

# NEWS



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### **NIPSCO JOINS GOVERNOR MITCH DANIELS TO RECOGNIZE NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH *CUSTOMERS URGED TO CALL 811 BEFORE DIGGING***

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) joins Governor Mitch Daniels and the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) in recognizing the month of May as National Safe Digging Month, which is dedicated to increasing awareness of safe digging practices across the country and to celebrate the one-year anniversary of 811 – the national call-before-you-dig number.

“NIPSCO is committed to keeping customers safe when starting any outdoor digging project, large or small,” said Colleen Reilly, Director of Communications and Public Affairs. “Since the month of May is a busy time for digging projects, we are encouraging homeowners and contractors to call the new 811 number before they dig to prevent injuries, property damage and inconvenient outages.”

One utility line is unintentionally hit every minute in the United States and 40 percent of all U.S. digging damages result from not calling before digging.

Every digging job requires a call, even for small projects like planting trees and shrubs. There is a web of utility pipes and wires below the ground, and the depth of those utility lines varies.

Calling 811 is free, and there is no cost to the customer for having their utility lines marked.

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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