



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 8, 2008

801 E. 86th Avenue  
Merrillville, IN 46410

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**  
Jim Fitzer, Manager  
NIPSCO Public Affairs  
(219) 477-3281

## **NIPSCO SUBMITS RESULTS FROM ENGINEERING STUDY TO FERC REGARDING ABILITY TO CONTROL FLOODS**

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** – In response to a request made by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on March 4, 2008, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) is submitting the results from a detailed report analyzing the capabilities of the dams to prevent or lessen flood events on the Tippecanoe River.

The requested study was prepared by MWH Americas Inc., a leading engineering firm in the area of hydroelectric dam design, operations and construction. Following the study, NIPSCO concluded that the most responsible and safest way to operate the Norway and Oakdale dams is in a “run-of-river” mode within the lake elevation limits established by the FERC license issued to NIPSCO in October 2007. “Run-of-river” means that whatever water flow comes into the lakes is released from the lakes as it enters.

“We want to stress that the safety of the residents along the river is important to us, and if the dams could be operated to prevent or lessen flooding without impacting public safety, we would endeavor to do so,” said Colleen Reilly, Director of Communications and Public Affairs for NIPSCO. “However, the report analyzed numerous scenarios with respect to flooding situations, and we determined that attempting to hold back and then release water would not be a safe option.”

The study also demonstrates that in the event of significant flooding in the future – and certainly the floods experienced in January and February 2008 – the storage capacity that can be created by lowering lakes Shafer and Freeman is completely filled before the worst of the flood arrives at the dams. The lakes simply cannot hold enough water and they are not large enough to prevent or significantly lessen floods downstream of the dams.

Additionally, it was discovered that attempting to delay the downstream flooding may result in grave consequences. The rapid increase in river level, subsequent to holding water back in the lakes, would greatly increase the risk of loss of life to downstream residents once the stored water is released.

**-more-**

**NIPSCO SUBMITS FLOOD CONTROL STUDY**  
**PAGE 2 OF 2**

NIPSCO, as in the past, will continue to work with the Emergency Management Agencies and officials of White, Carroll and Tippecanoe counties to mitigate the effects of future floods through preparedness drills, Emergency Action Plan reviews and improvements, and strong communication.

The complete report will be posted on NIPSCO's web site at [www.nipsco.com](http://www.nipsco.com).

**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).

# # #