



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**NIPSCO PREPARED TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR
“HELP THY NEIGHBOR HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM”**

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Beginning tomorrow, Nov.1, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) will begin accepting applications for the “Help Thy Neighbor Heating Assistance Program.”

Families with incomes between 150 percent and 200 percent of the federal poverty level may qualify for the program, which provides a one-time benefit of up to \$200. One change will be made to Help Thy Neighbor this year. From Nov.1 to Dec.1, assistance will be provided for crisis reconnection. From Dec. 1, to March 31, regular or crisis reconnection benefits will be provided. The fund can be accessed only once by a household during the winter heating season.

NIPSCO customers are encouraged to visit www.nipsco.com and click on DirectLink e-Services or contact NIPSCO at 1-800-4-NIPSCO (1-800-464-7726) to complete an application. Telephone applications will be received Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST.

Help Thy Neighbor provided nearly \$3.4 million to help more than 16,400 households in all 92 counties with heating bill assistance last winter. Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels established the fund to help families whose incomes are 150 percent to 200 percent of poverty by providing them with one-time assistance of \$200 if they have received a disconnect notice from their natural gas utility.

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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