

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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## **NIPSCO Encourages Customers to Prepare for Summer Storm Season** *Stay Ahead of the Weather*

**Merrillville, Ind.** — The arrival of warmer weather in northern Indiana means the possibility of heavy rain and strong winds that can wreak havoc and create unsafe situations. As the upcoming summer season approaches, NIPSCO advises customers to take precautionary measures and prepare for severe weather to ensure their safety.

### **Before the Storm**

Customers can stay prepared by following some simple safety tips, such as:

- Monitoring the weather and knowing what conditions are forecasted for your area.
- Creating a storm preparedness kit that includes essential medicines, nonperishable food items, water, flashlights, a fully charged cell phone, portable radios and portable batteries.
- Reviewing insurance policies. Include extra copies of the policies and other important documents in the storm preparedness kit.
- Signing up for NIPSCO Alerts to receive up-to-date information, including power outage status updates — see below on how to sign up.
- Adding NIPSCO's 24-hour customer service line, 1-800-4-NIPSCO (1-800-464-7726), as one of your emergency phone numbers on your cell phone. Or, if you prefer to text us to report an electric outage, be sure to save the number 444111.\*
- Making prior arrangements for a backup power supply if someone in your family requires life support equipment. This may mean having a generator or going to a health care facility that has backup power.
- Inspecting trees and correcting obvious problems before severe weather arrives. Dead trees and broken, dead or decaying limbs can threaten lives or increase property damage during a storm. Never attempt to prune limbs or remove trees that are close to power lines. For your safety, always contact NIPSCO if you see a tree that you suspect is causing a potentially dangerous condition.

### **During the Storm**

If your area is affected by a storm, be sure to stay clear of any fallen power lines. If you spot a fallen line, report it to the police and call NIPSCO's 24-hour customer service line at 1-800-4-NIPSCO.

If you experience a power outage, please report it through one of our channels:

- **Text:** Text the word "Out" to 444111\*
- **Online:** NIPSCO.com
- **Mobile Device:** m.nipsco.com
- **Phone:** 1-800-4-NIPSCO

Additionally, please continue to stay informed. Follow local news and NIPSCO for up-to-date information. NIPSCO will also provide updates regarding the number of customers currently affected, where outages are located and when power is expected to be restored, using the following channels:

- **NIPSCO.com/Alerts:** Sign up for power outage alerts to receive outage updates, including estimated restoration times, via text, email or phone.
- **NIPSCO.com/Out:** Find current information on the status of power outages and estimated restoration times.
- **m.nipsco.com:** View the same outage map and details on NIPSCO.com from your mobile device.
- **facebook.com/NIPSCO** or **twitter.com/NIPSCO:** Follow NIPSCO's progress through popular social media channels to view photos and power restoration updates.

For more storm safety tips, visit [NIPSCO.com/StaySafe](http://NIPSCO.com/StaySafe).

*\*For text reports, customers will receive text responses confirming their address and contact information. NIPSCO does not charge for any texts; however, carriers may charge text messaging and data rates depending on the mobile plan. And remember, never text while driving.*

**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](http://NIPSCO.com) and [NiSource.com](http://NiSource.com).

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