



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**JAMES SMALLWOOD JOINS NIPSCO AS
DIRECTOR OF MAJOR ACCOUNTS**

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) today announced that James Smallwood has joined the utility as director of major accounts.

Smallwood will lead the large customer relations group at NIPSCO, which is responsible for attracting and retaining NIPSCO's largest commercial and industrial electric customers. He will report to Carol Fox, vice president of Large Customer Relations and Gas Transportation management.

"We welcome Jim not only to NIPSCO, but also to Northwest Indiana," said Fox. "Jim has the leadership skills, experience and knowledge necessary to lead the department and to be a vital partner to our largest electric customers."

Before joining NIPSCO, Smallwood served as energy director for Bunge North America, a primary supplier of high quality agricultural commodities and food products to the global marketplace and director of global energy and project sourcing for Owens Corning, a world leader in building materials systems and composite solutions.

Smallwood earned a bachelor's degree in administrative management from Clemson University and a master's degree in business from Furman University. He holds lifetime certification from the National Association of Purchasing Managers as a certified purchasing manager.

About NIPSCO

NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With nearly 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 3.7 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in nine states. More information about NIPSCO is available at www.nipSCO.nisource.com.

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