



**Tom's Backhoe Service, Inc.**

**323 Woodland Hills Ln**

**Brainerd, MN 56401**

**218-828-4232**

9-4-13

Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: Third Party Complaint Response

Dear Pipeline Safety Inspector/Program Manager:  
Aaron Morman

In response to the complaint letter received on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013, this 1" line was installed by the gas company 2 years ago. It was 12" deep on the west side of the road and six feet to the east of this it was 36" deep, this is where I had potholed this line. The line was not cut; it had a 1/2" rock pushed up into it causing it to leak. I was informed by the gas company that this line had been cut twice since installation by other contractors in this area. There was no negligence in locating this line. It varied in depth by 2 feet within 6 feet. I crossed this utility eleven times in the last 1500' and it maintained a 4foot depth.

I did not expect such a variation in depth on a newly installed line which I had located in my hole. Is there not a depth requirement on gas lines? It is still only 12" deep on the west side of the road.

We did use reasonable care to maintain locate marks for the life of the project, we called in relocates every 9 days and did what we could do for reasonable care.

We have a very good history in being in compliance and attempting to be in compliance at all times with the one call law.

Best regards,

Tom Thompson  
Vice President  
Tom's Backhoe Service, Inc.

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Response to third party damage complaint

Tom's Backhoe Service, Inc.

Tom Thompson, VP