

NEWS



A NiSource Company

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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NIPSCO SPONSORS 2008 ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION NATIONAL POSTER CONTEST

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Through an ongoing commitment to its Forestry Operations department, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) proudly supports the National Arbor Day Foundation's 17th Annual Poster Contest.

The contest, which is open to fifth-grade students across the country, educates children about Arbor Day and the importance of trees, while inspiring them to learn about the value of our forests as ecosystems.

Using this year's poster theme, "Trees are Terrific...inside and out!", the Indiana Urban Forest Council (IUFC) will choose four regional winners from Indiana who will be judged at the state level in early March.

In addition to being a state-wide sponsor for the contest, NIPSCO will grant a \$300 savings bond to the winner of the northern Indiana region. Each regional winner's submission and name will also be posted on a billboard in their local area, and the winner of the state contest will be honored at the Indiana State Museum during the Arbor Day Celebration next April, where he or she will be recognized in a formal proclamation by the Mayor's office.

National winners are expected to be announced in Washington D.C. on National Arbor Day, April 25, 2008.

NIPSCO, honored by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a TREE LINE USA Utility, regularly provides funding to community tree-planting projects in northern Indiana. To find out more about NIPSCO's Forestry Operations department, please call 1-800-464-7726 or visit www.nipSCO.com.

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.

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