



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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**NIPSCO OFFERS WAYS FOR CUSTOMERS TO USE ENERGY WISELY, SAVE ON THEIR BILL WHILE STAYING COOL DURING THE EXTREME HEAT**

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) has taken steps to prepare for the high peaks of energy usage, as extreme temperatures continue to heat up northern Indiana this week.

With this increased energy usage, NIPSCO is closely monitoring its electric delivery system to avoid potential interruptions in service. Over the last few days, crews have been using infrared technology to scan substations and critical circuits for any signs of "hot spots" before problems arise.

NIPSCO is also prepared to quickly respond to all outages that may occur as the result of the extreme temperatures.

While each of NIPSCO's six electric generating facilities are running at their maximum capacity to keep up with the spike in electric consumption, NIPSCO reminds its customers that this is a prime opportunity to conserve energy usage and save money.

Instead of cranking up those air conditioners, NIPSCO provides a few alternatives to stay cool, while reducing energy usage and saving on electric bills:

- Set thermostats at the highest comfortable temperature setting. Each degree a thermostat is raised reduces the cost of operating an air conditioner, and keeps the unit from having to work as hard to keep up with outside temperatures. For window air conditioning units, keep them on the highest temperature setting.
- Postpone the use of clothes dryers, dishwashers and other major appliances until late in the evening or early in the morning.
- Turn off lights and electronics that are not in use. These devices not only use extra electricity, but they add heat to your home, making your air conditioner work harder.
- Close drapes and blinds, and close the door to any rooms that aren't in use to help keep the inside of your home cooler.
- Keep the door to refrigerators and freezers closed as much as possible.

- Use ceiling fans to offset the higher setting on your air conditioner. Ceiling fans use much lower levels of electricity compared to air conditioners.

For additional ways to save energy, visit [NIPSCO.com/SaveEnergy](http://NIPSCO.com/SaveEnergy).

Customers are encouraged to check on their neighbors – especially homes with elderly individuals and children – and contact 211 for information on available cooling centers in the area.

*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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