

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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**Kathleen O’Leary Named President of NIPSCO**

*Claudia Earls Named NIPSCO Division Counsel*

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** –Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) executive **Kathleen O’Leary** has been named to the new role of president of the company, leading regulatory and governmental strategies, economic development and other key stakeholder engagement efforts for the combined natural gas and electric utility.

NIPSCO Executive Vice President & CEO **Jimmy Staton** announced that O’Leary, currently NIPSCO senior vice president of Communications and Compliance, will assume the new role of president effective immediately. With offices in Indianapolis and Merrillville, Ind., O’Leary will have responsibility for Rates & Regulatory Affairs, Governmental Affairs, Public Affairs, Economic Development, Communications and Compliance.

O’Leary will continue reporting to Staton, along with NIPSCO Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer **Mike Finissi**, who has responsibility for NIPSCO Customer Services, Gas and Electric Operations, Engineering, Electric Generation, Commercial Operations, Business Planning and Budgets & Performance.

NIPSCO also announced that **Claudia Earls**, Assistant General Counsel in the NiSource Inc. Legal Department, will take on the additional role of Division Counsel, NIPSCO. In addition to having oversight of legal support for all regulatory matters for NIPSCO, she also will be the primary contact for all other legal services for the NIPSCO executive team in her new capacity.

Staton said NIPSCO’s new leadership appointments represent another step forward in the company’s strategy to become Indiana’s premier utility.

“Kathleen O’Leary’s commitment to stakeholder engagement, her keen knowledge of the energy industry and regulatory policy, and her strong track record of helping teams deliver results make her a great choice for this important NIPSCO leadership role,” Staton said. “In partnership with Mike Finissi, Claudia Earls and our entire NIPSCO team, Kathleen will provide a strong, consistent line of sight between NIPSCO’s regulatory, legislative and stakeholder outreach strategies and our core commitments to expand customer programs, enhance service and reliability, and support economic growth and vitality across northern Indiana.”

Prior to joining NIPSCO in 2010, O’Leary served in a variety of leadership roles with the utility’s

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## **Kathleen O’Leary Named President of NIPSCO**

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parent company NiSource Inc., and its subsidiaries. She served as Senior Vice President of Energy Distribution Regulated Revenue from 2005 to 2008, Senior Vice President of Performance Management from 2008 to 2010, and as President of Columbia Gas of Virginia, a NiSource subsidiary, from 2003 to 2006. She began her energy career in 1978 as an attorney for Columbia Gulf Transmission Company in Houston. During her career, O’Leary held a variety of communications, government affairs, human resources and public affairs positions across the company and leadership roles at several industry associations, including the American Gas Association, the National Energy Resources Organization and the Women in Utilities National Conference. She has been admitted to the bar in the District of Columbia and Texas. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science from St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vt., and her Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School in New Orleans. She was awarded an honorary doctorate from St. Michael's College in 2006.

Earls joined the NiSource Legal Department in 2010 after working for nine years in the Energy, Telecommunications and Utilities practice of Barnes & Thornburg LLP in Indianapolis. She is the former chair of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commission’s Administrative Law Judge Section, as well as former editor of Indiana Utility Reports.

She also was president of the Utility Law Section of the Indiana Bar Association in 2011. She graduated from Indiana University with a B.A. in economics and a Masters in Business Administration and received her Juris Doctor from Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis. She is admitted to practice in the state of Indiana and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. Earls also previously taught economics and business administration at Indiana University and Vincennes University and she had been in private practice in Putnam County, Ind.

*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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