

# NEWS



A NiSource Company

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### **NIPSCO RELEASES LINEMEN AND TREE-TRIMMING CONTRACTORS TO HELP WITH POWER RESTORATION EFFORTS IN THE GULF** *NIPSCO Crews Placed on Standby to Help Utilities in the Midwest*

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) today announced it has released all of its electrical linemen contractors and three-fourths of its tree-trimming contractors to help utilities in the Gulf region restore power following Hurricane Katrina.

NIPSCO has also informed the Great Lakes Mutual Assistance Group – a consortium of utilities throughout the Midwest – that its crews are available to help member utilities should they need arise. NIPSCO routinely shares resources with other utilities during time of natural disasters through mutual aid agreements facilitated by the Great Lakes Mutual Assistance Group.

“This is the right thing to do and our contractors were eager to get down to the Gulf to help restore power,” said Tim Dehring, NIPSCO general manager of operations. “We decided it would be best to keep our crews here in the Midwest where they may be needed as some of our larger neighboring utilities, who have sent crews the Gulf, may need NIPSCO’s assistance.”

In addition, the NiSource Charitable Foundation is contributing \$25,000 on behalf of NiSource employees to the Red Cross for hurricane relief. NiSource's Pipeline companies, which have operations and employees in areas affected by the hurricane, also plan to contribute at least \$10,000. A NiSource/NIPSCO employee blood drive to benefit the Red Cross also is planned for next week.

NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With nearly 700,000 natural gas customers and 440,000 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 3.7 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in nine states. More information about NIPSCO is available at [www.nipSCO.nisource.com](http://www.nipSCO.nisource.com)