



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 9, 2008

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**NIPSCO BUDGETPLAN PROVIDES SOLUTION FOR MANAGING
MONTHLY UTILITY BILLS**

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – With the upcoming winter heating season approaching, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) encourages customers to sign up for the BudgetPlan.

“The cost of natural gas is expected to be higher this winter heating season compared to last year, so customers will be looking for ways to better manage their monthly energy bills,” said Colleen Reilly, Director of Communications and Public Affairs for NIPSCO. “NIPSCO’s BudgetPlan allows customers to spread gas costs over an entire year. They would pay an equal amount each month, so they’ll always know how much to budget for their bill.”

BudgetPlan is free to all NIPSCO customers, and the price customers pay each month is based on past energy usage and estimated future prices.

In May of each year, the amount customers have paid is compared to the actual usage to determine if the utility bill was overpaid or underpaid. If a customer has overpaid, that customer will receive a credit on their utility bill. If a customer has underpaid, the amount owed will be averaged out over the next 12 months and their monthly bill will be adjusted accordingly.

“NIPSCO purchases natural gas on the wholesale market and it is passed through directly to the customer with no markup,” said Reilly. “Even though the cost of natural gas is subject to the changes in market prices, customers who take part in the BudgetPlan won’t experience those same fluctuations in their monthly utility bill.”

To sign up for the BudgetPlan, or for more information, customers may visit www.nipSCO.com, or call 1-800-4-NIPSCO.

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.