



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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ENROLLMENT FOR WINTER WARMTH AND STATE ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BEGIN TODAY

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) today announced its Winter Warmth program, in conjunction with state and federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), is open for enrollment to eligible natural gas customers.

“In preparation for higher natural gas prices this winter, we are pleased that enrollment for the Winter Warmth program is opening earlier this year,” said Cynthia Jackson, energy assistance and weatherization program manager for NIPSCO. “The Winter Warmth program will continue to be a vital tool in assisting customers with their winter heating bills, and enabling families to stay safe and warm during the winter.”

The Winter Warmth program is an energy assistance program designed to supplement existing state and federal energy assistance programs such as the LIHEAP program, which recently passed legislation to receive double the amount of funding this year.

Since the program’s inception in 2004, Winter Warmth has provided nearly \$19.6 million in bill and deposit assistance to 48,733 customers.

Qualifying customers will be eligible to receive up to \$450 in annual energy assistance, and eligibility requirements include those customers up to 200% of the federal poverty guidelines, in addition to those who have a financial hardship situation as determined by an administering Winter Warmth agency.

This year, NIPSCO will increase its contribution amount toward the program to 18 percent of total dollars collected from customers for the 2008-2009 winter heating season. The average residential customer will contribute approximately \$0.63 per month toward the program.

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Qualifying customers may begin applying for the Winter Warmth program and state and federal energy assistance by visiting one of the 31 existing energy assistance agency sites located across NIPSCO's northern Indiana service area.

As always, any customers who are experiencing trouble paying their bill are urged to contact NIPSCO before the bill is due in order to provide ample opportunity to work together and explore what options may be available.

Editor's Note: A list of Winter Warmth agencies is attached.

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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