



Media Release
Oakville Contractor Fined
\$40,000 for Safety Violation

Oakville Contractor Fined \$40,000 for Safety Violation *Cable Control Systems prosecuted for damaging pipelines*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Toronto, ON, December 8, 2016) – The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) successfully prosecuted Cable Control Systems, an Oakville utility contractor, for hitting two gas pipelines in Toronto, contrary to the Oil and Gas Pipeline Systems Regulation ([Ontario 210/01](#)).

In January 2014, a TSSA inspector received notice of natural gas pipeline strikes on Grenoble Drive and on Dufferin Street in Toronto, Ontario and upon further investigation laid charges for damaging the pipelines against Cable Control Systems. The Ontario Court of Justice found that at the Grenoble location, Cable Control Systems hit the pipeline with an excavator while laying underground fiber-optic cable and that the operator did not review the locate before digging. At the Dufferin location, the Court found that Cable Control Systems reviewed the locate and safely uncovered the pipeline but proceeded to dig within one metre of the pipeline with mechanical equipment and subsequently hit the pipeline. Both incidents resulted in natural gas flowing freely into the atmosphere.

The Court found Cable Control Systems guilty on both counts of damaging a pipeline and fined the company \$40,000 plus the mandatory 25% victim fine surcharge for a total penalty of \$50,000.

“This was a near miss for a potentially deadly scenario,” said John Marshall, Director of TSSA’s Fuels Safety Program. “Hitting a pipeline with pressurized gas can cause explosions, damage and death. That’s why Ontario has stringent laws around pipeline safety, including the rule to obtain a locate before breaking ground,” added Mr. Marshall.

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 and not using mechanical equipment while digging within one metre of a pipeline. 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 on the Technical Standards and Safety Authority, please visit www.tssa.org.