



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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**NIPSCO CONTINUES ONGOING ELECTRIC POLE INSPECTION AND  
TREATMENT PROGRAM**

*30,000 Poles Inspected Each Year*

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** – Northern Indiana Public Service Company's (NIPSCO) pole inspection and treatment program is designed with guidance from the utility industry's best practices. The program, which evaluates approximately 30,000 poles each year, replaces missing pole numbers and yellow guy markers, checks the condition of support wires and assesses the need for replacement of each pole.

"Customer safety is the central focus of this ongoing effort", says NIPSCO Indiana Operations General Manager, Tim Dehring. "The preventative nature of the program attempts to identify and address problems before they would result in a power outage or safety issue for our customers."

Inspectors are hired by NIPSCO to conduct the pole inspection, which may include an excavation around the base of the pole to check for any voids or decay, and the use of a bug and pest repellent. If the pole is deemed treatable, then the pole is given a chemical preservative treatment. Conversely, if the pole does not pass the inspection, it will be scheduled for replacement.

The pole inspection program has an annual operation and maintenance cost of \$680,000 and approximately \$2.5 million is spent on pole replacement expenses each year.

NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With over 712,000 natural gas customers and 445,000 electric customers across the northern third of Indiana, NIPSCO is the largest natural gas distribution company, and the second largest electric distribution company, in the state. NiSource distribution companies serve 3.8 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in nine states. More information about NIPSCO is available at [www.nipSCO.com](http://www.nipSCO.com).

