



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: Straight Line Excavating

UPPAC Database Record ID: 4077

Report Date: 6/11/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 10/30/2012 2:07:08 PM

Damage Address: 200 E Boyd Blvd, La Porte, Laporte

### The Parties

Excavator: **Straight Line Excavating**

Address: 19544 Burnham Avenue, Chicago Heights, Il 60411

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of Work Performed: Construction

### 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: 1210163029

Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions: THIS IS AT MCDONALDS - LOCATE ON ALL SIDES OF THE BUILDING INCLUDING THE PARKING LOT - ALSO LOCATE THE ENTIRE GRASS AREA ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE PARKING LOT

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

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

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator did not respond to initial notice mailed 11/30/2012. The excavator had a valid locate and the gas operator provided accurate locate markings; however, a backhoe was utilized with two (2) feet of the gas facility.

**Conclusion:** There was a failure to maintain two (2) feet clearance with mechanized equipment.

**Violation: IC 8-1-26-20(a)(2) Failure to maintain two (2) feet clearance with mechanized equipment.**



150 West Market Street, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

February 1, 2013

*Via Electronic Transmission – [PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov](mailto:PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov)*

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 4077  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 4077

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: 10/30/2012

Event Location: 200 E Boyd Blvd

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Straight Line Excavating

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 4077

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](mailto:cearle@nisource.com)

<b>IURC INFORMATION REQUEST</b>	
<b>Pipeline Safety Division Case No. 4077</b>	
Date of Event	10/30/2012
Event Location	200 E Boyd Blvd
Event City	La Porte
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Straight Line Excavating
Date of IURC Information Request	12/5/2012
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	Straight Line Excavating
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	19544 Burnham Ave
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Chicago Heights, IL 60411
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	708-474-6060
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	STEVE@STRAIGHTLINEEXCAVATING.COM
<b>FACILITY INFORMATION - OWNER/OPERATOR OF UTILITY LINE:</b>	
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
<b>LOCATOR SERVICE INFORMATION</b>	
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	<a href="mailto:morganthompson@usicinc.com">morganthompson@usicinc.com</a>
<b>OTHER (WITNESS, POLICE, FIRE, OTHER) INFORMATION</b>	
PERSONAL CONTACT	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	

ADDRESS	
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
<b>UTILITY LINE IMPACT</b>	
<b>LOCATION OF DAMAGE</b>	
ADDRESS	200 E Boyd Blvd
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Laporte, IN 46350
NEAREST INTERSECTION	E Lincolnway
<b>PRODUCT TYPE (Select One)</b>	
NATURAL GAS	X
LIQUID PIPELINE	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
<b>FACILITY TYPE (Select One)</b>	
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	0
REPAIR COST (IF KNOWN) (\$)	
<b>CAUSE OF DAMAGE INFORMATION:</b>	
<b>TYPE OF EQUIPMENT (Select One)</b>	
Auger	
Backhoe/Trackhoe	X
Boring/Drilling	
Directional Drilling	
Explosives	
Farm Equipment	
Grader/Scraper	
Hand Tools	
Milling Equipment	
Probing Device	

Trancher	
Vacuum Equipment	
Unknown/Other	
<b>TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED (Select One)</b>	
Agriculture	
Cable TV	
Curb/Sidewalk	
Bldg. Construction	X
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)	N
IGNITION AND/OR FIRE (YES/NO)	N
EXCAVATOR NOTIFY 811 (YES/NO)	Y-1210302139
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Y

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1210163029
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	Y
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	Y
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	Y
MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITIES (YES/NO)	Y
OPERATOR EMPLOYEES ON-SITE DURING EXCAVATION (YES/NO)	N
<b>INCIDENT IMPACT INFORMATION</b>	
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)	
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS</b>	
<p>Failure to use hand tools where required.  Nipsco emergency repair ticket 1210302403</p>	

**Fact Based Investigation Report**

NOTIFICATION ID: 01820121030006  
DAMAGE DATE: 10/30/2012 2:07:20 PM  
NOTIFIED BY: STEVE WEGNER  
DAMAGE ADDRESS: 200 E BOYD BLVD  
CITY: LA PORTE

DISTRICT: Northern IN  
NOTIFICATION DATE: 10/30/2012 2:10:26 PM

ST: IN ZIP:

DAMAGED CUSTOMER: NIPSCO

INVESTIGATION DATE: 10/30/2012  
FROM: 13:35:00

TO: 14:30:00

EXCAVATOR INVOLVED: STRAIGHT LINE EXCAVATING  
TYPE OF EXCAVATION: BUILDING ADDITION AND PARKING LOT

ORIG. LOCATE REQ.: 1210163029  
TYPE OF TICKET:

START DATE/TIME:  
LOCATE REQ. INFO N/A:

DIG UP/DAMAGE REQ.: 1210302139

START DATE/TIME:

PICTURES TAKEN BY: JOHN NOVAK DATE/TIME: 10/30/2012 1:40:00 PM  
PHOTOGRAPHY TYPE: Digital FRAME #:

INVESTIGATOR EMP#: 113212

INVESTIGATOR NAME: ERIC VEACH

BASED ON YOUR INVESTIGATION, IS FURTHER INVESTIGATION NEEDED? No

**Fact Based Investigation Customer Information**

NOTIFICATION ID: 01820121030006  
SELECT A CUSTOMER: NIPSCO  
CUSTOMER #: (optional)

FACILITY DESCRIPTION: LOWPROF  
LOCATOR NAME & EMP #: Novak Jonathan - 131987  
LOCATOR NOT KNOWN:

FACILITY ID: Gas Service

**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO INVESTIGATION:**

Facility Marked Accurately

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:**

CONTRACTOR WAS INSTALLING NEW PARKING LOT WHEN THEY CUT A NIPSCO GAS SERVICE THAT FEEDS MCDONALD'S RESTURANT. THERE ARE MARKS IN THE DIG AREA THAT LINE UP RIGHT NEXT TO THE DAMAGE. MARKS WERE GOOD.. CONTRACTOR THOUGHT THAT THE GAS SERVICE WAS DEEPER. CONTRACTOR CUT THE

SERVICE 2 FEET AWAY FROM THE GAS METER.

**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?** 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** CUT IN HALF  
    **REPLACEMENT FOOTAGE** N/A  
**WAS CONTRACTOR ASSISTANCE REQUIRED? IF YES, WHO?** Yes  
    **WHAT CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT WAS USED?** BACK HOE  
**IS THE FACILITY SHOWN ON THE UTILITY RECORDS?** No  
    **IF YES, PLEASE LIST RECORD #(S)**

NIPSCO 00949 IUPPSa 10/16/2012 20:07:35 1210163029-00A NORM NEW GRID

NORMAL NOTICE

CASE #  
4077

Ticket : 1210163029 Date: 10/16/2012 Time: 19:46 Oper: NBOYD Chan:002

State: IN Cnty: LAPORTE Twp: PLEASANT  
Cityname: LA PORTE Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision:

Address : 200  
Street : E BOYD BLVD  
Cross 1 : E LINCOLNWAY Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: THIS IS AT MCDONALDS - LOCATE ON ALL SIDES OF THE BUILDING INCLUDING  
THE PARKING LOT - ALSO LOCATE THE ENTIRE GRASS AREA ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE  
PARKING LOT

:  
Grids : 4137C8641B 4137C8641A  
Boundary: n 41.624084 s 41.621468 w -86.696892 e -86.694176

Work type : BUILDING ADDITION AND PARKING LOT  
Done for : HBC CONSTRUCTION  
Start date: 10/19/2012 Time: 07:00 Hours notice: 59/48 Priority: NORM  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: N  
Duration : 2 WEEKS Depth: 4 FEET

Company : STRAIGHT LINE EXCAVATING Type: CONT  
Co addr : 19544 BURNHAM AVENUE  
City : CHICAGO HEIGHTS State: IL Zip: 60411  
Caller : STEVE WEGNER Phone: (708)243-7177  
Contact : STEVE WEGNER - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (708)243-7177  
Fax : (708)474-6976  
Email : STEVE@STRAIGHTLINEEXCAVATING.COM

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? YES  
:

Submitted date: 10/16/2012 Time: 19:46  
Members: COMCN ID2354 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

NIPSCO 00635 IUPPSa 10/30/2012 14:07:20 1210302139-00A EMER DAMG GRID

DAMAGE SEE REMARKS

Ticket : 1210302139 Date: 10/30/2012 Time: 14:03 Oper: DSEGO Chan:087

State: IN Cnty: LAPORTE Twp: PLEASANT  
Cityname: LA PORTE Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision:

CASE #  
4077

Address : 200  
Street : E BOYD BLVD  
Cross 1 : E LINCOLNWAY Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: THIS IS AT MCDONALDS - LOCATE ON ALL SIDES OF THE BUILDING INCLUDING  
THE PARKING LOT - ALSO LOCATE THE ENTIRE GRASS AREA ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE  
PARKING LOT

:  
Grids : 4137C8641B 4137C8641A  
Boundary: n 41.624084 s 41.621468 w -86.696892 e -86.694176

Work type : BUILDING ADDITION AND PARKING LOT  
Done for : HBC CONSTRUCTION  
Start date: 10/30/2012 Time: 14:04 Hours notice: 0/0 Priority: EMER  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y  
Duration : 2 WEEKS Depth: 4 FEET

Company : STRAIGHT LINE EXCAVATING Type: CONT  
Co addr : 19544 BURNHAM AVENUE  
City : CHICAGO HEIGHTS State: IL Zip: 60411  
Caller : STEVE WEGNER Phone: (708)243-7177  
Contact : STEVE WEGNER - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (708)243-7177  
Fax : (708)474-6976  
Email : STEVE@STRAIGHTLINEEXCAVATING.COM

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
A NIPSCO GAS LINE HAS BEEN DAMAGED ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE BUILDING 2  
FEET AWAY FROM THE GAS METER---LINE IS BLOWING AND CAN BE HEARD AND  
SMELLED---CAN NOT DESCRIBE DAMAGED LINE---CREW IS ON SITE---STEVE WEGNER WILL  
CALL NIPSCO AND 911 TO NOTIFY THEM OF THE DAMAGE---PREVIOUS TICKET NUMBER IS  
1210163029

Will you be white-lining the dig site area? YES

:

Submitted date: 10/30/2012 Time: 14:03  
Members: COMCN ID2354 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY  
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

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

REPORTING OPERATING AREA LAPORTE MAXIMO WO # N/A  
OPERATING AREA CONTACT Rich ELM JOB ORDER # 444743-16  
TRACKING NUMBER 01820121030006 LOCATE REF # N/A  
Locate Performed By: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT October 30 2012 1:24 P M DATE OF REPORT October 30, 2012  
PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 200 Boyd Blvd Laporte

DAMAGE WAS TO:

ELECTRIC - POLE / TRANSFORMER: # \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR INSTALLED \_\_\_\_\_ BROKEN YES ( ) NO ( )

OTHER (DESCRIBE) \_\_\_\_\_

GAS: SERVICE  MAIN ( ) SIZE 1 1/8" MATERIAL: PLASTIC  STEEL ( ) METER ( ) REG STATION ( ) STUB ( )  
OTHER (DESCRIBE) \_\_\_\_\_

DEPTH OF FACILITY (inches) 20" 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 13:24 TIME RESTORED 15:30

DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: Service Severed

LOCATE MARKS ON SITE: YES  DISTANCE BETWEEN FACILITY AND LOCATE MARKS 0 IN NO ( )  
HOW LOCATED: PAINT  FLAGS ( ) BOTH ( ) WHITE LINED ( )

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) Straight Line Excavating

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) 19544 Burnham Ave Lynwood, IL 60411

WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK SITE AT TIME OF DAMAGE Eric Vannoort (708)474-6060

WITNESS NAME AND ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

AGENCIES NOTIFIED / ONSITE: POLICE ( ) AGENCY \_\_\_\_\_ REPORT # \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRE ( ) AGENCY NONE 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
- |   |                                     |  |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE/FARMING          | <input type="checkbox"/> CABLE TV   | <input type="checkbox"/> CURB/SIDEWALK | <input type="checkbox"/> TELECOMMUNICATIONS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLDG CONSTRUCTION | <input type="checkbox"/> DEMOLITION | <input type="checkbox"/> DRAINAGE      | <input type="checkbox"/> WATER              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DRIVEWAY                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ELECTRIC   | <input type="checkbox"/> SURVEYING     | <input type="checkbox"/> DRAINS/CULVERTS    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FENCING                      | <input type="checkbox"/> GRADING    | <input type="checkbox"/> IRRIGATION    | <input type="checkbox"/> MOWING             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPING                  | <input type="checkbox"/> PIPELINE   | <input type="checkbox"/> MILLING       | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> POLE/SIGN POST               | <input type="checkbox"/> ROAD WORK  | <input type="checkbox"/> SEWER         |   |

- TYPE OF EQUIPMENT USED - CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW
- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AUGER             | <input type="checkbox"/> HAND TOOLS     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BACKHOE/TRACKHOE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MILLING EQUIPMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PROBING DEVICE | <input type="checkbox"/> BORING / DRILLING           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLOSIVES        | <input type="checkbox"/> TRENCHER       | <input type="checkbox"/> FARM EQUIPMENT              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VACCUUM EQUIPMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> GRADER         | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____                 |

- REASON DAMAGE OCCURRED - CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW
- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AUTOMOTIVE ACCIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> EXCAVATING BEFORE LOCATES DUE | <input type="checkbox"/> CARELESS MACHINE OPERATOR                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NO NOTIFICATION     | <input type="checkbox"/> MARKS DISTURBED               | <input type="checkbox"/> STUB  |
|  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <u>failure to hand dig</u> |

COMMENTS :

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PERSON PREPARING REPORT Adam Danielson

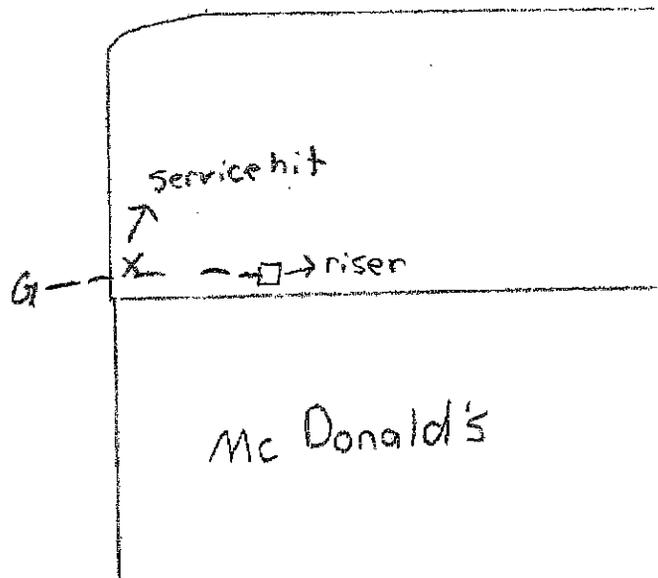
FIELD SUPERVISOR Rich Elm

FIELD MANAGER John Todd

- ORIGINAL REPORT AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION IS TO BE SENT TO FACILITY DAMAGE RECOVERY
- COPY OF REPORT IS TO BE SENT TO DAMAGE PREVENTION

SKETCH: - Show position of all pertinent information

North  
↑



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

- |   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| • DID EXCAVATION OCCUR BEFORE LOCATES WERE DUE  | YES | NO |
| • NO IN 811 LOCATE CALLED IN                    | YES | NO |
| • DAMAGE CAUSED FROM EXCAVATION WITHIN 24' ZONE | YES | NO |
| • EXPIRED LOCATE                                | YES | NO |
| • WAS WHITE LINING INDICATED ON LOCATE REQUEST  | YES | NO |

COMPLETED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_