



Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

Investigation regarding: **Veronica Heide**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3228

Investigator: Howard Friend

Report Date: 08/24/2012

Damage Date: 06/03/2012

Damage Address: 0334 E 650 S

City: Laporte

County: Laporte

The Parties

Excavator: **Veronica Heide**

Contact: Veronica Heide

Address: 334 E 650 S, Laporte, In

Telephone: (219) 716-0660

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: Veronica Heide

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3228

Damage Impact

Product release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: True

Number of Customers Affected: 1

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$430

Excavator Activities/Cause of damage information:

Excavator request locates: No Indiana 811 ticket Number:

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Landscaping

Synopsis: A natural gas service was damaged by the homeowner using a mini excavator for landscaping.

Findings: Reported by NIPSCO; homeowner has not submitted a response to initial notice that was mailed out on 07/13/2012. Homeowner did not call 811 to request locates.

Conclusion: Excavator failed to provide notice of excavation.

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



DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

State Form 54122 (R2 / 7-11)

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Submitted to IURC-Pipeline Safety on: Jul 3, 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: Veronica Heide - homeowner

Business address (*number and street*): 0334 E 650 S

City, State, and ZIP code: Laporte, IN

Telephone number (*area code*): 219 716 0660

Fax number (*area code*):

E-mail address:

Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Occupant

Excavation or demolition equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Landscaping

Date and Location of Damage

Date of damage (*month, day, year*): Jun 3, 2012

County: Laporte

City: Laporte

Street address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):
0334 E 650 S

Nearest intersection: Circle Dr

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? No

Enter Indiana 811 ticket number, if known: No locate requested

Was the locate request completed within two working days? Unknown/Other

If locates were performed, were they done so by a contractor or pipeline employee? Unknown/Other

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

Were facility marks visible in the area of excavation? No

Were facilities marked correctly? Unknown/Other

Type of markings used: Other

If other, please specify: no locates _____

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? No

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: --No notification made to the one-call center

Additional Comments

Nipsco emergency locate ticket#: 1206030109



101 West Ohio Street, Suite 1707
Indianapolis, IN 46204

August 13, 2012

Via Electronic Transmission – PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 3228
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 3228

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: 6/3/2012

Event Location: 0334 E 650 S, Laporte

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Veronica Heide - Homeowner

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 3228

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. 3228	
Date of Event	6/3/2012
Event Location	0334 E 650 S, Laporte
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Veronica Heide - Homeowner
Date of IURC Information Request	7/13/2012
THE PARTIES	
EXCAVATOR:	
BUSINESS NAME	Veronica Heide
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	Veronica Heide
TITLE (IF ANY)	Property Owner
ADDRESS	0334 E 650 S
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	LaPorte, IN
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
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 Locating Service
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	9045 North River Road, Suite 300
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Indianapolis, IN 46240
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
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	0334 E 650 S
CITY/STATE/ZIP	LaPorte, IN 46350
NEAREST INTERSECTION	Circle Dr
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)	45
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	Yes
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	1
EVACUATION (YES/NO)	No
IF YES, HOW MANY EVACUATED	0
REPAIR COST (IF KNOWN) (\$)	430.41
CAUSE OF DAMAGE INFORMATION:	
TYPE OF EQUIPMENT (Select One)	
Auger	
Backhoe/Trackhoe	X
Boring/Drilling	
Directional Drilling	
Explosives	
Farm Equipment	
Grader/Scraper	
Hand Tools	
Milling Equipment	
Probing Device	

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	X
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)	Yes
IGNITION AND/OR FIRE (YES/NO)	No
EXCAVATOR NOTIFY 811 (YES/NO)	No
LOCATE INFORMATION:	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	No

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	N/A
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	N/A
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	N/A
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	
MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITIES (YES/NO)	N/A
OPERATOR EMPLOYEES ON-SITE DURING EXCAVATION (YES/NO)	No
INCIDENT IMPACT INFORMATION	
NUMBER OF OUTPATIENT TREATED	0
NUMBER OF INPATIENT TREATED	0
NUMBER OF FACILITIES	
FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	
POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	
AMBULANCE RESPONSE (YES/NO)	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS	
Excavator failed to notify the one-call center Nipsco emergency repair ticket #: 1206030109	

Fact Based Investigation Report

01820120603001
Northern IN
6/3/2012 2:30:00 PM
6/3/2012 2:49:01 PM
EMILY Facility Owner
0334 E 650 S
LAPORTE
ST: IN ZIP:

NOTIFICATION ID:
DISTRICT:
DAMAGE DATE:
NOTIFICATION DATE:
NOTIFIED BY:
DAMAGE ADDRESS:
CITY:

NIPSCO

DAMAGED CUSTOMER:

06/03/2012
14:30:00
15:20:00

INVESTIGATION DATE:
FROM:
TO:

Homeowner
N/A

EXCAVATOR INVOLVED:
TYPE OF EXCAVATION:

Yes

ORIG. LOCATE REQ.:
START DATE/TIME:
TYPE OF TICKET:
LOCATE REQ. INFO N/A:

M52001052

DIG UP/DAMAGE REQ.:
START DATE/TIME:

John Novak
6/3/2012 2:35:00 PM
Digital

PICTURES TAKEN BY:
DATE/TIME:
PHOTOGRAPHY TYPE:
FRAME #:

116375

INVESTIGATOR EMP#:
INVESTIGATOR NAME:

Joe Hendrickson
BASED ON YOUR INVESTIGATION, IS FURTHER INVESTIGATION NEEDED?
No

Fact Based Investigation Customer Information

01820120603001

NIPSCO

(optional)

NOTIFICATION ID:

SELECT A CUSTOMER:

CUSTOMER #:

LOWPROF

Gas Service

Yes

FACILITY DESCRIPTION:

FACILITY ID:

LOCATOR NAME & EMP #:

LOCATOR NOT KNOWN:

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO INVESTIGATION:

No Locate Req. By Contractor

Other:

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO METHOD OF INVESTIGATION (at least one must be checked):

Visual, Facility Exposed At Time Of Investigation

INVESTIGATOR STATEMENT/CAUSAL FACTORS:

No one on site to talk to. Looked for a locate ticket and found none. Gas service was hit by a small mini-hoe by the homeowner.

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

LIST ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS ON SITE:

N/A

WERE ANY MARKINGS VISIBLE ON THE DAMAGE SITE UPON ARRIVAL?

No

WERE ANY OTHER INDICATORS OF FACILITY PRESENT IN THE AREA?

No

WAS THE EXCAVATION WITHIN THE TOLERANCE ZONE OF MARKS?

No

EXTENT OF FACILITY DAMAGE

Cut gas service

REPLACEMENT FOOTAGE

N/A

WAS CONTRACTOR ASSISTANCE REQUIRED? IF YES, WHO?

No N/A

WHAT CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT WAS USED?

Mini-Hoe

IS THE FACILITY SHOWN ON THE UTILITY RECORDS?

No

IF YES, PLEASE LIST RECORD #(S)

N/A



DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

State Form 54122 (R2 / 7-11)

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Submitted to IURC-Pipeline Safety on: Jul 3, 2012

Who is submitting this information?

Name of person providing this information: Carrie Ludwig

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: Veronica Heide - homeowner

Business address (*number and street*): 0334 E 650 S

City, State, and ZIP code: Laporte, IN

Telephone number (*area code*): 219 716 0660

Fax number (*area code*): _____

E-mail address: _____

Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Occupant

Excavation or demolition equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Landscaping

Date and Location of DamageDate of damage (*month, day, year*): Jun 3, 2012

County: Laporte

City: Laporte

Street address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):
0334 E 650 S Laporte IN

Nearest intersection: Circle Dr

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? No

Enter Indiana 811 ticket number, if known:

Was the locate request completed within two working days? Unknown/Other

If locates were performed, were they done so by a contractor or pipeline employee? Unknown/Other

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

Were facility marks visible in the area of excavation? No

Were facilities marked correctly? Unknown/Other

Type of markings used: Other

If other, please specify: no locates _____

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? No

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: --No notification made to the one-call center

Additional Comments

Nipsco emergency locate ticket#: 1206030109

IURC Damage Information Request

Complete at damage site. Please scan and email completed form to cludwig@nisource.com within 10 days of damage.

Date 6/3/12

City La Porte

Address 0334 E 650 S

Contractor Veronic Heide

Type of Equipment Excavator

Work Type Landscaping

Locate # -

Locates (yes/no) No

Accurate Locates (yes/no) N/A

Paint, flags or both N/A

Release of Gas (yes/no) Yes

Detailed description of Event including equipment used Customer hit service while landscaping
no locates

Depth of line 1/8"

Were locates performed in 2 working days (yes/no) N/A

Service or main and size of line 1/8" Plastic

Pressure (PSI) 45#

Outage (yes/no) Yes

How many customers lost 1

Time to restore service 1 hour

Evacuation (yes/no) No

How many evacuated 0

Ignition of product (yes/no) No

Damage or leak Damage