

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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### **NIPSCO Introduces Mobile Meter Reading Technology**

*Multi-year project to upgrade gas and electric meters across northern Indiana will improve customer service, efficiency and safety*

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** – Estimated bills for NIPSCO customers could soon be a thing of the past, as the utility announced today it will begin upgrading the way it reads natural gas and electric meters through the installation of an Automated Meter Reading (AMR) System.

The new AMR meters will allow NIPSCO to gather monthly readings through a receiver mounted in a NIPSCO vehicle, rather than walking door to door to read more than 900,000 meters each month.

Adopted by many utilities across the country, AMR meters differ from “smart meters,” which transmit information through a wireless communication network. The AMR receivers collect only meter readings; personal account information is not collected.

“The use of AMR is one of many efforts to improve service for our customers,” said NIPSCO Chief Operating Office Mike Finissi. “The new technology will help avoid inconvenience and intrusions associated with entering customers’ yards or homes. It also will improve our employees’ safety by eliminating many of the common obstacles our meter readers face, such as inclement weather, dog bites and tripping hazards.”

NIPSCO has selected Metadigm, a leading national utility services company specializing in metering services, to complete the installations. NIPSCO and Metadigm have elected to partner with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) – Local 697 to supply the workforce of approximately 60 technicians needed for the project.

"The long-standing relationship between NIPSCO and the Building Trades Unions led to this first-time partnership between the IBEW construction branch and the vendor, Metadigm", said IBEW representative Ray Kasmak. "The arrangement is a win-win for all parties involved. We are pleased to provide job opportunities for new IBEW members to successfully complete this project for NIPSCO, and our hope is that the arrangement will be replicated around the rest of the country."

The new technology will be installed on all meters across NIPSCO’s service area by 2016. Installations will begin late February in South Haven, Ind. The schedule for the remainder of the rollout has yet to be determined.

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## **NIPSCO Introduces New Meter Technology which Allow Drive-By Readings**

### **Page 2 of 2**

Customers will receive a letter in advance of the meter change. The installation process will be done at no charge to the customer and takes approximately 20 minutes or less. NIPSCO Electric Customers may notice a brief service interruption during the installation.

The technicians will carry photo identification, wear uniforms and drive marked vehicles.

Today, NIPSCO meter readers can collect roughly 300 meter readings every four hours. In that same time frame, a vehicle equipped with an AMR receiver can collect 6,300 readings.

No job loss will occur as a result of this upgrade.

To learn more about AMR, visit [NIPSCO.com/AMR](http://NIPSCO.com/AMR).

#### **About Metadigm**

Metadigm Services has been an innovator in metering, SCADA and communications services and products for the electric utility industry since 1990. Metadigm is the combination of former companies Specialized Technical Services, LEPSERVICE, and Power Engineering Associates. The company is a market leader offering AMR technical field services, in house testing/lab services, engineering services such as distribution and substation automation, GIS/GPS data gathering and analysis, warehousing and inventory services, and rapid prototype with product development to meet any utility challenge. Metadigm is headquartered in Atlanta with offices in Covington, Ga., Dallas, Tx., Lexington, Ky. and Cleveland, Tn. For more information, visit [www.MetadigmServices.com](http://www.MetadigmServices.com).

*NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the seven energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With more than 786,000 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](http://www.nipsco.com).*

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