

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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NIPSCO TO ADVOCATE FOR CUSTOMERS DURING NATIONAL LIHEAP ACTION DAY

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) is joining with other utilities, local community action agencies and community advocates in supporting the need to maintain current funding levels for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). NIPSCO representatives will participate in the annual LIHEAP Action Day on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 9.

“The slow pace of the current economic recovery continues to put stress on families across Indiana, creating a growing demand for LIHEAP assistance,” said Karl Stanley, vice president of commercial operations for NIPSCO. “When you consider that since 2008 the number of NIPSCO households receiving heating energy assistance has increased by 20,000 customers, it is critical that Congress restores the program’s \$5.1 billion funding levels to help low income families manage their energy budget.”

Congress has provided \$3.95 billion for the LIHEAP program, which expires March 4, pending the completion of the FY11 appropriations bill. Absent additional funds from Congress, LIHEAP would realize a 22.5 percent reduction nationally from the 2009-2010 total funding levels. Of the current authorization, Indiana would receive more than \$82.2 million.

“We recognize the difficult decisions Congress has to make, but would ask that they keep in mind the positive impact that fully funding LIHEAP has on the constituents they represent during the upcoming budget discussions,” said Stanley.

In addition to the assistance available through LIHEAP, NIPSCO provides \$1.5 million toward the NIPSCO CARE Discount program – a \$6 million program designed to provide additional energy assistance to LIHEAP-eligible customers. Hardship funds are also set aside to assist those customers falling between 150-200 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

It’s important to NIPSCO that any customer with bill-payment trouble contact NIPSCO immediately to discuss potential budget or bill-payment solutions or assistance options.

NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the nine energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With more than 712,000 natural gas customers and 457,000 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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