



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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NIPSCO ADVISES GREEN THUMBS TO “PLANT THE RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE”

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) encourages its customers to do two things before planting new trees this fall: Call the Indiana “Call Before You Dig” contact center, and make sure the right tree is planted in the right place.

“It’s important to take the time to call before you dig and failure to do so could result in serious injury or property damage,” said NIPSCO General Manager of Operations Tim Dehring. “It’s also important to talk to an arborist who can provide recommendations on how to select the right tree and the best location to plant so it doesn’t interfere with our power lines when it matures.”

The Indiana “Call Before You Dig” contact center – a free service – can be reached at 1-800-382-5544. Notification to the center should be made at least 48 hours prior to, but no more than 20 days before, digging.

NIPSCO’s rule of thumb is to plant flowering trees that grow to heights less than 20 feet when fully mature. Mature trees that grow higher than 30 feet should never be planted under or near a power line. In addition, planting the right tree in the right place may also help cut down on heating and cooling bills:

- Evergreens planted along a property’s northern side will serve as a natural barrier to cold winds coming out of the north; and
- Tall-growing trees should be planted along the south and west side of a property to allow sunshine in the winter and shade during the summer.

A brochure called “Selecting the Right Tree; Choosing the Right Place” can be viewed and downloaded from NIPSCO’s Web site at www.nipSCO.com.

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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