

NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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NIPSCO ADJUSTS BUDGETPLAN AMOUNTS FOR CUSTOMERS

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Northern Indiana Public Service Company today announced it is making adjustments to the monthly bill amounts for customers enrolled in the BudgetPlan as part of the company's annual review process for the program.

"For customers looking to better manage their monthly utility bills, the BudgetPlan remains one of the best options available," said Colleen Reilly, Director of Communications and Public Affairs. "Fortunately for our customers, the cost of natural gas on the wholesale market has dropped considerably since last year, and the adjustments being made are a direct result of that trend."

Of the 213,843 NIPSCO customers taking advantage of the free program, approximately 78 percent will notice a downward change in their monthly payment. Customers requiring an adjustment in their monthly BudgetPlan payment will receive a message on their May bill reflecting the new payment amount, which becomes effective on their June 2009 statement.

NIPSCO calculates new BudgetPlan payments by reviewing historical gas usage and the anticipated cost of natural gas in the coming 12-month period.

In May of each year, the utility reviews each account to determine whether or not the budget amount customers have paid reflects the actual amount of gas used by the customer. If a customer's budget amount was set higher or lower than the amount of gas actually used over the course of the year, the difference – either credited or owed – is averaged over 12 months and their monthly bill is adjusted accordingly.

"NIPSCO purchases natural gas on the wholesale market and it is passed through directly to the customer with no markup," said Reilly. "While the cost of natural gas is subject to fluctuations in market prices, the BudgetPlan eliminates the surprise for customers when they open their utility bill each month, as they pay an equal amount every month during the course of year."

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NIPSCO Makes Annual BudgetPlan Adjustments

Page 2 of 2

To sign up for the BudgetPlan, or for more information, customers may visit www.nipsco.com, or call 1-800-4-NIPSCO.

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.

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