



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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**Michael W. Hooper Joins NIPSCO as Vice President of Major Projects**

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** - Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) announced today that Michael W. Hooper has joined the company as its vice president of major projects. The appointment is effective Monday, Feb. 21.

“We are pleased to welcome Mike to our leadership team,” said NIPSCO chief operating officer Mike Finissi. “He brings significant electric power construction, maintenance and operations experience to NIPSCO, as well as a proven track record of building and managing successful project teams. His leadership in these areas will be an immediate asset for NIPSCO and our critical generation assets.”

As the vice president of major projects, Hooper will be responsible for the successful planning, management and completion of the company’s key construction projects in northern Indiana – including the installation of \$500 million in emission control equipment to be installed at NIPSCO’s R. M. Schahfer Station in Wheatfield, Ind. He will report to NIPSCO chief operating officer Mike Finissi and be based at NIPSCO’s headquarters in Merrillville, Ind.

Hooper joins NIPSCO from American Electric Power (AEP), where he most recently was director of project controls for generation major projects. During his 15-year career at AEP, he held a number of positions of increasing scope and responsibility including manager of major project commissioning and acceptance; manager of project scheduling, estimating and controls; manager of outage planning and scheduling; and supervisor of outage and planning for northeast generation and technical support. Hooper began his career at AEP in 1995 as a project engineer.

Hooper earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the West Virginia Institute of Technology (Montgomery, W.Va.). Additionally, he is a licensed Project Management Professional and a graduate of the Strategic Leadership program from the Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University (Columbus, Ohio).

*NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With more than 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).*

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