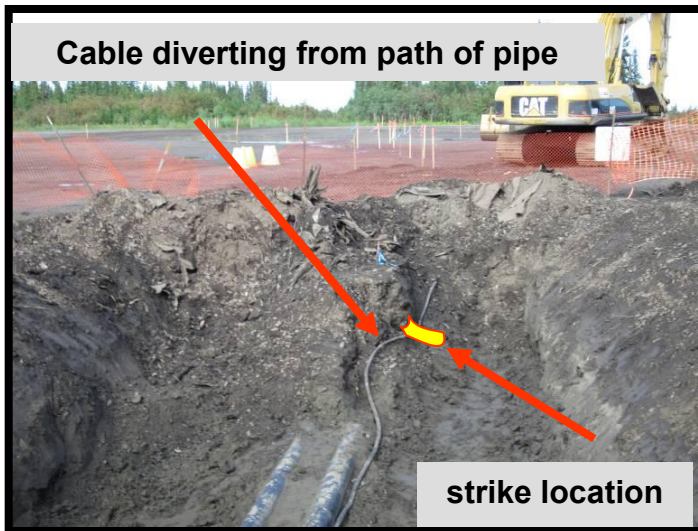


# SAFETY ALERT

Date: Aug 2011

## Contact with 5 KV Power Cable - Near Miss



### Description:

- During the mechanical excavation of two 6" pipelines and power cable, a 5 KV power cable tightened when contact was made with the track hoe bucket.
- The power cable was discovered through hydro excavation and survey drawings which indicated that the power cable followed a path adjacent to the pipeline.
- The contact location was determined to be outside of 2' of the path of the pipeline underneath backfill.
- After contacted, the cable shorted when manually moved by the Ground Disturbance supervisor.

### The Learning:

- The power cable was not identified as a significant hazard on the Critical Work Permit.
- Do not approach or touch a power cable after it has been contacted. Contact an electrician to de-energize before inspecting damage.

### The Recommendations:

- **Identify Work Management Scope Changes:** Finding an unexpected power cable while excavating may warrant a work scope change. Once found, work should be stopped and power cable indicated on the Critical Work permit to prompt additional mitigation measures (eg. De-energize, hydro-excavation).
- **Standard for Excavating Power Cables:** Develop an explicit standard for Exposing an Underground Power Cable to be included in the Ground Disturbance code of practice..

