

**STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

September 4, 2026

TO: Michael Pasinella, Utility Engineering Specialist III [Gas Pipeline Safety]
FROM: William Koch, Utility Engineering Specialist II [Gas Pipeline Safety]
SUBJECT: Citation Summary for 753 Violation at 800 S. Wilbur Avenue in Syracuse, NY

On Wednesday August 26, 2026, Staff received a “FIPO NG Courtesy Notification” from National Grid. The company reported a 3rd party damage at 801 S. Wilbur Ave in Syracuse, NY (actual address is the construction site where 800 S. Wilbur Ave once was). The following is a summary outlining Staff’s investigation:

The contractor, J.K. Tobin, was working on boxing out a road that will be used to access a new housing development being built for the City of Syracuse. According to National Grid, in 2019, there was a 4-in plastic gas main that ran up the hill from the intersection of S. Wilbur Ave and Seymour St. Most of the pipe was retired, but approximately 160ft of it was remaining. According to J.K. Tobin, the City of Syracuse provided them with site demolition drawings showing the gas main was retired all the way to the road at the bottom of the hill. When the dig ticket was marked out, the gas main was marked up to the end cap where it was cut. While working their way down the hill, the excavator was pulling out old 4-in plastic main that was not marked out because it was retired. It appears they did not notice markings for the gas main that was marked out in the beginning of July (flags were visible and accurate), and continued to dig without hand exposing the active portion of the gas main. The excavator bucket ripped right into the end cap that was fused on when the main was cut in 2019, causing an unrestricted leak until Gas Ops crew squeezed off.

Staff concluded, based on observations, review of materials, and conversations with the contractor and National Grid, that the cause of this damage was failure to verify the location of buried gas facilities by means of hand dug test holes. A citation was issued to J.K. Tobin Construction, Co. Inc. for a violation of 753-3.6(b). Estimated gas loss is 271.76MCF according to National Grid’s calculations.