

## Near Miss Report

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Auger Near High Pressure Line



Paint marks applied after discovered excavation near high pressure line. Contractor had no 1-Call ticket.

A landscaping contractor was hired by a local fast food restaurant to install protection posts in their parking lot. While driving past the job site, a retiree who was familiar with the location of the line noticed there were no paint marks or flags. He also noticed the contractor had installed a protection post very close to the line. As a courtesy, he notified the field office who dispatched an employee immediately.

Upon investigation it was determined that a PA 1-Call ticket had not been initiated by the contractor and they were indeed excavating illegally without marks. Their auger had narrowly missed the line, passing within 8 – 10” of the 360 psi steel line. When the local supervisor arrived, he successfully defended our right-of-way and convinced the contractor to remove the protection post.

It's great to have extra “eyes and ears” in the field when it comes to protecting our facilities and we certainly appreciate the retiree who notified us of the potential hazard. Just a few weeks prior to this, at another location in Pennsylvania, a retired employee from the local water authority assisted us with an encroachment investigation. He reported extensive excavation work by a sewer contractor near an unprotected medium pressure plastic main. The retiree didn't have to get involved, but due to his long-term relationship with local Company supervision and employees, this individual was willing to take action to protect our facilities when he didn't have to.

This serves as a good reminder that treating people with courtesy and respect is a good business practice in addition to being the right thing to do. When you treat people professionally and perform your work with excellence, they perceive you and our Company more favorably and will be more likely to help us when we need it.