

Formstack Submission For: [South Dakota One Call Complaint Form](#)

Submitted at 12/29/21 2:09 PM

Complaint filed on behalf of or by:	Watertown Municipal Utilities
Contact Person:	John Lunde
Phone Number:	(605) 882-6233
Ext:	
Name or Company Name:	Watertown Municipal Utilities
Street Address or PO Box:	901 4th Ave. SW Watertown, SD 57201
Fax:	
Email:	jlunde@watertownmu.com
Date:	Dec 29, 2021
Name of excavator / facility operator:	LL & Sons Excavating, Inc.
Phone:	(605) 881-8168
Ext:	
Name or Company Name:	LL & Sons Excavating, Inc.
Street Address or PO Box:	44504 SD HWY 22 Hazel, SD 57242
Fax:	

Email: info@llandsonsexcavating.com

Is this party aware of your allegations?: Yes

The South Dakota One Call Board expects communication to occur between both parties before filing complaints. Please provide details of who you spoke with, including the date and time, and what was discussed.:

There was no communication at the time of damage as the damage was not reported to us. The damage was discovered a few months later after the natural gas main was discovered to be unlocatable. We have sent LL & Sons a bill for \$503.25 for repairs with an explanation of cost and damage. At this time there has been no further communication.

WMU does not charge for damaged trace wire, shovel nicks to coating or cables if notified at time of damage so we can properly repair.

We are concerned that if contractor tried to repair this damage that WMU doesn't charge for, what other damages may be out there that they figured could be repaired on their own.

Statutory Violations:

49-7A-8 - Maintain a minimum horizontal clearance of eighteen inches between marked underground facility and the cutting edge of any mechanical equipment.

49-7A-12 - Notification of damages to underground facility. Multiple violations. Notify of One-Call, Conceal Damage & Attempt To Make Any Repair.

Other information to support your position:

Locator was able to locate gas line for LL & Sons ticket numbers 2114412955 and 2115923639 but when went back after LL & Sons performed their work to locate for ticket 2123676923 on 8/24/21 the gas line could no longer be traced. The same locator marked the gas line where he remembered it and told our electric department to be careful when crossing that area as cant be traced. Our natural gas department per ticket 2132833410 was installing natural gas in the same area as prior tickets mentioned and were aware that the gas line could no longer be located. While crossing the sanitary sewer line that LL & Sons installed they discovered that

the trace wire for the gas main had been cut and tried to be repaired with black electrical tape. In this time frame from LL & Sons locate requests till gas line was discovered to be unlocatable I am unaware of any other locate requests/excavation in that area.

Watertown Utilities does not charge for repair of damaged trace wire, nicked coating on pipe or wires. Contractor just needs to notify us of damage and we will come and repair.

Street Address / location of alleged violation:

54th St. & South Lake Dr.
Watertown, SD

Date of alleged violation:

Jul 02, 2021

Time of alleged violation:

11:15 AM

Describe your allegation:

Date and time of alleged violation is unknown other than during LL & Sons work for locate request 2118139451. No other locates are known of in that area between LL & Sons locate request and WMU locate request when gas line was discovered too not be locatable. Damage of natural gas trace wire lines up directly above the sewer line that LL & Sons installed.

Do you believe the alleged violation to be intentional?:

Yes

Why or why not?:

Trace wire was damaged and a repair was attempted with black electrical tape instead of notifying Watertown Utilities to come and repair properly.

Was a locate requested from SD One Call?:

Yes

Locate ticket #:

2118139451

Start Date on Ticket:

Jul 02, 2021

Start time on ticket:

11:15 AM

Did the excavator wait until the start date / time on the ticket before commencing excavation?:

Yes

If no or not sure, when did excavation begin (date)?:

If no or not sure, when did excavation begin (time)?:

Did the excavator maintain a minimum horizontal clearance of 18 inches between a marked facility and mechanical equipment?:

No

Explain:

Guessing didn't maintain 18" clearance because trace wire was cut in two pieces but was not there to see how damaged.

Were buried facilities exposed by hand or non-invasive equipment prior to excavation?:

No

Were facilities marked?:

Yes

Was the marking complete prior to the start time on the ticket?:

Yes

Did the excavator pre-mark with white paint?:

No

Was the facility marked accurately (within 18 inches)?:

Yes

Did the excavator use reasonable care to maintain

N/A

locate marks for the life of project?:

Type of facility involved: Trace wire that lays with 2" 60# naturel gas main

Operator of facility (if known): Watertown Municipal Utilities

Operator address (Street or PO Box): 901 4th Ave. SW
Watertown, SD 57201

Operator Phone: (605) 882-6233

Depth of Cover (If unsure put N/A): 38"

Pressure (If none, write none): 60#

Voltage (If none, write none): None

of cable pairs (If none, write none): None

Was the facility damaged?: Yes

If yes, provide detail and an estimate of damage.: LL & Sons Excavating, Inc. has been sent a bill in the amount of \$503.25 for repairs needed.

Were damages on public right of way or private property?: Public

Was anyone injured as a result of facility damage?: No

If yes, provide detail.:

Length of hospitalization:

Were there fatalities?: No

If yes, provide detail.:

Was operator service affected? : No

If yes, provide detail (how many customers for how long).:

Was the one-call notification center immediately notified of the damage, dislocation, or disturbance?: No

If No, why not?: Appears from investigation that contractor tried repairing damage to trace wire themselves using black electric tape to reconnect two ends.

Was the operator of the facility immediately notified of the damage, dislocation, or disturbance?: No

If No, why not?: Appears from investigation that contractor tried repairing damage to trace wire themselves using black electric tape to reconnect two ends.

Was there an escape of any flammable, toxic, or corrosive gas or liquid?: No

If Yes, but if 911 was not called, or if you don't know, explain why.:

Please provide a Fire Department or Emergency Services incident report, if available : Not Available

Attachment:

Attachment Information: File names should not include symbols. Example:(\$, &, *, %.) etc.:

[View File](#)