

NEWS



A NiSource Company

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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NIPSCO to Replace Natural Gas Distribution And Service Pipelines In Elkhart

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) today announced that beginning March 14 as part of its Gas Distribution Improvement Program (GDIP) it will replace more than five miles of natural gas distribution pipeline and 500 natural gas service lines in south central Elkhart.

“Replacing existing natural gas distribution and service lines in Elkhart will allow us to continue fulfilling our mission of delivering safe and reliable natural gas to our customers,” said Tim Dehring, NIPSCO General Manager of Operations. “We are committed to completing the project in a timely manner and minimizing any inconveniences our customers may experience.”

The Elkhart GDIP, scheduled to be completed in September 2005, will be focused on the following communities, most of which are in south central Elkhart:

- Lusher to Hively Avenues and Oakland to Benham Avenues
- Lusher to Hively Avenues and Benham to Main Street

Before any work begins in Elkhart, NIPSCO representatives will visit customers at their homes to answer questions and provide additional information. Those customers who are not at home will receive a hanging card on their front or rear door with information such as the date work will begin and NIPSCO’s toll-free customer service center telephone number, 1-800-4-NIPSCO (1-800-464-7726).

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Most of the work during the installation process involves boring under sidewalks, driveways and curbs. NIPSCO service crews will work with other utilities to locate underground utilities. Customers with underground sprinkler systems, privately owned sewer lines and other underground objects should contact NIPSCO at 1-800-4-NIPSCO (1-800-464-7726).

NIPSCO's GDIP began in the 1970s and has led to the installation of 300 miles of new natural gas distribution pipeline and the replacement of more than 30,000 natural gas service lines. NIPSCO completed a similar project in South Bend last year.

NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With nearly 700,000 natural gas customers and 440,000 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.

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