



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**NIPSCO CUSTOMERS URGED TO KEEP AREAS
AROUND METERS CLEAR AND SAFE**

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) today is asking customers to clear snow and ice away from gas and electric meters, and to make certain gates leading to yards are not frozen shut.

At the same time, NIPSCO is also reminding customers to keep vents for water heaters, furnaces and clothes dryers clear of snow so they can operate safely and efficiently.

“We want our customers and employees to be safe,” said NIPSCO General Manager of Operations Tim Dehring. “Our goal is to read every meter each month, but the weather we’ve been having makes this task more difficult, and any assistance we can get from our customers is greatly appreciated.”

Every month, NIPSCO meter readers read more than 1 million meters. Occasionally, unusual circumstances, such as severe weather, bad road conditions, locked gates, and unfriendly dogs, prevent NIPSCO from reading a meter. However, when a meter can’t be read, the customer will receive an estimated bill. Customers can read their own meters and report those numbers to NIPSCO.

Meter Reading Steps:

1. Always begin with the dial to the far right.
2. Record the last number the pointer has passed, even if it has almost reached the next number.
3. Follow the same procedure for each dial. As you move from right to left each dial rotates in the direction opposite the one before it. If the first dial rotates clockwise, the next will rotate counterclockwise, the third clockwise and so on.
4. The four or five digit number you record is all we need to measure your energy use for the month.

More information on how to read your meter can be found at 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.