



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**INSPECTION BY NIPSCO FOLLOWING REPORTS OF NATURAL
GAS ODORS FIND SYSTEM OPERATING NORMALLY**

Air samples find no presence of natural gas in areas where odors reported

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. -- An inspection by Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) personnel, following reports late this morning of what people have described as natural gas odors in a number of Lake County communities, has found the gas distribution system to be operating normally and no presence of natural gas in air samples from areas where the odors were reported.

"NIPSCO takes any reports of possible natural gas leaks very seriously," said NIPSCO General Manager Tim Dehring. "Our inspection has found no system problems to account for these odors and air samples from the areas where the odors were reported have detected no presence of natural gas. The safety of our customers and employees is our first priority, however, and we will continue to monitor the situation to be certain there is no problem with our gas distribution system."

Customers are urged to call NIPSCO if they do smell natural gas.

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.