

To: South Dakota One Call Notification Board
From: Vandersnick Excavating
Joe Vandersnick, owner

May 10, 2005

In the matter of property in question: 47291 Dusenbergl Place
Renner, SD 57110

Pictures included will show that the property, underground wires and pipe were clearly marked. Because of time lapse when pictures were taken (May 9, 2005), some flags have been removed. At the time of excavation, all flags were in place. The homeowner, Ron Hegge, who also lives across the street from new home being built, had moved trees onto the lot. Ron clearly knew where all the lines ran underground. Therefore, during excavation, there was no damage committed, no degree of threat to the public or any public inconvenience caused.

I have owned my own backhoe business for 18 years. I have over 27 years of experience in this business. I have always tried to follow state and county regulations. I have the proper licenses where needed.

In the matter of this complaint, please consider the bugs in the system that I face all the time:

Some days I will complete 4-5 small jobs in one day. I make many phone calls to one-call every week. Some areas in Minnehaha County are growing so fast, they are not yet on the maps for one-call operators-making directions for the locators at times, difficult.

There are times when 'Mr Farmer' calls me for work. He clearly knows where the location should be better than I do but I am the one responsible to get the lines marked properly.

I have found underground lines not marked properly or not at all. Underground lines have also been marked all clear, when in fact, there is actually a line there. This requires another call to the company to get it done right.

I have also encountered locating companies or the locator saying the property was located when it wasn't. This occurrence happened just this past Friday. The homeowner knew a telephone line ran through where I was to dig but wasn't marked. When checking with locate company, I was told it had been marked. The locator had to go out and mark the line on a Friday evening so I could dig on Saturday. That call to one-call had been made in plenty of time to have it marked.

In addressing previous violations, cutting any lines has been very few and far in between. Cutting a line was due to underground lines not located but had been called in to company, or not located properly. There was no penalty. In 18 years, I have had to pay for one cut line. Several years ago, I did hit a gas line, before one-call regulations were in force. The contractor I was working for always called in for locates, therefore, I didn't. He had failed that time to call and did not let me know he hadn't called.

In conclusion, my name was not on the one-call ticket as homeowner called it in. But because I knew it was clearly marked before beginning excavation, there was no damage caused.

I already call one-call whether first time dig or a re-locate before excavation. I will, from now on, make **sure** I have made the one-call when I am going to dig, on all previously marked locates.