



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**NIPSCO ENCOURAGES CUSTOMERS TO BE AWARE OF
UTILITY IMPERSONATORS**

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – In response to recent reports from customers in the Gary and E. Hammond areas, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) encourages all customers to be aware of impersonators who identify themselves as employees of NIPSCO and seek to enter a home.

Customers reported that impersonators were showing up at homes unannounced, claiming they represented NIPSCO and asking to step inside to survey their pipes. Additionally, calls were received about a separate group of people showing up at homes unannounced from alternative natural gas suppliers soliciting customers with their natural gas supply options.

Alternative natural gas marketers do make door-to-door visits, however they are not representatives of NIPSCO. Additionally, NIPSCO does not make unsolicited visits to customers' homes asking to check on pipes.

“The safety of our customers and employees is our number one priority,” said NIPSCO General Manager Tim Dehring. “All NIPSCO employees are required to carry and display a company identification card and customers should always request to see company identification before allowing any NIPSCO employee into their home.”

In addition to the company identification card, the company's logo is displayed on the outside of NIPSCO-owned vehicles. Company identification cards also include the NIPSCO logo, as well as the employee's photograph, name and employee number.

Other helpful tips include:

- Always ask for identification, which all NIPSCO employees carry;
- Report all suspicious individuals to the police immediately;
- Contact NIPSCO at 1-800-4-NIPSCO (464-7726) to verify the employee;
- Investigate before signing a contract;
- Never provide credit card information or account numbers to telemarketers; and
- Use reputable companies or licensed and bonded persons to perform repair work.

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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