



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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NIPSCO ESTABLISHES NEW, ALL-TIME PEAK ELECTRIC DEMAND

Bulk Electric Transmission System Operating Safely & Reliably

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) announced it has established a new, all-time record for peak electric demand of 3,279 megawatts, which occurred at 2 p.m. today.

“Our employees did a remarkable job of forecasting, preparing and managing the electrical infrastructure for this latest heat wave,” said NIPSCO President Mark Maassel. “We have access to a secure and stable supply of electricity to meet the needs of our customers, but during heat waves it’s always helpful from a cost-perspective if customers look for ways to use energy wisely because it helps us from having to purchase high-priced power on the wholesale market.”

Today’s record of 3,279 megawatts eclipses the record of 3,222 megawatts achieved on June 24, 2005. The third highest peak demand of 3,054 megawatts occurred on Aug. 21, 2003. One megawatt of electricity typically serves between 800 and 1,000 homes.

Weather forecasts call for continued high heat and humidity and, as a result, an even higher peak may be set tomorrow. NIPSCO continues to advise its customers to use energy wisely. Tips include:

- **Watch for the elderly.** Check on elderly or ill neighbors, who live alone, to make sure they’re safe and hydrated.
- **Lower the shades.** Keep your shades pulled to block out the sunshine.
- **Supplement air conditioner use.** Supplement air conditioner use with ceiling and floor fans, which creates a wind-chill effect that increases air conditioning and cooling efficiency.
- **Keep home at minimum comfort level.** With a cooling system, keep the home at the minimum comfort level. Each degree cooler than 78-degrees uses substantially more energy.

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- **Keep windows covered.** Make sure all sun-exposed windows have draperies in order to keep out the hot sun during warm days.
- **Use major appliances during evening hours.** Dishwashers, washing machines, and clothes dryers should be used during evening hours only and have full loads before being operated.
- **Stay safe and hydrated.** Limit outdoor activities to the early morning or late evening. If you must be outdoors, stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids such as water. Bring pets indoors.
- **Monitor the weather.** Know what weather is forecast for your area. High temperatures and humidity levels often produce sudden and dangerous storms during the evening hours.

Top five days of peak electric demand across NIPSCO's service area:

- July 31, 2006 – 3,279 megawatts
- June 24, 2005 – 3,222 megawatts
- Aug. 21, 2003 – 3,054 megawatts
- Aug. 9, 2001 – 2,997 megawatts
- July 22, 2002 – 2,978 megawatts

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.

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