PM



ERROR: undefined  
OFFENDING COMMAND: get

STACK:

/quit  
-dictionary-  
-mark-