



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**Over 200 Contractors Now Assisting NIPSCO Crews With
Restoration In Lake County**

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – NIPSCO crews have been joined by over 200 contractors from Indiana and neighboring states to restore power to customers in storm-ravaged communities in Lake County. As of 3:00 p.m. CST today, the number of customer outages in Lake County had been reduced to 16,000. Outside the Lake County area, 1,100 NIPSCO customers remain without power.

NIPSCO has restored power to 84,000 customers since the late Wednesday night storm hit northwest Indiana..

Lake County communities, where damage was most severe and restoration efforts are being concentrated, include Gary, Merrillville, Hobart, Hammond and Griffith. While the majority of customers in these communities will have power restored over the next three days NIPSCO estimates restoration of power to all customers may not be completed until Monday evening.

Crews are also working to restore power by Friday evening for customers in the Lake Station, Portage, Schererville, Highland, Munster, East Chicago, St. John and Crown Point communities.

Outside of Lake County NIPSCO crews continue power restoration efforts for 1,100 scattered customer outages in Porter, La Porte, Marshall and Starke Counties and estimates most customers should have service restored by Friday evening.

NIPSCO reminds customers without power to check their home's weather head – the pipe where the wire from the utility pole enters the home through the electric meter box – for damage. If the weather head is damaged a licensed electrician or qualified individual will need to make repairs before NIPSCO crews can restore service.

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.

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STORM RESTORATION UPDATE #3

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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 This telephone number is not to be published and should only be used by the news media to retrieve storm updates.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.