

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Patrick Fahn, Director of Compliance and Competitive Markets

**FROM:** Bob Bachmeier, Gas Pipeline Safety Inspector

**DATE:** November 28, 2011

**RE:** Rangeland Energy, LLC's 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Damage Notification, One-Call Excavation Notice System Compliance to NDPSC Docket #: PU 10-637

On November 24, 2011 LO-N-BRO, a contractor for Rangeland Energy, LLC (Rangeland) damaged a 3 inch steel pipeline owned by Amerada Hess (Hess) while excavating with a backhoe. The damage occurred in the vicinity of 108<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW and 60<sup>th</sup> St. NW in West Bank Township (Twp 156 N, Rng 96 W), Williams County. The damage did not result in a release and Hess was notified immediately by Rangeland.

I conducted a search in the North Dakota One-Call System to see if LO-N-BRO had requested a locate ticket for the location of damage to the Hess pipeline in West Bank Township in Williams County. I reviewed the locate tickets and found that LO-N-BRO had requested locates for the location on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011, with work to begin on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011.

I contacted the onsite pipeline inspector for Rangeland, Sam Curtis; he stated that the Hess pipeline had not been located and that Hess told him that there are more pipelines owned by Hess in the area of excavation that cannot be located. He also stated that they had moved 300 feet from the previous excavation site and found three more pipelines during excavation that were not located on November 25<sup>th</sup>. They did not damage those pipelines.

I contacted Lane Ferguson from Hess and inquired about the damaged 3 inch pipeline, he stated that Rangeland had contacted Hess about the damage on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Lane also stated that the line was no longer in use and that line was not located. Hess will repair or take out that section of pipeline so that Rangeland can continue with the pipeline project. Hess will not bill Rangeland for any repairs due to the damage by LO-N-BRO. When I ask Lane Ferguson about Hess having pipelines that they could not locate in the excavation area he stated that there were pipelines put in the 50's and 60's that were not mapped nor were locate wires used on some of the poly pipe and fiberglass pipe and that they are not sure where they are located.

I found that Rangeland and their contractor, LO-N-BRO have followed the North Dakota One-Call law by requesting locate tickets before excavation begins, by updating those request as needed, locating the facilities by hand digging, contacting the pipeline operator about the damage to their pipeline and by halting all work in the area of the damage.