



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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**NIPSCO RECEIVES IURC APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT  
BILL SIMPLIFICATION AND ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** – A proposal developed by Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) – and supported by a wide range of stakeholders – to simplify residential natural gas rates and implement an energy conservation program was approved today by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC).

The plan calls for NIPSCO to simplify residential heating bills by removing all gas supply costs, which typically vary from month-to-month, out of the customer delivery charges and into the gas supply charges section of the bill. In addition, the program calls for a robust and broad-based effort to help customers learn how to use energy wisely.

“We thank the IURC and all the stakeholders involved in this collaborative effort, which will provide our customers with a number of benefits, including a simplified rate structure,” said NIPSCO President Mark Maassel. “A simplified rate structure will not only show customers exactly what, and how, they are charged for the safe and reliable delivery of natural gas to their homes, but also allow them to make informed decisions when considering other options.”

A centerpiece of the program will be NIPSCO’s energy conservation program. The four-year program will be funded by a gas efficiency rider, which will be included in the delivery charge section of the bill. The program will be geared toward residential natural gas customers and governed by an independent oversight board.

“All residential customers, regardless of income, will have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from this energy conservation program, which will help them achieve measurable savings on their home heating bills,” said Maassel. “We anticipate the plan, which will be developed and approved by the oversight board, will involve offering customers incentives on the purchase and installation of items such as programmable thermostats, as well as energy efficient windows and appliances.”

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**NIPSCO RECEIVES FAVORABLE IURC ORDER**

**PAGE 2**

Both the bill simplification and energy conservation program received support from the Indiana Office of the Utility Consumer Counselor, Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Board of Commissioners of LaPorte County, and NIPSCO's industrial customers, who were all represented during the process of creating the original filing. Each of these organizations will have a seat on the oversight board.

Changes to customers' natural gas bills will begin with their next bill. NIPSCO will be providing customers with a bill insert to explain and show the changes in more detail. The oversight board will convene within the next 45 days and more specific details regarding the energy efficiency program will be available after that time.

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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