



Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

Investigation regarding: **Electricom Incorporated**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 5343

Report Date: 10/21/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 8/27/2013 1:39:46 PM

Damage Address: W 25 S, Monroe, Pulaski

The Parties

Excavator: **Electricom Incorporated**

Address: Po Box 319, Paoli, In 47454

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Hand Tools

Type of Work Performed: Telecommunications

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
8/19/2013

Indiana 811 Ticket Number: 1308150547

Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions: ON W 25 S - LOCATE GOING EAST ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE ROAD FOR 2000 FEET

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

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

Findings: Reported by Indiana 811; excavator did not respond to initial notice mailed 9/6/2013. The excavator failed to plan the excavation by using a probing rod to locate the facility which can easily pierce P. E. pipe, rather than providing a test hole (pot-holing) to expose the facility

Conclusion: There was a failure to provide facility protection by a test hole (pot-holing) rather than using a probing device.

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

October 11, 2013

Via Electronic Transmission – PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 5343
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 5343

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: 8/27/2013
Event Location: W 25 S
City: Monroe
Facility Owner: Nipsco
Excavator: Electricom Incorporated
Other Party: N/A
Pipeline Division Case No. 5343

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. 5343	
Date of Event	8/27/2013
Event Location	W 25 S
Event City	Monroe
Facility Owner	Nipsco
Excavator	Electricom Incorporated
Date of IURC Information Request	May 1, 2013
THE PARTIES	
EXCAVATOR:	
BUSINESS NAME	Electricom Inc
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	PO Box 319
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Paoli / IN / 47454
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	812-723-2626
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	812-653-5792
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	961 W 25 S
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Winamac / IN /
NEAREST INTERSECTION	S 100 W
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)	
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	Y
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	1
EVACUATION (YES/NO)	N
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	
Milling Equipment	
Probing Device	X

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)	
Site Development	
Steam	
Storm Drain/Culvert	
Street Light	
Telecommunications	X
Traffic Signal	
Traffic Sign	
Water	
Waterway Improvement	
Unknown/Other	
RELEASE OF PRODUCT (YES/NO)	Y
IGNITION AND/OR FIRE (YES/NO)	N
EXCAVATOR NOTIFY 811 (YES/NO)	Y – 1308272525
LOCATE INFORMATION:	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Y

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1308150547
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
INCIDENT IMPACT INFORMATION	
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
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS	
Excavator hit accurately marked facility with hand tool.	

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

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

REPORTING OPERATING AREA Monticello MAXIMO WO #
OPERATING AREA CONTACT Dave Potts JOB ORDER # 584424
TRACKING NUMBER 018 2013 0827 018 LOCATE REF #
Locate Performed By:

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT 8-27-13 1:30 PM DATE OF REPORT 8-27-13
PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 961 W 25 S Warsaw IN

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 inches PRESSURE (PSI) 45 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 1330 TIME SHUT OFF 1400 TIME RESTORED 1430
DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: 1/8 inch

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

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) Electric com

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) PO BOX 319 Paoli Indiana 49424

WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK SITE AT TIME OF DAMAGE Virgil England

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: (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

NIPSCO 00883 IUPPSa 08/27/2013 13:39:48 1308272525-00A EMER DAMG GRID

DAMAGE SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1308272525 Date: 08/27/2013 Time: 13:36 Oper: MMILLER Chan:007

State: IN Cnty: PULASKI Twp: MONROE
Cityname: WINAMAC Inside: N Near: Y
Subdivision:

Address :
Street : W 25 S
Cross 1 : S 100 W Within 1/4 mile: Y
Location: ON W 25 S - LOCATE GOING EAST ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE ROAD FOR
2000
FEET
***Boring Where = UNDER GRAVEL AND GREEN SPACE
:
Grids : 4103D8636A 4103D8637C 4103D8637D
Boundary: n 41.053449 s 41.051379 w -86.623456 e -86.614839

Work type : INSTALL FIBER OPTICS
Done for : PULASKI WHITE TELEPHONE
Start date: 08/27/2013 Time: 13:36 Hours notice: 0/000 Priority: EMER
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: Y Railroad: N Emergency: Y
Duration : 2 WEEKS Depth: UNKNOWN

Company : ELECTRICOM INCORPORATED Type: CONT
Co addr : PO BOX 319
City : PAOLI State: IN Zip: 47454
Caller : ROB LAND Phone: (812)723-2626
Contact : ROB LAND - CELL Phone:
BestTime:
Mobile : (812)653-5792
Fax : (812)723-5654

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time
A NIPSCO GAS LINE WAS DAMAGED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF W 25 S APPROXIMATELY 50
FEET
EAST OF THE INTERSECTION - UNKNOWN LINE SIZE/COLOR/MATERIAL - GAS LINE IS
BLOWING - 911 HAS BEEN CONTACTED - NIPSCO HAS BEEN CONTACTED - CREW IS ON
SITE -
PREVIOUS TICKET 1308150547
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO
:

Submitted date: 08/27/2013 Time: 13:36
Members: ID2034 ID3451 ID5857 ID7101 NIPSCO

NIPSCO 00172 IUPPSa 08/15/2013 08:29:30 1308150547-00A NORM NEW GRID

NORMAL NOTICE

Ticket : 1308150547 Date: 08/15/2013 Time: 08:23 Oper: DMEYER Chan:034

State: IN Cnty: PULASKI Twp: MONROE
Cityname: WINAMAC Inside: N Near: Y
Subdivision:

Address :

Street : W 25 S

Cross 1 : S 100 W Within 1/4 mile: Y

Location: ON W 25 S - LOCATE GOING EAST ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE ROAD FOR
2000

FEET

***Boring Where = UNDER GRAVEL AND GREEN SPACE

:

Grids : 4103D8636A 4103D8637C 4103D8637D

Boundary: n 41.053449 s 41.051379 w -86.623456 e -86.614839

Work type : INSTALL FIBER OPTICS

Done for : PULASKI WHITE TELEPHONE

Start date: 08/19/2013 Time: 08:45 Hours notice: 96/048 Priority: NORM

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

Duration : 2 WEEKS Depth: UNKNOWN

Company : ELECTRICOM INCORPORATED Type: CONT

Co addr : PO BOX 319

City : PAOLI State: IN Zip: 47454

Caller : ROB LAND Phone: (812)723-2626

Contact : ROB LAND - CELL Phone:

BestTime:

Mobile : (812)653-5792

Fax : (812)723-5654

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

:

Submitted date: 08/15/2013 Time: 08:23

Members: ID2034 ID3451 ID5857 ID7101 NIPSCO

Fact Based Investigation Report

Notification ID 0182013082701
5
Damage Date 08/27/2013
13:39
Notified By ROB LAND ()
Damage Address 961 W 25 S
WINAMAC, IN
District Northern Indiana
Notification Date 08/27/2013 13:45

Damaged Customer NIPSCO

Investigation Date From 08/27/2013 14:25:00 **To** 08/27/2013 14:50:00

Excavator Involved ELECTRICOM
Type of Excavation INSTALL FIBER

Orig. Locate Request 1308150547 **Start Date** 08/19/2013 08:10
Type of Ticket Routine **Locate Req. Info** N/A

Damage Request # 1308272525 **Start Date** 08/27/2013 14:25

Pictures Taken By DICK HANSELMAN **Date** 08/27/2013 14:45
Photography Type Digital **Frame #**

Investigator Emp. # 121917 **Investigator Name** DICK HANSELMAN
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 # Hanselman Dick - 121917 **Locator Not Known**

Investigation Findings

Facility Marked Accurately

Other Notes

Investigation Methods

Visual, Facility Exposed At Time Of Investigation

Investigator Statement/Causal Factors

CONTRACTOR WAS TRYING TO FIND GAS SERVICE BY PROBING DOWN THROUGH THE SAND, AND PUNCTURED 1 1/8" PLASTIC GAS SERVICE. SERVICE WAS LOCATED CORRECTLY AND MARKS WERE GOOD. SERVICE WAS REPAIRED AND BURIED PRIOR TO INVESTIGATION.

Names of Utility Representatives Contacted or on Site and Statement

N/A

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

ROB LAND - CREW WAS PROBING FOR GAS SERVICE AND PUNCTURED PLASTIC LINE.

Other individuals on site

N/A

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	PUNCTURED
Replacement Footage	UNKNOWN
Was contractor assistance required? If yes, who?	Yes UNKNOWN
What contractor equipment was used?	
Is the facility shown on the utility records?	No
If yes, list record numbers	

Facility Damage Report (FDR)

NIPSCO Facility Damage Report

Local Operating Area (LOA) and Regional Manager: Monticello LOA - John Todd

Field or Crew Supervisor: David Prather, Monticello LOA

Facility Damage Reporter: Tommy Buher, Damage Prevention Field Coordinator

The facility damage reporter visited the accident site.: Yes

E-mail of Damage Reporter: tbuher@nisource.com

Locate Performed By: USIC

Report Date and Time: Tuesday, August 27, 2013 05:54 PM

Job Order Number: 584424

Total Investigative Hours (including drive time and reporting hours): 4.0

Accident Date and Time: Tuesday, August 27, 2013 01:30 PM

Report Status: Field Complete

Reporter's Signature



Damage Location

Damage GPS Coordinates: 41.059882\ -86.605604

Place of Accident: 961 W 25 S
Winamac , IN

Township: Monroe

County: Pulaski County

Excavator Contact Information

Excavator Company Name: Electricom Inc.

Company Address: PO Box 319
Paoli , IN 47454

Company or Homeowner Phone Number: 812-723-2626

Company Fax Number: 812-723-5654

Field Observations

Name and phone number of person in charge of work site at time of Rob Land. 812-653-5792

damages:

Type of excavator: Contractor

Right of Way (ROW) Where Event Occurred

Public ROW: County road

Private ROW: Private land owner

Dedicated public utility easement:

Unknown:

Damage to Gas Facility

Was the Hit Kit used?

Yes:

No:

How deep is the gas facility?: 30 inches

Was an EFV used to stop the flow of gas on the damaged facility?: No

Site Photos

Photo Description 1: Site was restored upon my arrival

Where did the damage occur?: FACILITY damage occurred BELOW ground

Is the facility NEW and NOT properly MARKED?: No

Was a marker ball used as a dead-end identifier?: No

Main Type: Distribution main

Distribution Facility Type : Service

Line Size: 1-1/8 inches

Material : Plastic

Pressure (PSI): 45

Gas was released:

Gas was NOT released:

Did an evacuation take place?: No

Diameter of HOLE in the gas facility: 1/4 inch

Number of people evacuated: 0

Service was NOT interrupted:

Service was interrupted:

Number of customers that lost service: 1

Duration of interruption: 1.0 hours

Time service 01:30 PM

interruption was reported:

Time service was restored: 02:30 PM

Locate Assessment

USIC Tracking Number: 01820130827018

811 Original Excavator Locate Ticket Number: 1308150547

Excavator 811 Damage Locate Ticket Number: 1308272525

Does this job site have a valid 811 Locate Ticket number?: Yes

Were special instructions included in the original 811 Locate Ticket request?: Yes

Does the excavation site have accurate locates?: Yes

Were the locates completed within 48 hours?: YES, the locates were completed within 48 hours.

Was the excavator working under an EXPIRED locate ticket?: No

Was the excavator No

working under
SOMEONE ELSE'S
locate ticket?:

Was the excavator No
digging within the
limits of the Locate
Ticket?:

Distance between 0 inches
locate marks and
the facility:

White-lined:

Locate marks
visible:

Paint:

Flagged:

Incomplete:

Partial:

Complete:

Satisfactory:

Unsatisfactory:

Witness #1

Agencies Notified

Fire Department
NOT notified:

Fire Department
notified:

Was the fire No

agency on site?
(yes or no):

Police NOT notified:

Police notified:

Were the police on site? (yes or no): No

Was an ambulance on site?: No

Media on Site

Yes:

No:

Work in Progress When Damage Occurred

YES, the work in progress IS a project. :

Yes, the project is HIGH RISK.:

NO, the work in progress is NOT a project.:

Describe the work in progress when damage occurred.: Telecommunications

Type of Equipment Used

What type of equipment was used when the damage: Probing device

occurred?:

Primary Root Cause

What is the PRIMARY root cause for this incident?: 2) Excavator Negligence

Secondary Root Cause

What is the SECONDARY root cause for this incident?: Other

If "Other" is selected, please describe.: Hit with probe rod while trying to hand expose

Summary

Summary Notations:

Site was restored upon my arrival.

Excavator was potholing all utilities before boring in the telecommunications line. They hand dug down on the gas mark using a shovel and probe rod trying to find the gas service. Poked a 1/4 inch hole in the gas service with probe rod.

The probe rod was steel with a point at the end.

Lessons Learned/Corrective Actions

USIC:

Excavator:

NIPSCO:

Lessons Learned:

Must use "best practices for safe digging" on jobsite.

Even a probe rod can puncture a plastic gas service.

Corrective Actions:

I thanked them for trying to do the right thing. But I told them, as they just figured out, a steel probe rod may not be the best tool to use. I suggested a fiber glass probe rod with a softer tip. And to be careful when probing for "small" gas service lines.

Items Distributed

Business card:

Door hanger:

**Excavator
Handbook:**

**Excavator Quick
Start Checklist:**

811 QA:

Utility ID cards:

"Call 811" T-shirt:



Property of United States Infrastructure Corporation
Photo taken on 8/27/2013 2:44:16 PM