

Celebrate Your Company's Significant Anniversary

MILESTONES

Northern Indiana Public Service Co.

NIPSCO is officially 100, but its history goes back much further.

BY RICK A. RICHARDS

There aren't a lot of businesses that make it to 100 years. A century of anything is a milestone worth celebrating, and so it is for Northern Indiana Public Service Co., which on Aug. 2 marked the 100th anniversary of its incorporation. "Our 100th anniversary was a special opportunity for us to reflect on our history and to recognize the customers, communities and employees that have had an impact on our development," says Kathleen O'Leary, president of NIPSCO. "It also served as a reminder to continue our focus on the future and to make sure we're right on path for the next 100 years."

Jimmy Station, CEO and executive vice president of NIPSCO's natural gas transmission and storage, says, "Much of our success over the past 100 years stems from the customers we've had the privilege of serving and the strong partnership we have forged with communities. We have the honor of fueling progress, not only by supplying natural gas and electric service, but also by providing jobs to thousands of residents and supporting charitable organizations. And, we look forward to powering the lives of Northern Indiana residents and businesses into the next century."

O'Leary echoes Station's feelings. "I am most proud of the community partnerships we've developed over the years. Our growth and successes are tied to the communities we serve. From the expansion of the railroads in the first quarter of the century to the investments we are making in improving the environment today, we continue to work hand-in-hand with organizations and people who are making a difference in the region."

In 1912, NIPSCO's predecessor, Calumet Electric Co., was incorporated by a group of Gary businessmen to supply power for the expansion of the Gary Railway Co. But the utility's roots date back further to 1853, when the Fort Wayne Gas Light Co. was established to serve a community of 4,500. Another NIPSCO predecessor, the South Bend Gas Light Co., was founded in 1868 by the Stadelaker brothers, of carriage and later automotive fame. Today, NIPSCO provides electric and/or natural gas service to more than 785,000 customers in 30 counties of Northern Indiana.

In a commemorative book marking the company's 100th anniversary, authors Tom Stevens and Barry Vedren spoke NIPSCO's president and CEO Robert C. Shagge Jr. "Since its official formation in 1912 (and nearly a half century before that via its numerous predecessor companies), NIPSCO has been providing the energy services necessary to fuel Northern Indiana's tremendous growth and technological advancement."

The decades before Northern Indiana Public Service Co. was officially incorporated were known as the natural gas years. From about 1886 to 1900, Indiana experienced a natural gas boom as wells were drilled all over the state. A network of pipelines crossed the state, many of which formed the foundation for NIPSCO's natural gas business today.

But it was the discovery of a practical use for electricity by Thomas Edison (who worked briefly in Fort Wayne) that had the biggest impact. In 1880, Wabash became the first city in the nation to become entirely lighted by electricity.

When it happened, reporters from across the nation traveled to Wabash to report on the event. Today, one of the city's original arc lamps is on display in the courthouse in downtown Wabash.

Because Northwest Indiana was the last region of the state to be populated (because of wetlands and swamps), it came late to the electric revolution that was sweeping the rest of the state. But when the Standard Oil company built a refinery in Whiting in 1889, that began to change. In quick succession, steel mills opened: first Inland Steel and then U.S. Steel in the newly incorporated city of Gary in 1906. Along with them, several small natural gas and electric companies popped up in Hammond, Gary, South Bend and Michigan City. But it was the creation of Calumet Electric Co. in 1912 that was the start of NIPSCO. In the commemorative book, NIPSCO said the company was organized by a group of Gary businessmen who wanted additional sources of power to extend beyond the recently developed Gary Railway Co. They wanted power extended to Crown Point, Valparaiso and LaPorte.

The joining of Calumet Electric and Northern Indiana Gas and Electric Co. was the beginning of the modern Northern Indiana Public Service Co. The first chairman was Samuel Insull, one of the creators of General Electric. At the time, Insull also owned the Chicago South Shore and South Bend Railroad.

By the 1930s, NIPSCO consolidated its business in the 30 counties of Northern Indiana by trading properties it owned in Lafayette, Crawfordsville, Frankfort and Lebanon with Interstate Public Service Co. for properties that company owned in

NIPSCO 100 YEARS 1912-2012

Thank you!

TO OUR CUSTOMERS FOR OUR FIRST 100 YEARS

Although the past century has brought many changes to northern Indiana, NIPSCO's commitment to providing safe, reliable and affordable electric and natural gas service remains the same. Together with our communities, we are striving to build a bright future for our region through community partnerships, economic development and environmental stewardship.

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