



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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**NIPSCO's Michael Suggs Earns Statewide Diversity Honor**

**Merrillville, Ind.** – Michael Suggs, director of operations integration and strategy for Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), recently received a 2014 Champion of Diversity award from Indiana Minority Business Magazine.

The awards program honors individuals, businesses and organizations from across the state that have promoted diversity in hiring practices and outreach programs, or have individually transcended racial or gender barriers.

Suggs and 15 other individuals, organizations and institutions were honored at the magazine's ninth annual awards dinner, held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Indianapolis.

Suggs has been involved for many years with diversity efforts at NIPSCO and at the state and national levels with American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE).

"As a state, we are fortunate to have dynamic professionals and successful organizations who are not only leaders in their field, but also reach across racial, gender and cultural barriers to help improve opportunities for all Hoosiers," said IMBM President and General Manager Shannon Williams. "These honorees have taken a step beyond merely embracing diversity to actually making it a reality."

*Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) has served the energy needs of Northern Indiana since 1912. Headquartered in Merrillville, NIPSCO is one of the seven energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc (NYSE: NI). With more than 821,000 natural gas customers and 468,000 electric customers, 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).*