



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: **M And C Trenching**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3128

Investigator: Howard Friend

Report Date: 8/3/2012

Damage Date: 6/4/2012 9:04:12 AM

Damage Address: 6885 W North Lake Gage Dr

City: Orland

County: Steuben

### The Parties

Excavator: **M And C Trenching**

Contact: Mike Stuckey, Owner

Address: 4745 East In Rt 120, Fremont, In 46737

Telephone:

Facility Owner: NIPSCO

Contact: Kit Earle

Address: 101 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

## **Investigation regarding: M And C Trenching**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3128

### **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    Indiana 811 ticket Number: 1205250136

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Sewer (Sanitary/Storm)

**Synopsis:** A natural gas service line was damaged during excavation for a sewer line.

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator's response to initial notice was received on 7/17/2012. Excavator had a valid locate request and gas operator provided accurate locate markings. Excavator exposed a line utilizing hand tools which was actually a retired line. With the assumption the exposed line was the correct facility, the excavator proceeded to dig with a backhoe damaging the active line.

**Conclusion:** Excavator failed to maintain the required clearance with mechanized equipment. The excavator could have hand dug two (2) feet on each side of the locate markings to find the active facility.

**Violation: IC 8-1-26-20(b): Failure to plan excavation to avoid damage or interference with underground facilities; Failure to maintain two (2) feet clearance with mechanized equipment.**

**M And C Trenching** currently has 1 other report of damages in the record, between 5/31/2012 1:46:03 PM and 6/4/2012 9:04:12 AM.

NO

LOCATE

TICKET

PROVIDED



## DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

State Form 54122 (R2 / 7-11)

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Submitted to IURC-Pipeline Safety on: Jul 6, 2012

---

### Who is submitting this information?

Name of person providing this information: Carrie Ludwig (NIPSCO)

Business address (*number and street*): 3511 East 15th Ave

City, State, and ZIP code: Gary, IN 46403

Telephone number (*area code*): 219 962 0422

Fax number (*area code*): 219 962 0404

E-mail address: cludwig@nisource.com

---

### Excavator Information, if known

Full name: M & C Trenching

Business address (*number and street*): 4745 East IN RT 120

City, State, and ZIP code: Fremont, IN 46737

Telephone number (*area code*): 260 495 3930

Fax number (*area code*):

E-mail address:

---

### Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Contractor

Excavation or demolition equipment: Unknown/Other

Type of work performed: Sewer (Sanitary/Storm)

---

**Date and Location of Damage**

Date of damage (*month, day, year*): Jun 4, 2012

County: Steuben

City: Orland

Street address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):  
6685 W North Lake Gage Dr Angola IN

Nearest intersection: Lane 105 Lime Lk

Right of way where damage occurred: Private - Land Owner

Was there a release of product? Yes

If yes, was there an ignition of product? No

Were evacuations necessary as a result of release? No

If yes, how many evacuated? 0

Was there a customer service interruption? Yes

If yes, how many affected? 1

Time to restore service (*in hours*): 1

Enter number of injuries, if applicable and known: 0

Enter number of fatalities, if applicable and known: 0

Property damage, Estimate \$

---

**Affected Facility Information**

What type of pipeline was damaged? Natural Gas

What was the affected facility? Service/Drop

What was the depth of the facility, in inches? 18

---

**Notification, Locating, Marking**

Did excavator request locates prior to commencing work? Yes

Enter Indiana 811 ticket number, if known: 1205250136

Was the locate request completed within two working days? Yes

If locates were performed, were they done so by a contractor or pipeline employee? Contract Locator

If a contractor locator, enter the company name, if known: USIC

Were facility marks visible in the area of excavation? Yes

Were facilities marked correctly? Yes

Type of markings used: Paint and Flags

If other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Was site marked by "White Lining"?

Were special instructions part of the locate request? Unknown/Other

Were maps used to complete the locate request? Unknown/Other

Were pipeline company representatives on site during excavation? No

Did the excavator notify the operator in the event of this damage? Yes

Did the excavator notify Indiana 811 in the event of this damage? Yes

Did the excavator notify 911 in the event of a release of product? Unknown/Other

---

### **Description of Cause**

Select from the list the most accurate cause for the damage: --Failure to use hand tools where required

---

### **Additional Comments**

Damage ticket #: 1205312581

Nipsco emergency repair ticket #: 1205312912

This damage was reported by IN811 in Spreadsheet CE. MAO 7/10/2012.

Claim # 3126 + 3128

Shawn

1 page

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

My name is SHAWN GALLAGHER. I am employed for M+C TRENCHING. ON MAY 31st, 2012, OUR BORE CREW WAS AT 6685 N.W. LAKE GAGE DR. TO INSTALL A 4" SEWER PIPE UNDER THE ROAD. AFTER COMPLETING THE BORE WE STARTED EXCAVATING DOWN. IN THE PROCESS, WE STRUCK AN UNMARKED GAS SERVICE LINE THAT CAME FROM THE NEIGHBOR'S PROPERTY AND WHICH CROSSED ONTO SAID PROPERTY. WHEN WE STARTED THE EXCAVATION, WE WERE FIVE FEET AWAY FROM THE GAS LINE OF THE ADDRESS ON WHICH WE WERE WORKING. WE RETURNED TO THE SITE THE FOLLOWING WEEK, ON JUNE 4, 2012, WITH TWO CREWS TO COMPLETE THE JOB. THE OTHER CREW WAS DIGGING A TRENCH FOR THE GRAVITY LINE. A GAS LINE WAS HIT AT 6685 N.W. LAKE GAGE DR. THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Shawn Gallagher

Claim # 3126 + 3128

To whom it concerns:

M&C Trenching

Jason Leinger

1 page

I Jason Leinger an employee of M&C Trenching was called out to our job at 6685 w.n. lake gage drive on 5/31/2012 for a gas line we hit. Upon arrival the gas co. had the line shut down. I asked our employees on site what happened they showed me where all the gas lines had been marked for the property where the work is being done. We was digging over five feet away from the marks to find the bore head when they hit a gas line. Not sure where this gas line went that we hit we asked the gas co. if it is ok to hook our locator up to the broken tracer wire where we hit the gas line they said that's fine. We located the gas line going to the next door resident's house it was never marked out. The locating co. that locates for 811 showed up and investigated the situation and said it was their fault they didn't mark the neighbor's gas line out assumed it ran straight out to the main.

On 6/4/2012 I showed up to the job at 6685 w.n. lake gage drive where Greg Sanders another employee of M&C already hand dug down to a gas line in between the last yellow mark and the curb box for the shut off were we was going to run the sewer line. I stuck a shovel next to the line we had exposed to mark it in case any dirt fell in the hole. Greg started to dig the trench for the sewer line towards the gas line we had exposed we was about 8 to 10 inches away from the line we found when I heard gas leaking from a broken line in our trench when he pulled a bucket of dirt out of the hole. We shut down and called 911 then the gas co. Once the gas co. got the gas shut off and the line dug up I dug up my shovel that was marking the line we found. The line we found was abandon line the live line was about 8 inches away and couple inches deeper than the one we found and thought was the live gas line. If any Questions you can contact me at (419) 583-0005.

Thanks Jason Leinger

Claim # 3126 + 3128

Todd Williamson 4 Pages  
MHC Trenching

(P. 1)

To Whom it MAY CONCERN:

My NAME IS TODD WILLIAMSON I LIVE AT  
5345 N. S.R. 827 FREMONT MY PHONE # IS  
260 316 5404

MEN ON JOB: SHAWN GA HAGAN AND MYSELF

The morning we started our bore we  
pot holed the MAIN GAS LINE ON NW SIDE OF  
ROAD Located it for our bore setup. We then  
went to other side of road and located our  
gas line from where our bore was to end.  
This gas line ran from the house 6685 W North  
LK GAGE DR to the main on the north side of  
the road. We did our bore from the north  
side of road to the south located our bore  
head and prepared to hook up 6" SDR pipe  
to pullback. I got in the mini to dig back 10'  
for our pipe to slide down the trench for pullback.  
We were 5' from our located gas line digging  
back I caught a service gas line not marked  
from the house next door see notes: They (gas co.)  
ran the gas line from next door 6683 next  
to the shut off from 6685. We just did not  
know another line existed.

Todd Williamson 7-17-12

To Whom it May concern

P-2

Men ON JOB:

TODD WILLIAMSON

SHAWN GAGHAN

GREG SANDERS

JASON LEININGER

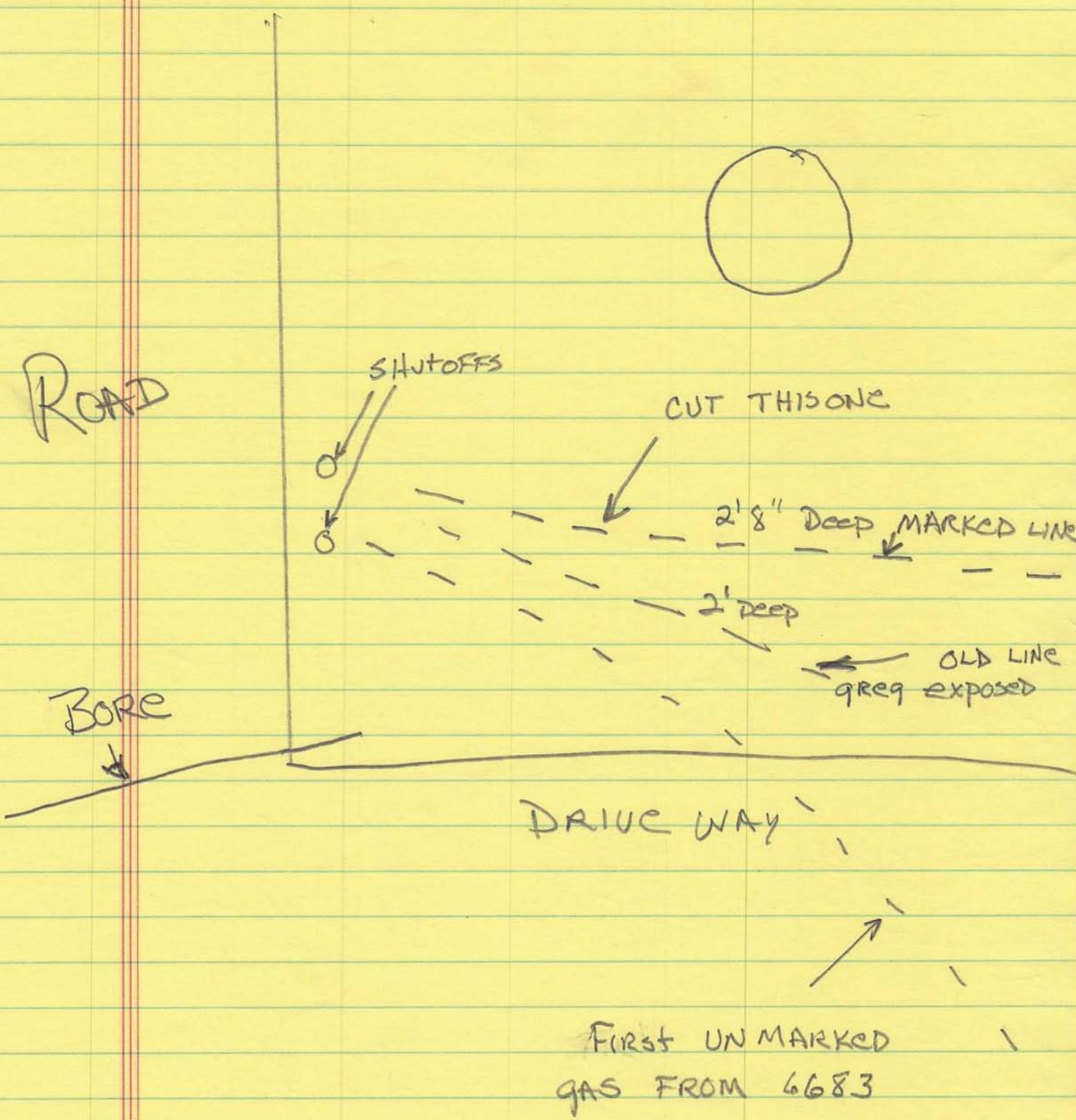
2ND DAY ON JOB.

We left HIT GAS LINE EXPOSED SO WE COULD DIG UNDER IT FOR OUR SDR 35 PIPE I SAW GREG HAND DIG UP MARKED GAS LINE FOR OUR TRENCH PATH. HE LOCATED IT I CAN REMEMBER HE HAD ABOUT 1 1/2' DUG ON BOTH SIDES OF IT, I THEN WENT TO OTHER SIDE OF STREET TO DO MORE WORK. WHEN I SAW GREG STARTING TO DIG WITH MINI WE HAD SHOVEL IN FRONT OF EXPOSED GAS LINE. HE HAD 1' BUCKET ON. I DID NOT SEE HIM HIT GAS LINE BUT WHEN HE PUT 1' BUCKET IN HIS HAND DUG TRENCH THE GOOD LINE WAS ABOUT 6" DEEPER THAN THE ONE HE HAD EXPOSED AND 8" AWAY FROM IT NO ONE COULD HAVE KNOWN THE GOOD LINE WAS UNDER AN OLD LINE UNLESS WE HAD DUG A 10' X 10' AREA 4' DEEP - NOT HIS FAULT.

7-17-12

Todd Williamson

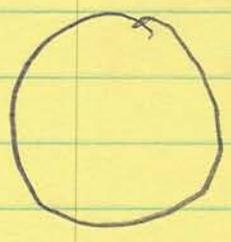
Area where gas lines came in



ROAD

SHUTOFFS

CUT THIS ONE



2'8" Deep MARKED LINE

2' Deep

OLD LINE  
9REG EXPOSED

BORE

DRIVE WAY

FIRST UN MARKED  
GAS FROM 6683

6685 W North LK Gate Dr

Sewer main

GAS MAIN

DRIVEWAY

HOUSE  
6685

GRINDER

MARKED GAS

PROPERTY LINE

BARE

PROPERTY LINE

GARAGE

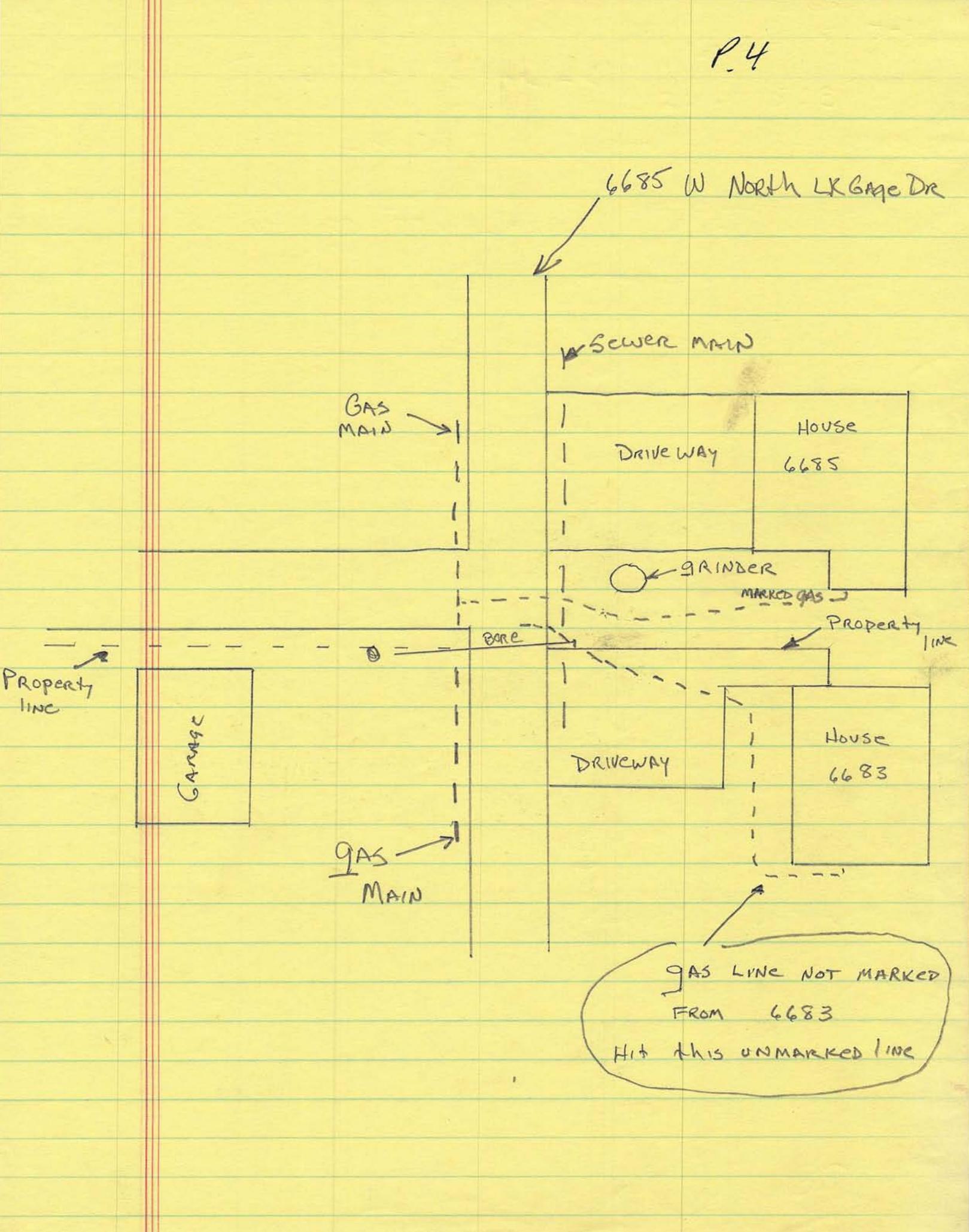
DRIVEWAY

HOUSE  
6683

GAS MAIN

GAS LINE NOT MARKED  
FROM 6683

HIT THIS UNMARKED LINE





## INFORMATION REQUEST

State Form 54909 (2-12)

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

**Case Number:** 3128

---

*The Pipeline Safety Division of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission requests any and all information you can provide regarding the following criteria.*

*Upon completion of answers select email button for submission.*

---

### The Parties

#### Excavator Information:

Business Name: M & C Trenching

Responsible Party Personal Name: Michael Stuckey

Title (if any): owner

Address (number and street): 4745 East State Road 120

City, State and ZIP Code: Fremont, In. 46737

Preferred Telephone Number (area code): 260-495-3930

Cellular Telephone Number (area code): 260-316-6285

Email Address: mike.stuckey1@frontier.com

#### Facility Information:

Business Name: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Responsible Party Personal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Address (number and street): \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Telephone Number (area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Cellular Telephone Number (area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Locator Service Information:**

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible Party Personal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title (*if any*): \_\_\_\_\_

Address (*number and street*): \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Telephone Number (area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Cellular Telephone Number (area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cause of Damage Information**

Type of Equipment (*select one*): Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of Work Performed (*select one*): Sewer (Sanitary/Storm)

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

Personal Contact: Michael Stuckey

Business/Organization Name: M & C Trenching

Title (*if any*): owner

Address (*number and street*): 4745 East State road 120

City, State and ZIP Code: Fremont, In. 46737

Preferred Telephone Number (area code): 260-495-3930

Cellular Telephone Number (area code): 260-316-6285

Email Address: mike.stuckey1@frontier.com

**Utility Line Impact**

**Location of Damage:**

Address (number and street): 6885 W. North Lake Gage Drive

City, State and ZIP Code: Angola, In. 46703

Nearest Intersection: lane105

**Product Type (select one):** Natural Gas

**Facility Type (select one):** Service/Drop

**Size (Diameter/etc.):** 3/4"

**Pressure (PSIG/Inches):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interruption in Service:**       Yes       No      **Number of Customers Affected:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Evacuation:**       Yes       No      **If yes, How Many Evacuated?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Repair Cost (if known):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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:** 1205250136

**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:** <sup>0</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Inpatient Treated:** <sup>0</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Fatalities:** <sup>0</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

**Fire Department Response:**  Yes  No

**Police Department Response:**  Yes  No

**Ambulance Response:**  Yes  No

---

**Additional Information / Comments**

Line was pot holed and visible except this was an abandoned line and the hot line was about 1' away which is the one we hit,

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT**

Your Pipeline Safety Division Case Number: 3128

Your Full Name: Michael stuckey

Full Name of Business / Entity (if applicable): M & C Trenching

Your Business Title (if applicable): owner

Address (number and street): 4745 East State road 120

City: Fremont State: In ZIP Code: 46737

Your E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date (month, day, year): 07/17/2012

Your Signature:  Title (if any) owner

Please return your Narrative Statement to:

**Pipeline Safety Division – Case Number 3128**  
**Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission**  
**101 West Washington Street, 1500E**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46204**

Or scan the statement and Email to:

[PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov](mailto:PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov)