

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 30, 2011



**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

NIPSCO 24-hr Media Hotline

(219) 647-6210

## **STORM RESTORATION EFFORTS CONTINUE IN NORTH CENTRAL AND NORTHEAST INDIANA**

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** – Power to nearly 50 percent of the affected NIPSCO customers has been restored, as NIPSCO crews continue to work Wednesday to restore the remaining 7,000 of the more than 14,000 total electric customers system-wide who experienced power outages as a result of extensive damage caused by yesterday’s severe winds and heavy snowfall in scattered areas.

Currently, more than 170 field personnel are working around-the-clock to restore power to customers as quickly and safely as possible across an eight county area, including St. Joseph, Elkhart, Marshall, Fulton, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble and Steuben counties.

As last night’s hazardous road conditions hindered the company’s ability to gain accurate assessments of the total damage caused, NIPSCO has now brought in aerial patrol to assist employees on the ground with quickly identifying issues.

Current estimates indicate that a majority of these customers should expect to have their electric service restored by late tonight (Wednesday, November 30).

However, a small number of scattered outages throughout the area may extend through midday Thursday, Dec. 1 – due to the extent of damage to NIPSCO’s electrical distribution system, including downed utility poles, power lines and other damaged equipment.

NIPSCO understands that any service outage is an inconvenience for customers – especially given the frigid temperatures – and is thankful for their patience and understanding during today’s storm restoration effort. NIPSCO is working to restore all customers as quickly and as safely as possible.

For your safety, please stay away from any downed power lines and crews working in your area. You can continue to receive power restoration updates by visiting [nipsco.com/outagecenter](http://nipsco.com/outagecenter) or calling 1-800-4-NIPSCO (1-800-464-7726) 24-hours a day.

### **Restoration Process**

In any storm event, the safety of the public as well as those working on the lines is the top priority. Before restoring service, NIPSCO must locate downed power lines and make sure electricity is no longer flowing through the wires.

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NIPSCO's restoration process begins with repairing large transmission and distribution lines that supply electricity to large numbers of customers in large geographic areas. Repairs to other lines that serve smaller groups of customers can't be made until the larger lines feeding electricity to those areas are repaired.

*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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