



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact: Larry Graham
260-439-1330

**NIPSCO CREWS MAKE ADDITIONAL PROGRESS IN RESTORING POWER
FOLLOWING POWERFUL STORM**
Customer Outages reduced to 40,000

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – NIPSCO crews and contractors made further progress in restoring customer power since the 11:00 a.m. update. Approximately 60,000 customers have now had power restored since the beginning of the late Wednesday night storm, leaving 40,000 still without electricity.

NIPSCO has hundreds of employees and contractors working, including workers who have been released from other utilities in the Midwest to assist in restoration efforts here. In some of the hardest hit areas, particularly in Lake County, restoration efforts may take several days.

Over 15,000 customers have been restored in the Lake County area since late this morning, bring the total customers still without power to 36,500.

Outages in the Valparaiso and Porter County area had also been reduced to less than 1,800 with outages in LaPorte County reduced to just under 1,100.

Outages in the Plymouth and Marshall County area have seen the number of outages reduced by over half to approximately 1,400 customers.

Due to the severity of the storm damage, restoration of all customers in the Hammond area is not expected until Sunday evening with restoration of Gary area customers expected by Monday evening. Customers in other areas of NIPSCO's service territory are expected to be restored by Friday evening. Restoration efforts will continue around-the-clock.

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

Editor's Note: The next power restoration update will be available at 8:00 p.m. Central Time by calling 219-647-4333 and listening to the recording. This telephone number is not to be published and should only be used by the news media to retrieve storm updates.

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.

