



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Tom Cuddy**  
**NIPSCO Communications Manager**  
219-647-6556

**NIPSCO CREWS MAKING PROGRESS IN RESTORING POWER**

*Company Encourages Customers to Check Weatherheads*

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** – Approximately 16,000 customers are without power following a powerful storm that swept through Northern Indiana yesterday afternoon.

At the height of the storm, more than 52,000 customers were without power. NIPSCO crews and contractors worked through the night – and will continue to work around the clock – until power is safely restored to all customers.

The hardest hit areas are in the surrounding communities: Portage, Porter, Chesterton, Gary, Valparaiso, Hammond, East Chicago, Dyer, St. John, Schererville, Highland, Hobart, Crown Point, Merrillville, Munster, Lowell, and Cedar Lake. There continue to be pockets of power outages in other communities in NIPSCO's service area.

Customers without power are encouraged to check the weatherhead – a pipe coming out the electric meter box – for damage. If a customer suspects damage, they are advised to contact a licensed electrician to make repairs before NIPSCO crews arrive to restore power.

NIPSCO encourages the public to stay away from downed power lines, which should be considered energized. All power outages and downed power lines should continue to be reported to NIPSCO at 1-800-464-7726.

**Editor's Note:** Recorded storm updates will continue today after 5 p.m. The news media can access these updates by dialing the NIPSCO Storm Hotline at 219-647-4333.

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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