



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**ICE STORM CREATES WIDESPREAD DAMAGE ACROSS
NIPSCO'S ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

Crews Working Around the Clock

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – More than 12,000 customers across Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) electric service area are without power following an ice storm that swept through Northern Indiana last evening and early this morning.

At the height of the storm, nearly 30,000 customers were without power. A build-up of ice caused widespread damage across NIPSCO's entire electric distribution system. All available electric line crews, field engineers and tree-trimming contractors from NIPSCO are working – and will continue to work – around-the-clock to repair damage and restore power. Additional electric line contractors have been brought in to assist with power restoration efforts.

While the damage is across NIPSCO's entire electric service area, the hardest hit areas are Porter and LaPorte counties. Power to those areas may not be restored for as long as several days due to the type of damage involved, which includes downed trees and power lines, as well as fallen utility poles. Power lines to many individual homes will have to be reset. Also, the threat of additional severe weather may increase the chances for lengthy delays in restoring power.

All downed power lines should be considered energized. Customers should not go near downed power lines. Downed power lines should be reported to NIPSCO at 1-800-4-NIPSCO.

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE NEXT POWER RESTORATION UPDATES WILL BE AVAILABLE TODAY AT 5:30 P.M. AND 10:30 P.M. CST. TO ACCESS THESE UPDATES, CALL 219-647-6556 AND LISTEN TO THE UPFRONT RECORDING.

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.