



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: **Gatlin Plumbing**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3415

Investigator: Howard Friend

Report Date: 10/25/2012

Damage Date: 7/26/2012 9:29:32 AM

Damage Address: W 81st Ave

City: Merrillville

County: Lake

### The Parties

Excavator: **Gatlin Plumbing**

Contact: Matt Murphy

Address: 1111 East Main Street, Griffith, In 46319

Telephone:

Facility Owner: NIPSCO

Contact: Kit Earle

Address: 101 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Distribution

## **Investigation regarding: Gatlin Plumbing**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3415

### **Damage Impact**

Product release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: True

Number of Customers Affected: 12

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$

### **Excavator Activities/Cause of damage information:**

Excavator request locates: Yes    Indiana 811 ticket Number: 1207232214

Type of Equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Drainage

**Synopsis:** A natural gas line was damaged during excavation for drainage.

**Findings:** Reported by Indiana 811; excavator did not respond to initial notice mailed 8/16/2012. The excavator had a valid locate request and the operator provided accurate locate markings. The excavator had the gas line exposed and dirt kept falling into the hole. The excavator was using a backhoe to remove the dirt and hit the gas line.

**Conclusion:** Excavator failed to maintain the required clearance with mechanized equipment.

**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.**

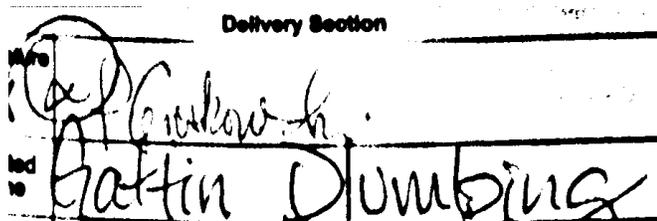


Date: 08/20/2012

MAIL MAIL:

The following is in response to your 08/20/2012 request for delivery information on your Certified Mail(TM)/RRE item number 9214 8901 0661 5400 0002 6826 44. The delivery record shows that this item was delivered on 08/20/2012 at 02:26 PM in GRIFFITH, IN 46319. The scanned image of the recipient information is provided below.

Signature of Recipient:



Address of Recipient:



Thank you for selecting the Postal Service for your mailing needs. If you require additional assistance, please contact your local Post Office or postal representative.

Sincerely,

United States Postal Service

The customer reference info shown below is not validated or endorsed by the United States Postal Service. It is solely for customer use.

3415  
MATT MURPHY  
GATLIN PLUMBING  
1111 E MAIN ST  
GRIFFITH IN 46319-2897



101 West Ohio Street, Suite 1707  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

September 14, 2012

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

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 3415  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 3415

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: 7/26/2012

Event Location: W 81st Ave, Merrillville

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Gatlin Plumbing

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 3415

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Earle".

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. 3415</b>	
Date of Event	7/26/2012
Event Location	W 81st Ave, Merrillville
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Gatlin Plumbing
Date of IURC Information Request	8/16/2012
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	Gatlin Plumbing
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	1111 E. Main St
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Griffith, IN 46319
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	<a href="mailto:LSELKING@NISOURCE.COM">LSELKING@NISOURCE.COM</a>
<b>LOCATOR SERVICE INFORMATION</b>	
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	
<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	1910 W. 81 <sup>st</sup> Avenue
CITY/STATE/ZIP	Merrillville, IN
NEAREST INTERSECTION	
<b>PRODUCT TYPE (Select One)</b>	
NATURAL GAS	X
LIQUID PIPELINE	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
<b>FACILITY TYPE (Select One)</b>	
DISTRIBUTION	X
GATHERING	
SERVICE/DROP	
TRANSMISSION	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
SIZE (DIAMETER/ETC.)	3
PRESSURE (PSIG/INCHES)	42
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	Yes
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	12
EVACUATION (YES/NO)	No
IF YES, HOW MANY EVACUATED	N/A
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	

Trencher	
Vacuum Equipment	
Unknown/Other	
<b>TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED (Select One)</b>	
Agriculture	
Cable TV	
Curb/Sidewalk	
Bldg. Construction	
Bldg. Demolition	
Drainage	X
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)	Yes
IGNITION AND/OR FIRE (YES/NO)	No
EXCAVATOR NOTIFY 811 (YES/NO)	Yes 1207260745
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	Yes

NIPSCO 00234 IUPPSa 07/26/2012 09:33:32 1207260745-01A EMER DAMG GRID

RETRANSMIT RETRANSMIT

Case 3415

Ticket : 1207260745 Date: 07/26/2012 Time: 09:32 Oper: SDOERFLEIN Chan:029  
Old Tkt: 1207260745 Date: 07/26/2012 Time: 09:27 Oper: SDOERFLEIN Rev: 00A

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

Address :

Street : W 81ST AVE

Cross 1 : CLEVELAND PL Within 1/4 mile: Y

Location: FROM THE ABOVE INTERSECTION LOCATE 300 FEET WEST FROM RIGHT OF WAY TO  
RIGHT OF WAY ON BOTH SIDES OF W 81ST AVE

:

Grids : 4128D8721B 4128C8721B 4128D8721A 4128C8721A

Boundary: n 41.471794 s 41.470695 w -87.364067 e -87.361519

Work type : STORM SEWER INSTALLATION

Done for : INDOT

Start date: 07/26/2012 Time: 09:27 Hours notice: 0/0 Priority: EMER

Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: Y

Duration : 1 MONTH Depth: 12 FOOT

Company : GATLIN PLUMBING Type: CONT

Co addr : 1111 EAST MAIN STREET

City : GRIFFITH State: IN Zip: 46319

Caller : MATT MURPHY Phone: (219)924-6972

Contact : MATT MURPHY - CELL Phone:

BestTime:

Mobile : (219)228-0776

Fax : (219)924-1401

Email : GATLINPLUMBING@COMCAST.NET

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
RETRANSMITTING TO STATE THAT THIS IS NOT A JOB EXTENSION-DAMAGE TICKET--  
PER MATT-CREW HAS DAMAGED A NIPSCO GAS LINE IN A FIELD AT 2002 WEST 81ST  
PLACE-THE LINE IS NOT BLOWING-IT IS A 2 INCH ORANGE LINE-HAS CALLED 911-CREW ON  
SITE-HAS CALLED NIPSCO-PREVIOUS TICKET 1207232214

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

:

Submitted date: 07/26/2012 Time: 09:32

Members: COMCN IB ID2227 ID3996 ID6784 NIPSCO SM

NIPSCO 00643 IUPPSa 07/23/2012 13:18:54 1207232214-00A NORM NEW GRID

NORMAL NOTICE JOB EXTENSION

Case 3415

Ticket : 1207232214 Date: 07/23/2012 Time: 13:13 Oper: LSTEVENSON Chan:018

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

Address :  
Street : W 81ST AVE  
Cross 1 : CLEVELAND PL Within 1/4 mile: Y  
Location: FROM THE ABOVE INTERSECTION LOCATE 300 FEET WEST FROM RIGHT OF WAY TO  
RIGHT OF WAY ON BOTH SIDES OF W 81ST AVE

:  
Grids : 4128D8721B 4128C8721B 4128D8721A 4128C8721A  
Boundary: n 41.471794 s 41.470695 w -87.364067 e -87.361519

Work type : STORM SEWER INSTALLATION  
Done for : INDOT  
Start date: 07/25/2012 Time: 13:30 Hours notice: 48/48 Priority: NORM  
Ug/Oh/Both: U Blasting: N Boring: N Railroad: N Emergency: N  
Duration : 1 MONTH Depth: 12 FOOT

Company : GATLIN PLUMBING Type: CONT  
Co addr : 1111 EAST MAIN STREET  
City : GRIFFITH State: IN Zip: 46319  
Caller : MATT MURPHY Phone: (219)924-6972  
Contact : MATT MURPHY - CELL Phone:  
BestTime:  
Mobile : (219)228-0776  
Fax : (219)924-1401  
Email : GATLINPLUMBING@COMCAST.NET

Remarks : All tickets are taken and processed on Eastern Daylight Time  
REMARK AS NEEDED---PREVIOUS TICKET NUMBER IS 1207062511---THANK YOU!  
Will you be white-lining the dig site area? YES  
:

Submitted date: 07/23/2012 Time: 13:13  
Members: COMCN IB ID2227 ID3996 ID6784 NIPSCO SM

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

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

REPORTING OPERATING AREA Gary MAXIMO WO #
OPERATING AREA CONTACT S. Taylor JOB ORDER # 477219
TRACKING NUMBER LOCATE REF #
Locate Performed By:

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT July 26 2012 0830 M DATE OF REPORT 7/26/12
PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 1910 W. 81st. Ave. Merrillville

DAMAGE WAS TO:

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

OTHER (DESCRIBE)

GAS: SERVICE ( ) MAIN ( ) SIZE 3" MATERIAL: PLASTIC ( ) STEEL ( ) METER ( ) REG STATION ( ) STUB ( )
OTHER (DESCRIBE)

DEPTH OF FACILITY (inches) 40" 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:

DURATION OF INTERRUPTION: TIME REPORTED 0830 TIME RESTORED 1110

DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: 4" Gash

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

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) Gatlin Plumbing

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY)

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

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR COMMENTS AND DIAGRAM

COMMENTS: Looks like GATIN was dug to expose but due to excess dirt falling back on main they used excavator to try and skim out excess dirt near main therefore causing the gas in the main

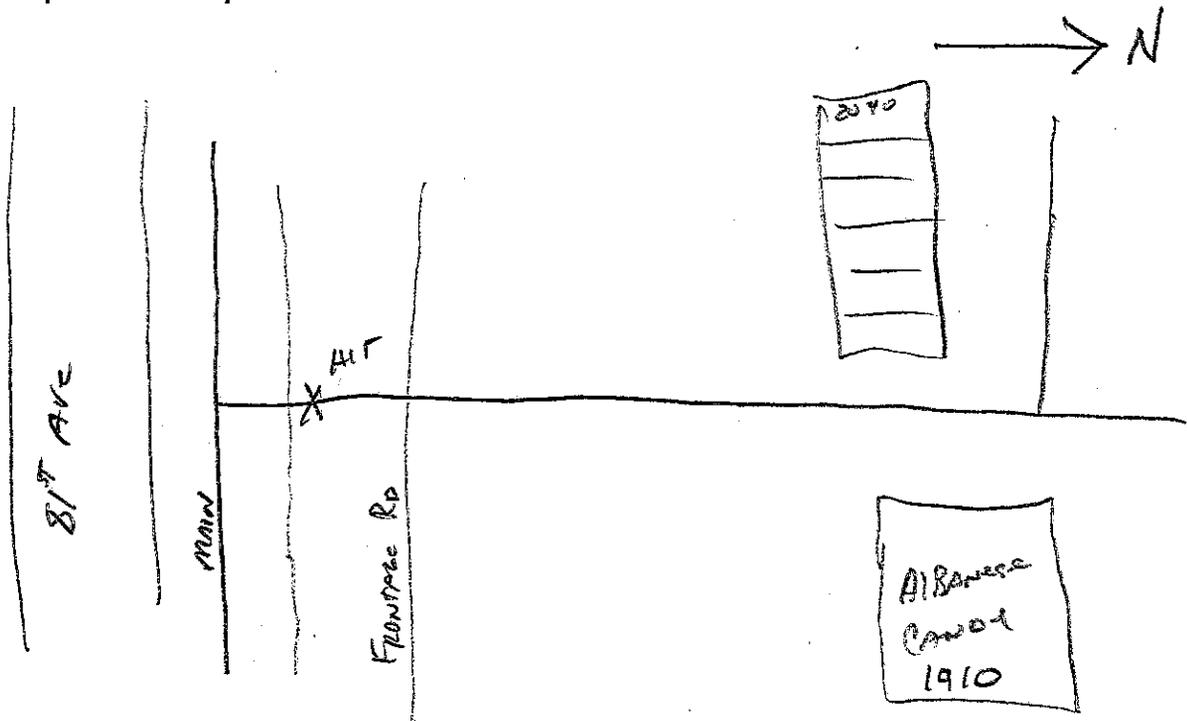
PERSON PREPARING REPORT U 011710

FIELD SUPERVISOR Steve Taylor

FIELD MANAGER Karima Hasn Bey

- 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



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: \_\_\_\_\_



## DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

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

Submitted to IURC-Pipeline Safety on: Aug 21, 2012

### Who is submitting this information?

Name of person providing this information: Steve Noffsinger

Business address (*number and street*): 3511E. 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: Gatlin Plumbing

Business address (*number and street*): 1111 East Main Street

City, State, and ZIP code: Griffith, IN, 46319

Telephone number (*area code*): (219)924-6972

Fax number (*area code*): (219)924-1401

E-mail address: GATLINPLUMBING@COMCAST.NET

### Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Contractor

Excavation or demolition equipment: Backhoe/Trackhoe

Type of work performed: Drainage

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**Date and Location of Damage**Date of damage (*month, day, year*): Jul 26, 2012County: LakeCity: MerrillvilleStreet address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):  
1910 W 81st AveNearest intersection: Cleveland PlRight of way where damage occurred: Public - City StreetWas 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? 12Time to restore service (*in hours*): 2.75Enter number of injuries, if applicable and known: 0Enter number of fatalities, if applicable and known: 0Property damage, Estimate \$ 

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**Affected Facility Information**What type of pipeline was damaged? Natural GasWhat was the affected facility? DistributionWhat was the depth of the facility, in inches? 40

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**Notification, Locating, Marking**Did excavator request locates prior to commencing work? YesEnter Indiana 811 ticket number, if known: 1207232214

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

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

Was site marked by "White Lining"? Yes

Were special instructions part of the locate request? No

Were maps used to complete the locate request? Yes

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

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### Description of Cause

Select from the list the most accurate cause for the damage: --Failure to support exposed facilities

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### Additional Comments

Nipsco emergency repair ticket 1207260862

Damage ticket 1207260745

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	1207232214
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	Yes
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	Yes
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	Yes
MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITIES (YES/NO)	Yes
OPERATOR EMPLOYEES ON-SITE DURING EXCAVATION (YES/NO)	No
<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>	
Excavator failed to support exposed facilities Nipsco emergency repair ticket # 1207260862	