

NEWS



A NiSource Company
WE'RE ON IT!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 19, 2008

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nick Meyer, Manager
NIPSCO Communications
(219) 647-6556

801 E. 86th Avenue
Merrillville, IN 46410

NIPSCO CREWS WORKING TO RESTORE POWER

Entire Service Territory Impacted

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – As a result of Thursday night's storm, which caused widespread power outages across northern Indiana and other parts of the Midwest, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) crews and contractors are working around the clock to restore power and assess damage.

“At this point, approximately 58,000 customers are without power, but that number is growing, as we are not getting the warmer temperatures which might have inhibited the icing,” said Colleen Reilly, director of communications and public affairs for NIPSCO. “We sincerely thank each of our customers for their patience during this time, and we want to ensure them that we have every available crew, tree crew and contractor working in the field to restore power as quickly and as safely as possible.”

Due to the severity of damage caused by the storm, it is too early to determine restoration times. NIPSCO encourages customers without power to establish a backup plan in the event that power outages last overnight or longer. It is fair to say that some outages will take days to restore.

As always, customers are reminded to stay away from downed electric lines, and report them as soon as possible to NIPSCO.

To report an outage or downed power line, customers should call NIPSCO at 1-800-4-NIPSCO (1-800-464-7726).

Editor's Note: News media can access outage updates by calling the 24-hour NIPSCO Storm Hotline at 219-647-4333. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS TELEPHONE NUMBER SHOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED AND IS FOR THE NEWS MEDIA ONLY.**

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 seven states. More information about NIPSCO is available at www.nipSCO.com.

###