

NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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NIPSCO CREWS ENTER FINAL STAGE OF RESTORATION EFFORTS

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – After restoring power to more than 56,000 customers since Monday's storm, NIPSCO crews are in the final stages of the restoration effort, which focuses on repairing lines and transformers that serve neighborhoods and smaller groups of customers.

NIPSCO repair crews continue to make good progress in power restoration efforts in Lake County, despite the severe damage found to downed wires and poles from fallen trees.

In many of the hardest-hit communities, our crews had to completely rebuild the electric distribution system from the ground up, and there are many cases where crews had to restore power directly in customers' backyards and alleyways, where space is limited, and NIPSCO trucks and equipment were unable to be utilized.

As of Friday the number of customers without power has been reduced to 6,500 with repair crews continuing to focus on the Gary, Munster Merrillville, Griffith, Hammond and Highland areas.

It is estimated most customers should have power restored by this evening. Customers with individual service outages, however, may not have power restored until Saturday.

"We understand the hardship and inconvenience experienced by our customers, as a result of Monday night's devastating storms, said Tim Dehring, NIPSCO senior vice president of energy delivery. "NIPSCO employees sincerely appreciate the patience and support shown by our customers."

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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