



Broward Circuit Judge Martin Bidwill (Credit: Courtesy Photo)

NEWS

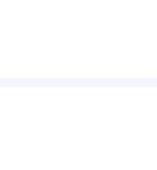
## Class Action Attorneys Seek 8-Figure Damages in South Florida Gas-Line Rupture

"This was the third time this contractor 'accidentally' hit the gas lines in Coral Springs and all of these locally owned businesses had to shut down," said Adam Moskowitz, managing partner of the Moskowitz Law Firm.

May 31, 2022 at 03:00 PM

3 minute read

Class Actions



Michael A. Mora

### What You Need to Know

- Acosta Tractors Inc. is accused of breaking a gas line that shut down over 100 local businesses in May.
- An attorney for the businesses sued Acosta Tractors for one count of negligence.
- The affected businesses collectively seek tens of millions of dollars in monetary and injunctive damages.

A Coral Gables attorney is banking on his prior experience in litigating a Fort Lauderdale main water line break to convince the Broward Circuit Court to grant class certification in an eight-figure case in which a contractor is accused of repeatedly striking a city gas line until its rupture.

Adam Moskowitz, the managing partner of the Moskowitz Law Firm, is the lead attorney for the Cook and the Cork Inc. and potentially several dozen additional businesses against Acosta Tractors Inc.

William R. Scherer, a partner at Conrad & Scherer in Fort Lauderdale, and Howard M. Bushman and Joseph M. Kaye, partners at the Moskowitz Law Firm, will also litigate the class action.

Plaintiffs say South Florida businesses are affected nearly every week by the alleged negligent acts of subcontractors, with workers accidentally hitting electrical poles, and breaking gas and water lines.

"In most of these cases, no one ever goes after these culprits to make sure damaged consumers and businesses are properly compensated," Moskowitz wrote in an email. "This was the third time this contractor 'accidentally' hit the gas lines in Coral Springs and all of these locally owned businesses had to shut down. We were contacted by many businesses who rightfully want those responsible to be liable."

As of Monday afternoon, the Broward Circuit Court docket did not list counsel for Acosta Tractors. And Odalys Dearnas, counsel for Acosta Tractors, did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment.

In May, Acosta Tractors Inc. and its employees ruptured an underground gas utility line through horizontal directional drilling, [according to the complaint](#). And even though this method of drilling is less intrusive, the maneuver can hit unseen buried objects unless the drillers take adequate precautions, including the observation of color codes, the complaint said.

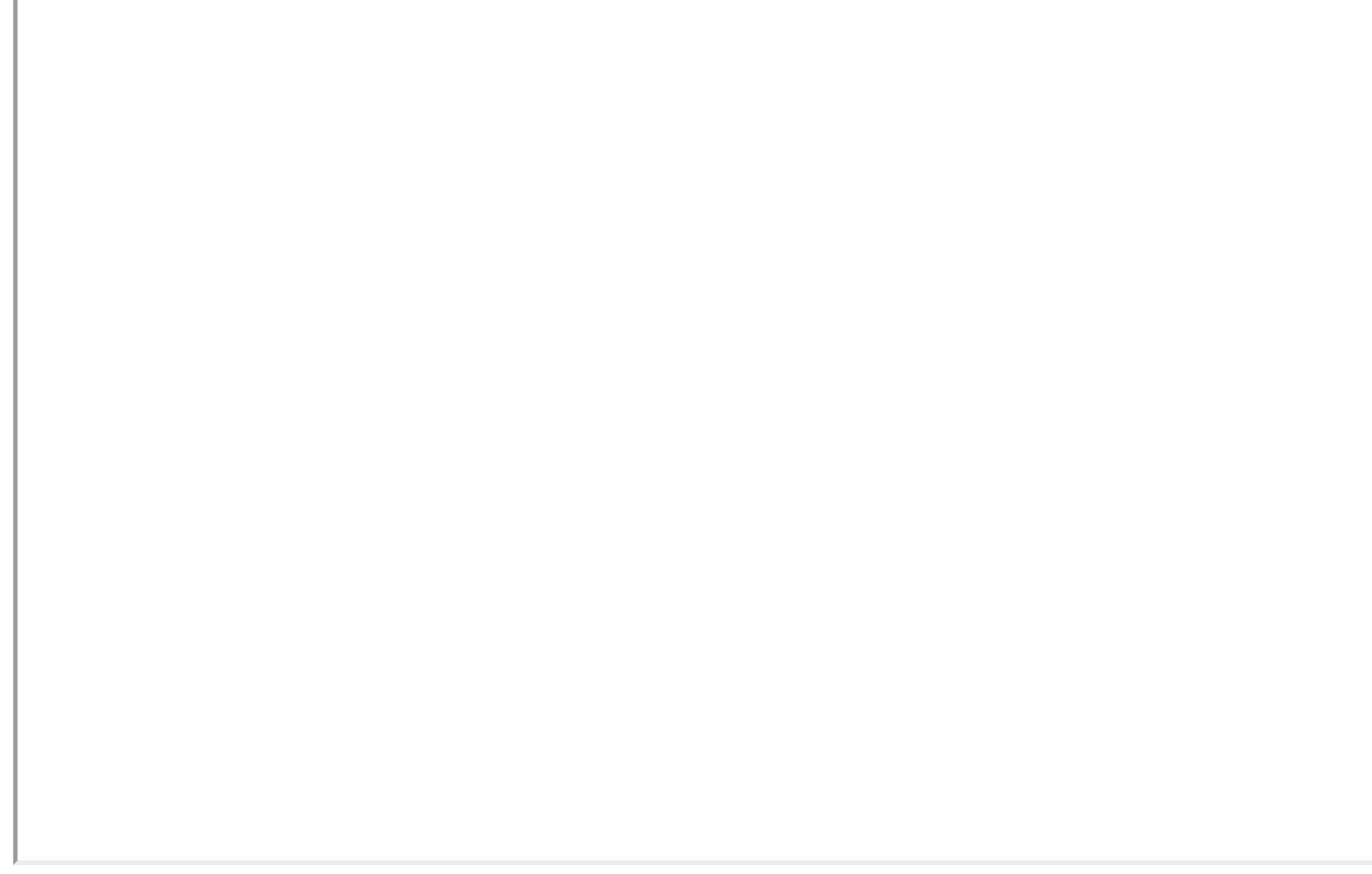
(Credit: From Complaint)

But Moskowitz alleged in the complaint that Acosta Tractors failed to take precautionary measures, such as by incorrectly "pot-holding" every 20 feet while drilling, instead of the Florida law mandated distance of 40 feet.

Now, the case will go before Broward Circuit Judge Martin J. Bidwill.

And in the complaint, Moskowitz alleged one count of negligence against Acosta Tractors for allegedly failing to exercise the highest degree of care, forcing businesses to go without "critically needed" gas service. Due to Acosta's alleged improper actions, Moskowitz's clients are seeking tens of millions of dollars in monetary and injunctive damages.

#### Read the complaint:



As noted in the complaint, the class action lawsuit followed a settlement Moskowitz and his team reached against Florida Power & Light and three of its contractors in May after three years of litigation in the Broward Circuit Court involving the water main break that impacted thousands of businesses.

"We look forward to using all of our experience from the water main litigation, to help these damaged businesses in Coral Springs," Moskowitz said. "Most people do not realize how much a small business is damaged in today's environment when they are forced to close for many weekends."

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Acosta

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