

Nitschke, Darrell D.

From: Toby Christensen <Toby@camrudfoss.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 2:49 PM
To: Nitschke, Darrell D.
Cc: Giovanni Vasquez
Subject: ND One-Call Complaint, Case Number GS-14-726

Mr. Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission

Re: ND One-Call Complaint, Case Number GS-14-726

Dear Mr. Nitschke

I received a copy of the above referenced complaint from Mr. Victor Shock. He instructed me to respond to you. The complaint was filed by Xcel Energy and filed against Camrud Foss Concrete Construction.

Here is our account of what happened on this South Fargo residential construction site:

Our crew was on site prepping the ground for the new concrete driveway between the attached garage and the street. Our crew was using a skidsteer loader to level off the clay prior to us setting concrete forms and installing 4" +/- of compacted fill gravel as a sub-base for the new concrete driveway. While digging out the clay along the edge of the future driveway, our skidsteer bucket severed the gas line that was to service the house. Our foreman, Jon Bayman, and the rest of his crew on site, said the gas line they hit was no more than 8" below the surface of the ground. This is not a case where the ground surface had been higher at this location when the gas line was trenched in, as this area of the site had not had any additional fill material brought in after the backfilling of the basement and the garage foundation, which would have taken place prior to gas line being trenched in.

Camrud Foss has been doing this sort of work since 1958. I started working for Camrud Foss in 1986. We have 6 concrete construction crews (42 crew members), and 3 of these crews do this same type of work daily. This is the third time in my 28 years that I recall us hitting a gas line, and both the other two times we had called for locates. We did not call for utility locates this time, and we typically do not in new residential construction when we are doing the exterior flatwork, because we typically don't excavate over 6" to 8", 12" at the most. My foreman commented that there was an Xcel employee on site that commented on how shallow the line was. If need be, I could try and come up with that individual's name. While I understand it cost Xcel approximately \$450 to repair this hit, it cost my company about \$250 in crew downtime to wait for it to be repaired.

I believe the gas service line is supposed to be quite a bit deeper than it was, and if it had been where it was supposed to be, we wouldn't have hit it. When we excavate deeper than 12", or when we are digging shallower in established neighborhoods, we do call for locates.

I'm not sure if the OneCall service, or the PSC want all residential concrete contractors to request locates for each site they are going to be doing driveways, patios, and sidewalks. If that is what you'd like us to do, there will be a very large increase in the number of locates to be performed. A real rough guess would be an additional 25 to 40 requests/day in Fargo/West Fargo.

In conclusion I don't believe Camrud Foss violated the One Call law, as we were digging less than 12" deep, and I respectfully request that you NOT find against us.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Toby Christensen
CAMRUD FOSS CONCRETE CONSTR.

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Response to North Dakota One-Call Complaint

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