



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 12, 2007

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tom Cuddy

NIPSCO Communications

219-647-6556

SIGNS ON UTILITY POLES PRESENT SAFETY HAZARD
NIPSCO Reminds Public to Refrain from Posting Signs on Utility Poles

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) today issued a reminder to the public to refrain from posting signs and posters on the company’s utility poles.

Signs or posters on utility poles pose a serious safety hazard for NIPSCO crews who must climb poles when either restoring power following storms or while performing regular maintenance to ensure system reliability.

“Our crews have noticed a marked increase in the number of signs posted on our utility poles and this is an issue that we want to raise now before something happens to either one of our crews or the public,” said NIPSCO General Manager of Operations Tim Dehring.

In addition, posting signage on utility poles is unlawful and serves as an obstacle to crews climbing poles. When signs fall off or are removed, staples and fasteners often remain in the utility pole and could cause NIPSCO crews to get cut or injured if they slip or fall as they climb. Rubber safety gloves, which protect crews from energized power lines, also can be punctured.

Some communities have ordinances prohibiting posting signage on utility poles. NIPSCO encourages people to contact local zoning officers to inquire about where signage can be posted. They should never be posted on NIPSCO utility poles.

Editor’s Note: A photograph of a utility pole with signs and posters that NIPSCO has been finding throughout its electric service area is attached. The utility pole is located in South Haven.

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 3.7 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in nine states. More information about NIPSCO is available at www.nipSCO.com.

###