

# ***VanderPol Dragline Inc***

*A SD DOT Certified WBE Company*

1001 Hot Rod Road Mitchell, SD 57301  
Phone 605-996-2036 Fax 605-996-2662

September 25, 2008

South Dakota One Call Notification Board  
C/O Public Utilities Commission  
500 E Capital Avenue  
Pierre SD 57501

**RECEIVED**

SEP 29 2008

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

**RE: Notice of Complaint OC08-004 and OC08-005  
Filed by Northwestern Energy**

**Dear Sir/Madam**

**I am responding to the Matter of the Complaint OC08-004 and OC08-005 in regards to the incidents on August 18, 2008 and August 20, 2008.**

**Looking back on the situations that occurred, there were several factors that contributed to this occurrence.**

- 1) We were unaware that a One Call ticket expires after 21 days. It has been our past experiences that it remains valid for the length of the project. Long after 21 days, local utilities personal would continue to mark utilities during the project and would communicate with us if there were any utilities that were a concern.**
- 2) The gas line in question was to be relocated beyond the project limits. It was relocated on the west side of Highway 25 but not the east side where the gas line was struck. Our Undercutting, which is directed by the State of South Dakota DOT personal, was to extend down to 3.42 feet below finish grade to repair soft subgrade conditions. This is stated in the project plans. The gas line is situated 4 to 6 inches into the undercut. The procedure to complete the undercutting is to remove material to within 6 to 8 inches of the bottom of the subgrade and then scarfier or disk to mix the soils. While disking the bottom 6 to 8 inches the gas line was struck.**
- 3) The employee of VanderPol Dragline that struck the gas line on August 20th was not on the project on the 18<sup>th</sup>. He took it upon himself to disk the subgrade without talking to anyone. We could not stop him before the damage was done.**
- 4) The utility companies told us at the start and during the project of several possible concerns with shallow utilities, most of which were relocated. Not once was this gas line mentioned after it was relocated, that it was a concern.**

**In response to Complaint Form OC08-005 and OC08-005, we do have a ticket number of 080980243. The entire project is marked with construction limit stakes. We did not believe that a spotter was necessary since the gas line was relocated below construction limits. During the project at some point and time it is extremely**

**likely that all locate markings will be lost due to the nature of the project, example: Removal of topsoil, sidewalk, curb and gutter, trees, asphalt or 1 to 2 feet of material off the roadway.**

**VanderPol Dragline always has projects on going and almost all of them require locates for utilities. We try very hard to avoid these situations and to work with utility companies.**

**VanderPol Dragline tries very hard to maintain a safe work area for our workers, co-workers and the public around us. We try very hard to comply with all State and Federal Standards. We feel that we have a good safety record, with very few incidents. This situation is not and will not be taken lightly in the future. We are all very fortunate no one was seriously injured. The outcome could have been much worse.**

**VanderPol Dragline has taken several steps to avoid these types of situations in the future and to get up to date on the South Dakota One Call Regulations. If there are any conferences in the future to help us become more knowledgeable with South Dakota One Call Regulations we will be attending.**

**Sincerely,**

**Bryan VanderPol  
Manager**

South Dakota One Call

SEQUENCE NUMBER 0001 CDC = XXX

Type: \*\*\* R O U T I N E \*\*\*

Transmit: 04/07/08

At: 1108 CDT

Prepared: 07-APR-08

Time: 1057 CDT By: LIH

Ticket No.: 080980243

Operators Notified:

GL4=/GOLDEN-SCOTLAND/ P06=/NWPS-ELECTRIC / P15=/NWPS-GAS /  
NN1=/N NATURAL GAS / BYW=/B-Y RURAL WTR / SCO=/SCOTLAND CITY /

Excavator Information:

Caller: JUDY VANDERPOL Phone: 605-996-2036

Excavator: VANDERPOL DRAG LINE INC  
Address: 1001 HOT ROD RD  
City: MITCHELL, SD 57301  
Phone: 605-996-2036 Fax: 605-996-2662  
Email:

Contact: JOEL VANDERPOL Phone: 605-999-4719  
Alt. Contact: BRYAN VANDERPOL Phone: 609-999-66302

Location Information:

County: BON HOMME City/Village: SCOTLAND

Map Ref: 43084097428A Grids: 20  
Exc. Site Address: 0 SD HWY 25  
Nearest Intersection: 292ND ST  
Type of Work : ROAD BED PREP  
Work Being Done For: SDDOT  
Depth: 3 FT Explosives: N Tunnel/Bore: N  
Start Date: 04/10/08 Time: 0800 CDT Duration: 99 DAYS  
Meeting Required: N Best Time to Contact: 0800 - 0600  
Exc. Site (Marking Instr.): R.O.W.: Y TRSQ:  
START AT APPX 800FT N OF 292ND ST GOING S TO APPX 900FT N OF  
293RD ST.

GPS Lat/Long:

Remarks and Driving Directions:

EXPIRES MAY 01 @ 08:00 CDT  
REMOVAL OF CONCRETE GUTTER, SIDEWALKS, APPROACHES, TREES, ASPHALT.  
EXCAV.

End Ticket