



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: Earl Hopper

UPPAC Database Record ID: 4263

Report Date: 6/18/2013

Investigator: Mike Orr

Damage Date: 12/4/2012 1:04:40 PM

Damage Address: 3338 Jay St, Lake Station, Lake

### The Parties

Excavator: **Earl Hopper**

Address: 3338 Jay Street, Lake Station, In 46405

Facility Owner: **NIPSCO**

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

Type of Equipment: Hand Tools

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: LOCATE THE BACK YARD OF THE PROPERTY

Follow-Up Locate Instructions (if applicable):

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

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator/occupant did not respond to initial notice mailed 2/14/2013. Excavator/occupant failed to request a locate before excavating deeper than twelve (12) inches and damaging the gas service.

**Conclusion:** There was a failure to provide notice of excavation.

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



150 West Market Street, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

March 7, 2013

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

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 4263  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 4263

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: 12/4/2012

Event Location: 3338 Jay St

City: Lake Station

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Earl Hopper

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 4263

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. 4263</b>	
Date of Event	12/4/2012
Event Location	3338 Jay St
Event City	Lake Station
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Earl Hopper
Date of IURC Information Request	2/13/2013
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	Earl Hopper
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	3338 Jay Street
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Lake Station / IN / 46405
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	(219) 743-0936
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	morganthompson@usicinc.com
<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	3338 Jay Street
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Lake Station / IN / 46405
NEAREST INTERSECTION	E 34 <sup>th</sup> Avenue
<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.)	5/8"
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	
Boring/Drilling	
Directional Drilling	
Explosives	
Farm Equipment	
Grader/Scraper	
Hand Tools	X
Milling Equipment	
Probing Device	

Trencher	
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)	Y 1212041581
<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)	
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)	N/A
POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N/A
AMBULANCE RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N/A
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS</b>	
<p>No notification made to the one-call center (no locate requested).</p> <p>Emergency Ticket# 1212041758</p>	



**NAMES OF UTILITY REPRESENTATIVES CONTACTED OR ON SITE AND STATEMENT:**

Eric from Nipsco on site stated homeowner had no ticket

**NAMES OF EXCAVATOR'S REPRESENTATIVES CONTACTED OR ON SITE AND STATEMENT:**

Homeowner had no statement

**LIST ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS ON SITE:**

N/A

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**WERE ANY MARKINGS VISIBLE ON THE DAMAGE SITE UPON ARRIVAL?** No

**WERE ANY OTHER INDICATORS OF FACILITY PRESENT IN THE AREA?** Yes

**WAS THE EXCAVATION WITHIN THE TOLERANCE ZONE OF MARKS?** No

**EXTENT OF FACILITY DAMAGE** Hit plastic gas service

**REPLACEMENT FOOTAGE** N/A

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

**WHAT CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT WAS USED?** Shovel

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

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

Facility: Transmission Lines; Folder: N/A; Assigned To: N/A

NIPSCO 00508 IUPPSa 12/04/2012 13:04:41 1212041581-00A EMER DAMG STRT

DAMAGE

Ticket : 1212041581 Date: 12/04/2012 Time: 12:52 Oper: BTHOMPSON Chan:084

State: IN Cnty: LAKE Twp: HOBART  
Cityname: LAKE STATION Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision: VIKING VILLAGE

Address : 3338  
Street : JAY ST  
Cross 1 : E 34TH AVE Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE THE BACK YARD OF THE PROPERTY  
:  
Grids : 4133B8715C 4133C8715C  
Boundary: n 41.558454 s 41.557018 w -87.258043 e -87.256580

Work type : REPAIRING SEWER LINE  
Done for : EARL HOPPER  
Start date: 12/04/2012 Time: 12:58 Hours notice: 0/000 Priority: EMER  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y  
Duration : 4 DAYS Depth: 3 FEET

Company : EARL HOPPER Type: OTHR  
Co addr : 3338 JAY STREET  
City : LAKE STATION State: IN Zip: 46405  
Caller : EARL HOPPER Phone: (219)743-0936  
Contact : EARL HOPPER CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (219)743-0938

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
PER EARL HOPPER--HAS HIT A NIPSCO GAS LINE--IS BLOWING--IS IN THE BACK YARD OF  
THE PROPERTY--1/2 INCH PLASTIC LINE--HAS NOT CALLED 911--PERSON DOING THE  
DIGGING IS ONSITE--HE CALLED NIPSCO--THEY ARE ONSITE NOW--NO PREVIOUS TICKET  
NUMBER--THANK YOU

Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO

:

Submitted date: 12/04/2012 Time: 12:52  
Members: COMCN ID1158 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

Facility: Transmission Lines; Folder: N/A; Assigned To: N/A

NIPSCO 00561 IUPPSa 12/04/2012 13:35:36 1212041758-00A EMER NEW STRT

EMERGENCY

Ticket : 1212041758 Date: 12/04/2012 Time: 13:28 Oper: TFRICKE Chan:028

State: IN Cnty: LAKE Twp: HOBART  
Cityname: HOBART Inside: Y Near: N  
Subdivision:

Address : 3338  
Street : JAY ST  
Cross 1 : E 34TH AVE Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: LOCATE ENTIRE PROPERTY  
:  
Grids : 4133B8715C 4133C8715C  
Boundary: n 41.558454 s 41.557018 w -87.258043 e -87.256580

Work type : REPAIR GAS LINE  
Done for : NIPSCO  
Start date: 12/04/2012 Time: 13:30 Hours notice: 0/000 Priority: EMER  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y  
Duration : 1 DAY Depth: 6 FEET

Company : NIPSCO Type: MEMB  
Co addr : 801 EAST 86TH AVENUE  
City : MERRILLVILLE State: IN Zip: 46410  
Caller : ANGELA SHIPPER Phone: (800)322-2806  
Contact : MICHAEL COAPSTICK Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (219)314-0384  
Fax : (219)647-4764

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? NO  
:

Submitted date: 12/04/2012 Time: 13:28  
Members: COMCN ID1158 ID8000 NIPSCO SM

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

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

REPORTING OPERATING AREA 150 MAXIMO WO# 543335200
OPERATING AREA CONTACT JOB ORDER # 477247
TRACKING NUMBER 01820121204010 LOCATE REF #
Locate Performed By:

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT 12-4 2012, 11:35 M DATE OF REPORT 12-4-12
PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 3338 JAY ST Lake Station

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

GAS: SERVICE MAIN ( ) SIZE 5/8 MATERIAL: PLASTIC STEEL ( ) METER ( ) REG STATION ( ) STUB ( )
OTHER (DESCRIBE)

DEPTH OF FACILITY (inches) 30 PRESSURE (PSI) 42 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 11:35 am TIME RESTORED 14:30

DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: CUT BY HALL

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

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) EARL Hopper 219 743-0936

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY) 3338 Jay Street, Lake Station, IN 46405

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

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