



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**NIPSCO JOINS GOVERNOR MITCH DANIELS IN RECOGNIZING
NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH**

Customers Urged To Call 811 Before Digging

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Northern Indiana Public Service Company joins Governor Mitch Daniels and the Common Ground Alliance in recognizing the month of April as National Safe Digging Month, which is dedicated to increasing awareness of safe digging practices across the country and to promote use of the Indiana 811 call-before-you-dig number.

“Whether it’s a contractor starting a large project or a homeowner working in their yard, NIPSCO wants everyone to stay safe by calling 811 before digging,” said Tim Dehring, Senior Vice President of Energy Delivery. “Since April is a busy time for digging projects, we want to remind both contractors and homeowners alike to call the convenient 811 number at least two working days before starting projects involving digging to avoid possible injury, property damage and inconvenient outages.”

Failure to call 811 before digging results in damage to more than 200,000 underground utility lines annually across the country.

Whether planting trees, building a deck, installing a mailbox or any other project that involves digging, Indiana 811 offers the following recommendations for a busy digging season:

- Always call 811 before digging, regardless of the depth or familiarity with the property.
- Tell neighbors, co-workers, family and friends about 811 if they discuss their plans for an outdoor home improvement project with you.
- Plan ahead – Indiana 811 is always open. Just make sure you call at least two working days in advance of your project start date.
- Avoid starting projects until you’re sure all lines are marked. If you’re unsure, confirm that all lines have been marked by contacting Indiana 811.
- Choose another location on the property for a project if the original planned site is near utility line markings.

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- If your excavation is within two feet of the marked facility, you must only use hand tools with extreme caution.
- If a contractor has been hired, confirm that a call to 811 has been made. Don't allow work to begin if the lines aren't marked.

Visit www.indiana811.org for more information about 811 and the call-before-you-dig process.

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 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.