



NORTHERN INDIANA  
COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

April 28, 2009

601 NORTH ROESKE AVENUE • MICHIGAN CITY, IN 46360-2669

PHONE: 219.874.4221 • FAX: 219.872.5841

Meade Electric Co., Inc.  
Attn: Michael K. Knutson  
9550 W. 55<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A  
McCook, IL 60525

Dear Mr. Knutson,

On April 24, 2009, a pickup truck veered off Brainerd Avenue in Burnham, Illinois. The vehicle struck a support pole on the NICTD South Shore Line, bringing a catenary portal structure, both main lines of catenary, a sectionalizing switch and an overlap span crashing to the ground. Eleven passenger trains were annulled and electric train service in the area was suspended indefinitely until this key structure and catenary could be restored. NICTD line and signal forces were immediately dispatched to the scene.

Upon learning of the accident and service shutdown, Chris Broton of Meade Electric came to the site to offer whatever assistance NICTD needed to restore service. A rail-mounted digger truck, three light plants, highway traffic control cones, two utility poles and catenary hardware were quickly located and dispatched for NICTD's use along with a pledge to provide any other help available.

The tools and material provided by Meade Electric proved to be invaluable in our efforts to restore electric train service on the South Shore Line. Highway traffic was diverted and the work site was cleared using the cones provided. The work site was illuminated with the light plants that were quickly and generously furnished. Broken poles were removed, holes were augered, new poles were set and the catenary portal structure was restored with the rail-mounted digger truck and material furnished by Meade. After only thirteen hours, the first electric train passed through the area under electric power without incident. An event that would have been postponed for many more hours without the emergency aide provided by Meade Electric Company.

While reflecting on all of the help Meade provided in our time of need and looking back over our work together through the years, I am reminded of what a remarkable business relationship we have and what a great electrical contractor Meade Electric has once again proven itself to be. On behalf of NICTD and our passengers, I thank you for being there when we needed you.

Sincerely,

Victor R. Babin  
Chief Engineering Officer  
VRB/jlh/09032

cc: Chris Broton, Project Manager