



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: **Buttz Excavating, Inc**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 615

Investigator: William Boyd

Report Date: 05/09/2012

Damage Date: 07/28/2009 11:10:43 AM

Damage Address: 14042 Andreas Ct

City: Fishers

County: Hamilton

### The Parties

Excavator: **Buttz Excavating, Inc**

Contact: Douglas Buttz, Owner

Address: 12484 East 156th Street, Noblesville, In 46060

Telephone: (317) 770-0168

Facility Owner: Vectren

Contact: Darlene Kulhanek

Address: 1 N Main Street, Evansville, IN 47702

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Distribution

**Investigation regarding: Buttz Excavating, Inc**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 615

**Damage Impact**

Product release: No

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: False

Number of Customers Affected: 0

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$

**Excavator Activities/Cause of damage information:**

Excavator request locates: Yes Indiana 811 ticket Number: 0907272416

Type of Equipment: Probing Device

Type of work performed: Water

**Synopsis:** Damage to a natural gas main occurred while attempting to locate the facility with a probe rod.

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator's response to initial notice was received on 02/06/2012. Operator has not responded to the initial notice that was sent on 01/27/2012. Damage occurred one day after the locate request was called in, but efforts were made to locate the main prior to actual excavation, based on available information.

**Conclusion:** While this cannot be considered "probing to determine the extent of gas migration", as stated in IC 8-1-26-1, it is a frequent practice before and during excavation activities. The excavator reports that a release of gas was minimal, and service was not temporarily shut off because of this damage. Based on the available information, the pipeline safety division cannot make a determination regarding the occurrence of a violation and requests a ruling by the Advisory Committee of their position on this and similar events of damage.

**Violation:**

**Buttz Excavating, Inc** currently has 5 reports of damages in the record, between 07/28/2009 11:10:43 AM and 09/07/2010 8:54:19 AM.

NO

LOCATE

TICKET

PROVIDED

NO  
OPERATOR  
RESPONSE  
PROVIDED

**Information Request**

RECEIVED

FEB 08 2012

**Pipeline Safety Division  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission**

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Case No. 615

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: Buttz Excavating Inc  
Responsible Party Personal Name: Douglas Buttz  
Title (if any): owner  
Address: 12484 E. 156<sup>th</sup> Street  
City, State Zip: Noblesville, IN 46060  
Preferred Telephone: 317-339-5235  
Cell Phone Number: (same)  
Email Address: buttzexcavating25@sbcglobal.net

**Facility Information:**

Business Name: Vectren Energy  
Responsible Party Personal Name: was not known  
Title (if any):  
Address: P.O. Box 209  
City, State, Zip: Evansville, IN 47702-0209  
Preferred Telephone: (812) 491-4000  
Cell Phone Number: N/A  
Email Address:

**Locator Service Information:**

Business Name: USIC Locating Service  
Responsible Party Personal Name: Mike Harris  
Title (if any):  
Address: 9045 North River Road St 300  
City, State Zip: Indianapolis, IN 46240  
Preferred Telephone: 317-538-7195  
Cell Phone Number: ?  
Email Address: ?

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

Personal Contact:

None

Business/Organization Name:

Title (if any)

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Preferred Telephone:

Cell Phone Number:

Email Address:

**Utility Line Impact:**

**Location of Damage:**

Address: 14042 Andreas Court

City, State Zip: Fishers, IN 46038

Nearest Intersection: 141<sup>st</sup> Street + Howe Road

**Product Type (circle one):**

Natural Gas

Liquid Pipeline

Unknown/Other

**Facility Type (circle one):**

Distribution

Gathering

Service/Drop

Transmission

Unknown/Other

Size (Diameter/etc.): 2"

Pressure (PSIG/Inches): ?

Interruption in Service: Yes  No  Number of Customers Affected: 0

Evacuation: Yes  No  If yes, How Many Evacuated? N/A

Repair Cost (if known): \$ unknown

**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: 0907272416  
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:**

We have found that certain types of probe rods, if excessively used, can create a very sharp point on the end. We now check on a daily basis and grind off rods to a flat end to eliminate these problems.

The probe rod device was left in gas line until repairs had been made to eliminate gas loss.

YOUR PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION CASE NO. 615

YOUR FULL NAME: Douglas G. Buttz

FULL NAME OF BUSINESS/ENTITY (if applicable): Buttz Excavating Inc.

YOUR BUSINESS TITLE (if applicable): owner

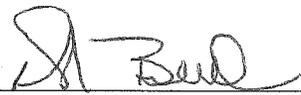
ADDRESS: 12424 E. 156th Street

CITY: Noblesville STATE: IN ZIP CODE: 46060

YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER: (317) 339-5235 SECOND NO. (317) 773-3091

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS: buttzexcavating25@sbicglobal.net

TODAY'S DATE: 2/3/12

YOUR SIGNATURE:  TITLE (if any) President

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

**Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 615  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, # 1500E  
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

Or scan document(s) and Email to:

**PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov**