



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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NIPSCO URGES SAFETY MEASURES AROUND SUBSTATIONS

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – In response to the rising number of thieves attempting to steal copper wire from utilities across the country and throughout Indiana, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) cautions anyone from entering electric facilities and cutting any wires from electric poles or equipment, and urges customers to report any suspicious activity.

“NIPSCO has experienced a number of copper wire thefts in the last year,” said Colleen Reilly, Director of Communications & Public Affairs. “These criminals don’t realize the dangers and consequences associated with this type of activity. The result could be serious injury or death.”

In addition to the potential for serious personal injury, resulting damages can cause extensive power outages, explosions, fires and other disruptions to service.

Warning signs are prominently displayed on the fencing surrounding electric substations, due to the high voltage used in the substations. Never enter a substation and do not touch any electrical equipment, power lines, or any items that may be in contact with a power line, as attempting to cut or remove wiring is highly dangerous.

Parents are also urged to remind their children to stay away from substations. As children get outside in the spring and summer months, baseballs and other objects can accidentally end up inside a substation. Do not enter the substation. Contact public safety officials or NIPSCO if you need help retrieving an item from a substation.

NIPSCO strongly encourages customers to contact local law enforcement and the company in the event of any suspicious activity taking place at the substations or around other facilities.

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.