



## Media Release

Cambridge Excavator Fined \$8,000

### Cambridge Excavator Fined \$8,000 for Gas Pipeline Damage

*Contractor prosecuted for unsafe digging practices*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Toronto, ON, December 17, 2015)** – The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) successfully prosecuted Network Sewer and Watermain Ltd, an excavation/construction company in Cambridge Ontario, for damaging a natural gas pipeline.

The Ontario Court of Justice in Kitchener accepted Network Sewer and Watermain's guilty plea and fined the company \$8,000 plus the mandatory 25% victim fine surcharge for a total penalty of \$10,000.

"These are serious violations of Ontario's public safety rules that put homeowners and business, as well as excavators, in real danger," said John Marshall, Director of TSSA's Fuels Safety Program. "Thankfully no one was hurt, but public safety shouldn't be left to luck. That's why Ontario has stringent laws around pipeline safety, including a requirement to obtain a locate before breaking ground," added Mr. Marshall.

In May 2014, a TSSA inspector received notice of a natural gas pipeline strike in Cambridge, Ontario and upon further investigation determined that the incident was the fault of Network Sewer and Watermain, a contractor who had been conducting repairs to sewer and water lines for the City of Cambridge. When excavating, the contractor had pulled a natural gas line from a tee joint, creating a gas leak despite having obtained a valid pipeline locate. The incident left several businesses and residences in the area without heat for several hours.

TSSA reminds the public that any excavation work must comply with Ontario's safety laws, including obtaining a valid pipeline locate from the license holder or gas utility before breaking ground. Free locates can be obtained from Ontario One Call at 1-800-400-2255 or visit <http://on1call.com>.

Ontario Regulation 210/01 prohibits interfering with or damaging a pipeline and any damage and/or subsequent release of gas should be immediately reported to the Ministry of Environment's Spills Action Centre at 1-800-268-6060 or by contacting TSSA toll-free at 1-877-682-8772.

#### *About TSSA*

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) is Ontario's public safety regulator mandated by the Government of Ontario to enforce provincial safety regulations and enhance public safety. Throughout Ontario, TSSA regulates the safety of amusement devices, boilers and pressure vessels, elevating devices, fuels, operating engineers, ski lifts, and upholstered and stuffed articles. Its range of safety services include public education and consumer information, certification, licensing and registration, engineering design review, inspections, investigations, safety management consultation, and enforcement and prosecution activities. The organization's vision is to be a valued advocate and recognized authority in public safety.

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#### **For more information, please contact:**

Wilson Lee, Spokesperson

Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Telephone: 1-877-682-8772; Email: [media@tssa.org](mailto:media@tssa.org)

For more information on the Technical Standards and Safety Authority, please visit [www.tssa.org](http://www.tssa.org).

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