



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 6, 2006

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tom Cuddy

NIPSCO Communications

219-647-6556

NIPSCO RECEIVES FIVE MONTH EXTENSION OF WINTER WARMTH PROGRAM

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) today announced it has received a favorable ruling from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) to extend its Winter Warmth program until May 31, 2007.

“We’re pleased with today’s IURC order approving a five month extension of our Winter Warmth program,” said NIPSCO President Mark Maassel. “Thousands of low-income families rely on this valuable and effective program to help pay their winter heating bills.”

Total funds available to be distributed will range from between \$3.6 million to \$4.2 million. NIPSCO’s contribution toward the program will be 13.33 percent of total dollars collected from customers. The average residential customer will contribute approximately \$0.63 per month toward the program.

“NIPSCO is committed to providing its customers with the tools and resources, like Winter Warmth and Help Thy Neighbor, to stay warm and be safe in their homes during the winter heating season,” said Maassel. “The Winter Warmth agencies have done an excellent job in administering the program and I commend them for helping fulfill that commitment.”

The fundamental tenets of the program that qualify customers, which were in place last winter heating season, will be in effect during the five month extension. Over the last two years, Winter Warmth has distributed more than \$10 million to over 24,000 customers in NIPSCO’s service area.

In addition to providing bill and deposit assistance to eligible customers, Winter Warmth provides assistance to families, who have hardship cases – such as those who have been called up for active military duty or a breadwinner who is unemployed or ill – as defined by one of the 26 agencies who administer the program.

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 3.7 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in nine states. More information about NIPSCO is available at www.nipSCO.com.