

## **Joint Statement from the City of La Porte, Ind. and NIPSCO**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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### **NIPSCO CREWS WORKING TO REPAIR BELIEVED SOURCE OF RECENT LA PORTE ELECTRIC SERVICE OUTAGES**

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** – NIPSCO crews this afternoon are repairing the believed source of a recent string of isolated electric service outages experienced by approximately 4,000 customers in the city of La Porte during the past week.

“First and foremost, we want to thank our customers for their patience and understanding as we recognize the inconvenience and level of discomfort associated with losing power for any period of time – especially during this extended patch of hot weather,” said Tim Dehring, senior vice president of energy delivery for NIPSCO. “Resolving the cause of this issue has been our top priority and we’re in the process of making the necessary system repairs as soon as possible.”

Additionally, NIPSCO officials met with La Porte Mayor Kathy Chrobak on Wednesday to explain the believed source of the recent service outages and the company's plan to fix them.

“I feel confident that NIPSCO officials have identified the problems and are taking swift action to resolve them,” Chrobak said. “We will continue to monitor their progress.”

NIPSCO crews, as part of their ongoing search for a possible cause of the recent periodic outages, located a set of power lines northeast of downtown La Porte earlier today that showed signs of repeated contact with each other, an action which would result in a service outage. Crews are now working to repair and replace poles, power line and other necessary equipment in an attempt to resolve the problem.

While NIPSCO continues to investigate the cause of the power line contacts, it is believed the extended warm weather and increased electricity usage contributed to the situation. During its nearly week-long search into the source of the recent

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outages, NIPSCO personnel conducted aerial and ground assessments – including patrolling more than 50 miles of electrical power lines – to inspect all wire, poles and equipment in the area for signs of damage. Additionally, NIPSCO dispatched tree trimming crews to the area to identify and correct any tree-contact related issues.

“We take a lot of pride in the integrity and reliability of our system, and we invest a lot of time, money and energy in making sure that power is there when our customers need it,” Dehring added. “So, when a service interruption occurs, we do our very best to correct the issue as quickly as possible.”

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](http://www.nipsco.com).