

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2016



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Denise Rodriguez
NIPSCO Communications
1-219-381-7217

National Safe Digging Day (8/11) Is a Reminder to Call 811 Before Digging

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – August 11 (8/11) is National Safe Digging Day, and NIPSCO wants to remind customers to call 811 before any digging project to have underground utilities marked.

“As end of the summer projects begin to wrap up, today is that extra reminder for everyone to make the important phone call to 811,” said Andy Stone, Vice President of Gas Operations. “Fencing and landscaping are the two top causes of gas line damages.”

Digging into underground lines is the biggest risk to NIPSCO’s gas system. According to Common Ground Alliance (CGA), an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes because someone decides to dig “blindly.” Striking an underground utility line while digging can cause harm to you or those around you, disrupt service to an entire community, and potentially result in fines up to \$10,000 or more, plus the cost to repair damages.

How 811 works:

- 811 is a free national service.
- Everyone from homeowners to businesses should call or enter a request online at www.811NOW.com two business days before the start of any digging project.
- A representative will answer the call to find out the location and description of the digging site.
- The affected utility companies will be notified of the intent to dig.
- The utility companies will each send a professional locator to the digging site to identify and mark the approximate location of the underground lines.
- Once lines have been marked, the project can start—remember to dig carefully.

For more information on 811 visit NIPSCO.com/811.

About NIPSCO: Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), with headquarters in Merrillville, Indiana, has proudly served the energy needs of northern Indiana for more than 100 years. As Indiana’s largest natural gas distribution company and the second-largest electric distribution company, NIPSCO serves approximately 810,000 natural gas and 460,000 electric customers across 32 counties. NIPSCO is part of NiSource’s (NYSE: NI) seven regulated utility companies. NiSource is one of the largest fully regulated utility companies in the United States, serving approximately 4 million natural gas and electric customers through its local Columbia Gas and NIPSCO brands. More information about NIPSCO and NiSource is available at NIPSCO.com and NiSource.com.

###