



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 13, 2008

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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VALENTINE'S DAY BALLOON WARNINGS FROM NIPSCO

Popular Gift Can Cause Problems

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – As helium-filled metallic Mylar balloons continue to be a popular Valentine's Day gift each year, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) urges its customers to be mindful, and securely tie down any balloons to prevent them from floating away in the air.

"Many people don't realize that letting go of one of these balloons is actually dangerous," said Colleen Reilly, Director of Communications and Public Affairs. "If the balloon drifts into overhead power lines and gets tangled up, it could cause significant power outages to an entire neighborhood."

NIPSCO also warns that if you see a metallic balloon get caught in a power line, do not try to retrieve it and keep others away.

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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