

Guthmiller Earthmoving, Incorporated
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December 1, 2015

Darell Nitschke – Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: Case Number PU-15-714

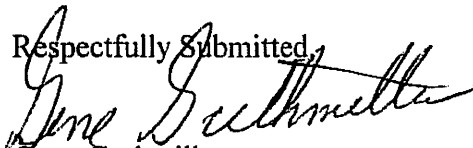
Dear Mr. Nitschke,

The following is a written account of the events that led to the break of a ¾ inch MDU line at Central Sales of Jamestown, ND:

On November 3, 2015 Guthmiller Earthmoving, Inc. (GEI) was hired to blade and place gravel on the parking lot of Central Sales south of Jamestown, ND on Highway 281. Our forces bladed the parking lot then hauled in gravel material to be placed on the lot. There was to be no excavation work performed. After blading of the lot, soft spots in the grade were identified. GEI informed personnel at Central Sales that about 1 foot of unsuitable material had to be removed and dry gravel material placed in the soft spot. Central Sales indicated that all buried lines on their property were buried to a depth of 3 feet. We were attempting to excavate and remove the unsuitable material to a depth of 1 foot three inches when the break of the MDU line occurred. GEI immediately notified MDU of the break.

It is our normal practice to insure safety by contacting ND One Call for all of our digging needs, as it will appear in our history with them. We feel it was unfortunate on this episode that we didn't and will be a lesson learned.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 701-320-2903.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gene Guthmiller
Owner - GEI