

ORIGINAL

Commissioner	Yes	No	Not Participating
Swinger	√		
Bain	√		
Deig	√		
Jerrells	√		
Ziegner			√

STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

**VERIFIED PETITION OF THE INDIANA OFFICE OF)
UTILITY CONSUMER COUNSELOR FOR A COMMISSION) CAUSE NO. 46453
INVESTIGATION INTO NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC)
SERVICE COMPANY LLC'S ("NIPSCO") PRACTICES AND) APPROVED: SEP 22 2026
PROCEDURES REGARDING POWER OUTAGE)
RESTORATION AFTER THE AUGUST 2026 STORM.)**

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Presiding Officers:

Anthony F. Swinger, Chairman

Kristin E. Kresge, Administrative Law Judge

On August 25, 2026, the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor ("OUCC") filed a Verified Petition ("Petition") for the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("Commission") to Initiate an Investigation. In its Petition, the OUCC requests an investigation into Northern Indiana Public Service Company LLC's ("NIPSCO") practices and procedures regarding power outage restoration after the August 2026 storm. On August 28, 2026, NIPSCO filed a Response to the Petition. After reviewing the Petition and the Response, the Commission finds it appropriate to commence a formal investigation into all matters relating to NIPSCO's practices and procedures restoring power outages after the August 2026 storm.

1. Commission Jurisdiction. NIPSCO is a limited liability company organized under Indiana law with its principal office in Merrillville, Indiana. NIPSCO renders electric public utility service in Indiana and owns, operates, manages, and controls among other things, plant and equipment within Indiana used for the production, transmission, delivery, and furnishing of such service. As such, NIPSCO is a "public utility" as defined in Ind. Code § 8-1-2-1(a).

Pursuant to Ind. Code § 8-1-2-4, every public utility is required to furnish reasonably adequate service and facilities, and any charge made by the public utility must be reasonable and just. Pursuant to Ind. Code § 8-1-2-58, the Commission may summarily conduct an investigation, on its motion, with or without notice. Ind. Code § 8-1-2-58 provides the Commission with broad authority to investigate Indiana public utilities:

Whenever the Commission shall believe that any rate or charge may be unreasonable or unjustly discriminatory or that any service is inadequate, or can not be obtained, or that an investigation of any matter relating to any public utility should for any reason be made, it may, on its motion, summarily investigate the same, with or without notice.

If the Commission becomes satisfied that sufficient grounds exist to warrant a hearing pertinent to the matters investigated, Ind. Code § 8-1-2-59 requires the Commission to furnish the public utility involved a statement notifying it of the matters under investigation. In reviewing the Commission's statutory authority to investigate the service provided by a regulated utility, the Indiana Court of Appeals has determined that inherent in this grant of power is the authority to "do that which is necessary to effectuate the regulatory scheme." *South Eastern Indiana Natural Gas v. Ingram*, 617 N.E.2d 943, 948 (Ind. Ct. App. 1993).

Accordingly, the Commission has jurisdiction over NIPSCO and the subject matter of this investigation.

2. Background and Scope of Proceeding. The week of August 11, 2026 a historic derecho system and severe storm systems passed through northwest Indiana, causing widespread damage and power outages. In the NIPSCO electric service territory, a total of 387,010 customers were affected. According to NIPSCO's response to the Petition, the derecho system caused damage resulting in the most widespread service impact to its approximately 500,000 electric customers in known customer history. NIPSCO stated that it does not oppose the OUCC's Petition.

The Presiding Officers, having reviewed the Petition and Response, commence a formal investigation into all matters relating to NIPSCO's practices and procedures restoring power outages after the August 2026 storm and set this matter for an Attorney's Conference via Webex at 11:30 a.m. on September 28, 2026. The purpose of the Attorney's Conference is to establish a procedural schedule including future dates for an evidentiary hearing and testimonial deadlines for the case's formal parties. Prior to the conference, counsel of record will receive an email with the WebEx information to participate in the conference. Members of the public and those not directly participating may monitor the Attorney's Conference via the Commission's YouTube channel @iurcstateofindiana6982.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED BY THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION that:

1. The Commission commences a formal investigation into all matters relating to NIPSCO's practices and procedures restoring power outages after the August 2026 storm.
2. An Attorney's Conference is set for September 28, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. via WebEx.
3. This Order shall be effective on and after the date of its approval.

SWINGER, BAIN, DEIG, AND JERRELLS CONCUR; ZIEGNER ABSENT:

APPROVED: SEP 22 2026

**I hereby certify that the above is a true
and correct copy of the Order as approved.**

**Dana Kosco
Secretary of the Commission**