



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

## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: Jack & Vernons Septic Tank

UPPAC Database Record ID: 4158

Report Date: 6/14/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 10/10/2012

Damage Address: 2929 Union St, Hobart, Lake

### The Parties

Excavator: **Jack & Vernons Septic Tank**

Address: 3685 E 36th Ave, Lake Station, In

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of Work Performed: Sewer

### 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: No

Indiana 811 Ticket Number: Original Start Date:

Locate Instructions:

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

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

**Findings:** Reported by Carrie Ludwig (NIPSCO); excavator did not respond to initial notice mailed 11/30/2012. Excavator damaged a natural gas service line with a backhoe while performing work on a sewer line without benefit of a valid locate ticket.

**Conclusion:** There was a failure 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: Oct 25, 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: Jack & Vernons Septic Tank

Business address (*number and street*): 3685 E 36th Ave

City, State, and ZIP code: Lake Station, IN

Telephone number (*area code*): (219) 962-2019

Fax number (*area code*): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

---

### Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Contractor

Excavation or demolition equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Sewer (Sanitary/Storm)

---

**Date and Location of Damage**

Date of damage (*month, day, year*): Oct 10, 2012

County: Lake

City: Hobart

Street address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):  
2929 Union St

Nearest intersection: E 29th Ave

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*): 0.5

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? 24

---

**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?

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 repair ticket #: 1210102451



150 West Market Street, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

February 4, 2013

*Via Electronic Transmission – PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov*

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 4158  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 4158

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: 10/10/2012

Event Location: 2929 Union St

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Jack & Vernons Septic Tank

Other Party:

Pipeline Division Case No. 4158

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. 4158</b>	
Date of Event	10/10/2012
Event Location	2929 Union St
Event City	Hobart
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Jack & Vernons Septic Tank
Date of IURC Information Request	12/5/2012
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	Jack & Vernons Septic Tank
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	3685 E 36 <sup>th</sup> Ave
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Lake Station, IN 46405
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
<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	2929 Union St
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Hobart, IN 46342
NEAREST INTERSECTION	E 29 <sup>th</sup> Ave.
<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.)	
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	
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)	X
Site Development	
Steam	
Storm Drain/Culvert	
Street Light	
Telecommunications	
Traffic Signal	
Traffic Sign	
Water	
Waterway Improvement	
Unknown/Other	
RELEASE OF PRODUCT (YES/NO)	Y
IGNITION AND/OR FIRE (YES/NO)	N
EXCAVATOR NOTIFY 811 (YES/NO)	N
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	N

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	N
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	N
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	N
MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITIES (YES/NO)	N
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>No notification made to the one-call center.  Nipsco emergency repair ticket 1210102451.</p>	

**Fact Based Investigation Report**

NOTIFICATION ID: 01820121010020

DISTRICT: Northern IN

DAMAGE DATE: 10/10/2012 12:00:00 AM

NOTIFICATION DATE: 10/10/2012 2:35:10 PM

NOTIFIED BY: NIPSCO Facility Owner

DAMAGE ADDRESS: 2929 UNION ST X E 29TH AVE

CITY: HOBART

ST: IN ZIP:

DAMAGED CUSTOMER: NIPSCO

INVESTIGATION DATE: 10/11/2012

FROM: 13:55:00

TO: 14:30:00

EXCAVATOR INVOLVED: JACK VERNON SEWER & SEPTIC

TYPE OF EXCAVATION: Septic work

ORIG. LOCATE REQ.:

START DATE/TIME:

TYPE OF TICKET:

LOCATE REQ. INFO N/A: Yes

DIG UP/DAMAGE REQ.: 1210102451

START DATE/TIME: 10/11/2012 2:25:00 PM

PICTURES TAKEN BY: Scott Day

DATE/TIME: 10/11/2012 2:00:00 PM

PHOTOGRAPHY TYPE: Digital

FRAME #: 1

INVESTIGATOR EMP#: 131986

INVESTIGATOR NAME: Scott Day

BASED ON YOUR INVESTIGATION, IS FURTHER INVESTIGATION NEEDED? No

**Fact Based Investigation Customer Information**

NOTIFICATION ID: 01820121010020

SELECT A CUSTOMER: NIPSCO

CUSTOMER #: (optional)

FACILITY DESCRIPTION: LOWPROF FACILITY ID: Gas Service

LOCATOR NAME & EMP #:

LOCATOR NOT KNOWN: Yes

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,  
Investigation Results Verified By Utility Representative

INVESTIGATOR STATEMENT/CAUSAL FACTORS:

The contractors did not have a locate ticket called in because they thought that since there was no alley the gas would run to the front. They were digging in the back yard and hit the gas service which runs to a rear easement gas main.

**NAMES OF UTILITY REPRESENTATIVES CONTACTED OR ON SITE AND STATEMENT:**  
Nipsco on site made repairs as needed.

**NAMES OF EXCAVATOR'S REPRESENTATIVES CONTACTED OR ON SITE AND STATEMENT:**  
Jack & Vernons sewer/septic

**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** Hit plastic gas service

**REPLACEMENT FOOTAGE** Splice Kit

**WAS CONTRACTOR ASSISTANCE REQUIRED? IF YES, WHO?** No

**WHAT CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT WAS USED?** Backhoe

**IS THE FACILITY SHOWN ON THE UTILITY RECORDS?** No

**IF YES, PLEASE LIST RECORD #(S)**



# DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

State Form 54122 (R2 / 7-11)  
INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Submitted to IURC-Pipeline Safety on: Oct 25, 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: Jack & Vernons Septic Tank

Business address (*number and street*): 3685 E 36th Ave

City, State, and ZIP code: Lake Station, IN

Telephone number (*area code*): (219) 962-2019

Fax number (*area code*): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Contractor

Excavation or demolition equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Sewer (Sanitary/Storm)

---

**Date and Location of Damage**Date of damage (*month, day, year*): Oct 10, 2012County: LakeCity: HobartStreet address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):  
2929 Union St Hobart INNearest intersection: E 29th AveRight of way where damage occurred: Private - Land OwnerWas there a release of product? YesIf yes, was there an ignition of product? NoWere evacuations necessary as a result of release? NoIf yes, how many evacuated? 0Was there a customer service interruption? YesIf yes, how many affected? 1Time to restore service (*in hours*): 0.5Enter number of injuries, if applicable and known: 0Enter number of fatalities, if applicable and known: 0Property damage, Estimate \$ 

---

**Affected Facility Information**What type of pipeline was damaged? Natural GasWhat was the affected facility? Service/DropWhat was the depth of the facility, in inches? 24

---

**Notification, Locating, Marking**Did excavator request locates prior to commencing work? NoEnter 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?

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 repair ticket #: 1210102451

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

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

REPORTING OPERATING AREA Gary MAXIMO WO # C0183966206
OPERATING AREA CONTACT Coopstick JOB ORDER # 476033
TRACKING NUMBER 018 2012 1010 020 LOCATE REF #
Locate Performed By:

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT 10-10 2012, 12:31PM DATE OF REPORT 10-10-12
PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 2929 Union St Lake Station

DAMAGE WAS TO:
ELECTRIC - POLE / TRANSFORMER: # SIZE YEAR INSTALLED BROKEN YES ( ) NO ( )

OTHER (DESCRIBE)

GAS: SERVICE MAIN ( ) SIZE MATERIAL: PLASTIC ( ) STEEL ( ) METER ( ) REG STATION ( ) STUB ( )
OTHER (DESCRIBE)

DEPTH OF FACILITY (inches) 24 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 12:31 TIME RESTORED 13:00

DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: cut in half

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

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) Jack and Vernons Septic + Sewer Crew

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) 3685 E 36th Ave Lake Station

WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK SITE AT TIME OF DAMAGE Rich

WITNESS NAME AND ADDRESS

WITNESS REMARKS

AGENCIES NOTIFIED / ONSITE: POLICE ( ) AGENCY REPORT #

FIRE ( ) AGENCY 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

- ( ) AGRICULTURE/FARMING ( ) CABLE TV ( ) CURB/SIDEWALK ( ) TELECOMMUNICATIONS
( ) BLDG CONSTRUCTION ( ) DEMOLITION ( ) DRAINAGE ( ) WATER
( ) DRIVEWAY ( ) ELECTRIC ( ) SURVEYING ( ) DRAINS/CULVERTS
( ) FENCING ( ) GRADING ( ) IRRIGATION ( ) MOWING
( ) LANDSCAPING ( ) PIPELINE ( ) MILLING ( ) OTHER
( ) POLE/SIGN POST ( ) ROAD WORK ( ) SEWER

TYPE OF EQUIPMENT USED - CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW

- ( ) AUGER ( ) HAND TOOLS ( ) BACKHOE/TRACKHOE
( ) MILLING EQUIPMENT ( ) PROBING DEVICE ( ) BORING / DRILLING
( ) EXPLOSIVES ( ) TRENCHER ( ) FARM EQUIPMENT
( ) VACCUUM EQUIPMENT ( ) GRADER ( ) OTHER

REASON DAMAGE OCCURRED - CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW

- ( ) AUTOMOTIVE ACCIDENT ( ) EXCAVATING BEFORE LOCATES DUE ( ) CARELESS MACHINE OPERATOR
( ) NO NOTIFICATION ( ) MARKS DISTURBED ( ) STUB ( ) OTHER

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR COMMENTS AND DIAGRAM