



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**NIPSCO CREWS ASSESSING DAMAGE, RESTORING POWER
FOLLOWING POWERFUL STORM**

Further damage assessment puts peak outages at 100,000

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Further assessment of damage to NIPSCO's electric system has indicated approximately 100,000 customers had power interrupted as a result of the severe storms that swept across Northwest Indiana late Wednesday evening.

NIPSCO crews working through the night, joined by additional contractor crews this morning, have restored power to approximately 40,000 of those customers as of 11:00 CST.

Lake County took the brunt of the storm and currently has 52,000 customers without service. The hardest hit communities include Gary and Hammond, but most communities in Lake County experienced damage and power outages.

The Valparaiso and Porter County area was also hard hit and currently has 3,000 customers without service in addition to 2,000 customers in La Porte County. The Plymouth and Marshall County area also experienced storm damage and has approximately 3,000 customers without service.

Restoration efforts will continue around-the-clock. More specific restoration estimates will be available in later updates, but it is expected that crews will, at a minimum, be working through the weekend to make repairs and restore power.

NIPSCO encourages the public to stay away from downed power lines, which should be considered energized. All power outages and downed power lines should be reported to NIPSCO at 1-800-464-7726.

Editor's Note: The next power restoration update will be available at 3:00 p.m. Central Time by calling 219-647-4333 and listening to the recording. This telephone number is not to be published and should only be used by the news media to retrieve storm updates.

NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With over 712,000 natural gas customers and 445,000 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 nine states. More information about NIPSCO is available at www.nipsco.com.