



Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

Investigation regarding: **Quinton Stark**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 29

Investigator: Howard Friend

Telephone: 317-232-2717

Report Date: 01/19/2012

Damage Date: 10/10/2010

Damage Address: 7980 West Georgetown Road

City: Columbus

County: Bartholomew

The Parties

Excavator: **Quinton Stark**

Contact:

Address: 5042 Willa Way, Columbus, In 47201

Telephone: 812-375-0594

Facility Owner: Indiana Natural Gas Corporation

Contact: Phillip Ross

Address: 1080 W Hospital Road, Paoli, IN 47454

Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Investigation regarding: Quinton Stark

UPPAC Database Record ID: 29

Damage Impact

Product release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: True

Number of Customers Affected: 1

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$113

Excavator Activities/Cause of damage information:

Excavator request locates: No Indiana 811 ticket Number:

Type of Equipment: Hand Tools

Type of work performed: Fencing

Synopsis: Reported by operator; initial notice was delivered on 09/26/2011 but excavator has not responded to information request. A 3/4" natural gas service was damaged by an individual excavating for a fence post with a post-hole digger. Operator reported that the service was 24" deep.

Findings: Excavator did not request that underground utilities be marked.

Conclusion: There was a failure to provide notice of excavation

Violation: IC 8-1-26-16(g): Failure to provide notice of excavation.

Quinton Stark currently has no other reports of damages in the record.

NO

LOCATE

TICKET

PROVIDED

STATE OF INDIANA



INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
101 W. WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 1500E
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-3407

<http://www.in.gov/iurc>
Office: (317) 232-2701
Facsimile: (317) 232-6758

September 23, 2011

Mr. Phillip Ross
Indiana Natural Gas Corporation
1080 W Hospital Road
Paoli, IN 47454

Subject: Investigation Request for Information

Date of Event: 12/10/2010 → 10/10/2010

Event Location: 7980 West Georgetown Road, Columbus

Facility Owner: Indiana Natural Gas Corporation

Excavator: Quinton Stark

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 29

Dear Mr. Ross:

Pursuant to Indiana Code 8-1-26, the *Indiana Damage to Underground Facilities Act*, the Pipeline Safety Division of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("Pipeline Division") is required to investigate reported incidents of alleged statutory violations involving underground pipeline safety. The purpose of this statute is to promote excavation and pipeline safety and to reduce the imminent danger to life, health, property, or loss of service associated with unsafe digging practices. Please note that the investigation does not entail determining criminal liability or a civil determination of fault or damages; however, it does determine whether any statutory violations were committed regarding public safety.

The Pipeline Division received information regarding potential statutory violations regarding the date and location referenced above. You were identified as a person or entity that might have information that would assist the Pipeline Division in its investigation. Therefore, we have contacted you in order to receive the full account of information in order to make a fair determination related to the circumstances of this incident.

We have asked all involved parties, entities and witnesses to provide *written* information within *30 days* in order to meet legal deadlines to conclude our investigation. **Please consider this letter as a formal request to receive any and all information and evidence (including a narrative, documentation,**

RECEIVED

OCT 18 2011

INDIANA UTILITY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

maps, photographs or any other written information) you can access regarding anything you may know about the incident referenced above.

Please promptly provide your information to: Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 29, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, 101 West Washington Street, # 1500E, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Also, please include the Investigation Number referenced above on your materials. In the alternative, if you would prefer to scan the materials and send them electronically, please send the documents to: *PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov*.

Although you are not a formal party in this investigation, please treat this request for information seriously, because the potential civil penalties for violations include: a potential civil fine up to \$10,000.00; mandatory education and training for employees regarding pipeline safety; a required development plan to avoid future violations; or a warning letter for certain homeowner/tenants who are first time offenders. Consequently, your input will assist the Pipeline Division with its determination and may have a substantial impact on the case.

After the investigation is completed, the Pipeline Division will prepare an Investigation Report with findings and forward it to the Underground Plant Protection Advisory Committee (“Advisory Committee”). This is a statutory committee, comprised of excavators, facility operators, investor and municipal utilities, the 811 Association and facility locate marking companies, whose role is to evaluate the Pipeline Division’s findings and make a recommendation for a civil penalty. In the event there is disagreement regarding the Advisory Committee’s recommendation to the Commission, parties are entitled to request a hearing before the full Commission. If there is a violation, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) will impose the penalty. Any fines imposed are statutorily required to be spent funding the Commission’s training and educational programming to promote excavation and pipeline safety.

Thank you for your *prompt* assistance in providing written information to the Pipeline Division regarding the previously referenced incident. Any information received after the deadlines will not be considered in the investigation, will be unavailable to the Advisory Committee and will result in a lack of full information being made available; hence, your participation is vital to serving the interests of justice and enhancing the public’s safety. In an effort to assist you, please find an enclosure entitled “Information Request.” Should you have procedural or legal questions regarding the Underground Plant Protection Advisory Committee or the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, please contact David L. Welch, Assistant General Counsel, at (317) 234-4715. Should you have questions regarding the pipeline damage identified above, or our investigation, please contact me at (317) 232-2718. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



William Boyd
Director, Pipeline Safety Division

Enclosure: Information Request

Information Request

Pipeline Safety Division Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

Case No. 29

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:

Responsible Party Personal Name: QUINTON STARK

Title (if any):

Address: 5042 WILMA WAY

City, State Zip: COLUMBUS, IN 47201

Preferred Telephone: 812-375-0594

Cell Phone Number:

Email Address:

Facility Information:

Business Name: INDIANA NATURAL GAS

Responsible Party Personal Name: PHIL ROSS

Title (if any): GM

Address: PO BOX 450

City, State, Zip: PAOLI, IN 47454

Preferred Telephone: 812-723-2151

Cell Phone Number:

Email Address: phil_r@indiananatural.com

Locator Service Information:

Business Name: NO LOCATE

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: 7980 W GEORGETOWN ROAD

City, State Zip: COLUMBUS, IN 47201

Nearest Intersection: CR 500W

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/A

Pressure (PSIG/Inches): 44

Interruption in Service: Yes / No

Number of Customers Affected: 1

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

Repair Cost (if known): \$ 113.05 paid 11/22/10

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



DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION
State Form 54122 (R / 11-09)
INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Submitted to IURC-Pipeline Safety on: 11/05/2010

Who is submitting this information?

Name of person providing this information: Phil Ross

Business address (*number and street*): 1080 W Hospital Road

City, State, and Zip Code: Paoli, IN 47454

Telephone Number (*area code*): (812) 723-2151

Fax Number (*area code*): (812) 723-2188

Email address: phil_r@indiananatural.com

Excavator Information, if known

Full Name: Quinton Stark

Business address (*number and address*): 5042 Willa Way

City, State, and Zip Code: Columbus, IN 47201

Telephone number (*area code*): (812) 375-0594

Fax number (*area code*): _____

Email address: _____

Excavation or Demolition Information

Type of excavation or demolition: Contractor

Type of excavation or demolition equipment: Hand Tools

Type of work performed: Fencing

Date and Location of Damage

Date of damage: 10/10/2010

County: Bartholomew

City/Subdivision/Location Name: Columbus

Street address: 7980 W Georgetown Road

Nearest intersection: CR 500 W

Right of way where incident occurred: Public Private

Was there a release of product? Yes No

Was there any customer service interruption? Yes No

If yes, how many affected 1

Projected timeline for completion of re-lights after repairs are made. 1-hour

Were evacuations necessary as a result of release of gas or hazardous materials? Yes No

If yes, how many evacuated? _____

Was there an ignition of released gas or material? Yes No

If yes, was there:

Injuries, how many? _____

Fatalities, how many? _____

Property damage, Estimate \$ 200

Affected Facility Information

What type of facility operation was affected? Distribution

What type of product was involved? Natural Gas

What was the depth of the damaged facility? 24" PE Service line ← 3/4" DIAMETER

Notification, Locating, Marking

Did excavator follow the law with respect to requesting a locate and commencing work? Yes No

Did excavator notify you in event of damage? Yes No

One Call ticket number, if known: _____

Contract or company locator? _____

If contracted, what was the name of the contracted locator? _____

Were facility marks visible in the area of excavation or demolition? Yes No

Were facilities marked correctly? Yes No

Locating equipment type, if known: _____

Type of marking used:

Paint Flags Other

If other, explain: _____

Was site marked by "White Lining"? Yes No

Were special instruction part of the locate order? Yes No

Were maps used during marking? Yes No

Did the pipeline operator provide a positive response? Yes No

Were pipeline company representatives on site at the time of excavation or demolition? Yes No

Description of Cause

Possible Cause: Mr. Stark was digging a hole for a fence post behind a house and hit the gas service line feeding the house. No Locate. Gas meter was near post hole.

Additional Comments

NO
EXCAVATOR
RESPONSE
PROVIDED