

NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Colleen Reilly
Director of Communications and Public Affairs
219-647-6388

801 E. 86th Avenue
Merrillville, IN 46410

POWER RESTORED TO MOST CUSTOMERS

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Most customers have had their power restored after a devastating ice storm hit northern Indiana.

“Over the course of the weekend, nearly 130,000 customers experienced power outages as a result of Friday’s ice storm followed by Sunday’s high winds,” said Colleen Reilly, director of communications and public affairs. “We made significant progress getting power restored from the ice storm, then Sunday the winds picks up. Ice covered transmission lines were galloping, a term used to describe the violent wrenching and whipping of a line in the high winds. Many of these transmission circuits tripped offline to protect the electric system from severe damage, leaving thousands of customers in the dark. Crews continued to work around the clock to restore power and by Monday morning, all but 3500 customers were restored.”

Crews were brought in from around the Midwest to join the NIPSCO employees on the extensive repair work.

“Customers are encouraged to stay safe during prolonged outages,” Reilly said. “Never use a gas oven to heat a room. Be sure space heaters are placed away from other objects. As always, customers are reminded to stay away from downed electric lines, and report them as soon as possible to NIPSCO.

“We appreciate the calls we have received from customers who were concerned about linemen and crews working in the bitter cold and wind. We are pleased to report that we had no worker injuries during this restoration effort,” Reilly said.

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

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.

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