

# NEWS



A NiSource Company

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT BEGINS ON PROPERTY IN DOWNTOWN ELKHART

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** – Beginning Monday, March 17, an environmental engineering firm under contract to Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) will excavate soil on company property at the northwest corner of Waterfall Drive and High Street.

“The removal is one more step forward in our project to address environmental issues from a former manufactured gas plant located on that property years ago,” said NIPSCO Public Affairs Manager Mike Charbonneau.

Gas was produced from coal to meet the energy needs of the community as early as 1885 and continued until 1931. Operations produced byproducts and residues, primarily coal tar, which remained on the site after the plant was decommissioned.

Working under Indiana Department of Environmental Management oversight, NIPSCO removed impacted soil and sediment on the west bank of the Elkhart River, between High and Franklin streets in 1998 and 1999. This removal resulted in a new green space along the river that is used for community events.

This month’s project, expected to take up to two weeks, will continue work on property where a NIPSCO gas regulator station was located until 2007, and an adjacent property in private ownership. The excavated material will be transported to a landfill with the appropriate permit to accept waste from cleanup projects.

“We expect the surrounding streets to remain open during the work,” Charbonneau said. “Workers will employ flaggers at times to direct traffic when there is a lot of activity with trucks entering and exiting the site.”

### About NIPSCO

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](http://www.nipSCO.com).

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