

STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

**VERIFIED PETITION OF NORTHERN INDIANA)
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY LLC FOR (1) APPROVAL)
OF PETITIONER’S TDSIC PLAN FOR ELIGIBLE)
TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION, AND STORAGE)
SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, PURSUANT TO IND.)
CODE § 8-1-39-10(a) INCLUDING TARGETED) CAUSE NO. 45557
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS PURSUANT)
TO IND. CODE § 8-1-39-10(c), (2) AUTHORITY TO)
DEFER COSTS FOR FUTURE RECOVERY, (3))
APPROVAL FOR INCLUSION OF NIPSCO’S TDSIC)
PLAN PROJECTS IN ITS RATE BASE IN ITS NEXT)
GENERAL RATE PROCEEDING PURSUANT TO IND.)
CODE § 8-1-2-23, AND (4) AUTHORITY TO RECOVER)
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES AS)
TDSIC COSTS PURSUANT TO IND. CODE § 8-1-39-7)
UNDER ITS APPROVED RIDER 888 – ADJUSTMENT)
OF CHARGES FOR TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION)
AND STORAGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT CHARGES.)**

VERIFIED PETITION

Northern Indiana Public Service Company LLC (“NIPSCO” or “Petitioner”) petitions the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) for approval of Petitioner’s plan for eligible transmission, distribution, and storage system improvements, pursuant to Ind. Code § 8-1-39-10(a), including specific targeted economic development projects pursuant to Ind. Code § 8-1-39-10(c) for the period June 1, 2021 through December 31, 2026 (the

“2021-2026 Electric Plan” or “Plan”).¹ In accordance with 170 IAC 1-1.1-8 and 1-1.1-9 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, Petitioner submits the following information in support of this petition.

Petitioner’s Corporate Status

1. Petitioner is a limited liability company existing under the laws of the State of Indiana with its principal office and place of business at 801 East 86th Avenue, Merrillville, Indiana. Petitioner renders electric and gas public utility service in the State of Indiana and owns, operates, manages and controls, among other things, plant and equipment within the State of Indiana used for the generation, transmission, distribution and furnishing of such service to the public. Petitioner is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NiSource Inc., an energy holding company whose stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Petitioner’s Regulated Status

2. Petitioner is a “public utility” within the meaning of Ind. Code §§ 8-1-39-4 and 8-1-2-1 and is an “energy utility” providing “retail energy service” within the meaning of Ind. Code §§ 8-1-2.5-2 and 3. Petitioner is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission in the manner and to the extent provided by the

¹ Ind. Code Ch. 8-1-39 (Transmission, Distribution, and Storage System Improvement Charges and Deferrals) was enacted as part of Senate Enrolled Act 560 and became effective on April 30, 2013, which was amended in House Enrolled Act No. 1470 and became effective on April 24, 2019.

Public Service Commission Act, as amended, and other pertinent laws of the State of Indiana.

Petitioner’s Operations

3. Petitioner is authorized by the Commission to provide electric utility service to the public in all or part of Benton, Carroll, DeKalb, Elkhart, Fulton, Jasper, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Lake, LaPorte, Marshall, Newton, Noble, Porter, Pulaski, Saint Joseph, Starke, Steuben, Warren and White Counties in northern Indiana. Petitioner provides electric utility service to approximately 470,000 customers. NIPSCO owns, operates, manages and controls plant and equipment within the State of Indiana that is in service and used and useful in the generation, transmission, distribution and furnishing of such service to the public. NIPSCO has maintained and continues to maintain its properties in a reliable state of operating conditions.

Relief Sought by Petitioner

4. In accordance with Ind. Code § 8-1-39-10(a), Petitioner requests Commission approval of its TDSIC Plan. Specifically, Petitioner requests a (a) finding that the investments contained in its 2021-2026 Electric Plan are “eligible transmission, distribution, and storage system improvements” within the meaning of Ind. Code § 8-1-39-2; (b) finding of the best estimate of the cost of the eligible improvements included in the Plan; (c) determination that the public

convenience and necessity require or will require the eligible improvements included in the Plan; and (d) determination that the estimated costs of the eligible improvements included in the Plan are justified by incremental benefits attributable to the Plan. The Plan also makes provision for appropriate economic development projects in the future, although none are proposed at this time. If the Commission determines that the 2021-2026 Electric Plan is reasonable, Petitioner requests the Commission to approve the Plan and designate the eligible transmission, distribution, and storage system improvements included in the Plan as eligible for Transmission, Distribution, and Storage System Improvement Charge ("TDSIC") treatment in accordance with Indiana Code ch. 8-1-39 and include the improvements in Petitioner's rate base in any proceeding involving Petitioner's rates. Petitioner also requests authority to recover operation and maintenance expenses as TDSIC costs pursuant to Ind. Code § 8-1-39-7 under its approved Rider 888 – Adjustment of Charges for Transmission, Distribution and Storage System Improvement Charges. Petitioner further requests authority to defer any costs associated with the 2021-2026 Electric Plan that are incurred prior to and subsequent to the issuance of an Order in this proceeding until such amounts are recovered through rates. Finally, Petitioner requests that the Commission approve Petitioner's proposed process for updating the 2021-2026 Electric Plan in future TDSIC annual adjustment proceedings to be submitted in

accordance with Ind. Code § 8-1-39-9.

Applicable Law

5. Petitioner considers the provisions of the Public Service Commission Act, as amended, including Ind. Code § 8-1-2-23 and Ind. Code ch. 8-1-39, among others, to be applicable to the subject matter of this Petition and believes that such statutes provide the Commission authority to approve the requested relief.

Petitioner’s Counsel

6. The names and addresses of persons authorized to accept service of papers in this proceeding are:

Counsel of Record:

Bryan M. Likins (No. 29996-49)
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Procedural Schedule

7. Ind. Code § 8-1-39-10 provides that following notice and hearing, and not more than two hundred ten (210) days after the public utility petitions the Commission under Ind. Code § 8-1-39-10(a), the Commission shall issue an order on the petition. Petitioner would also welcome the opportunity for a technical

conference in this Cause if the Commission would find such a discussion to be helpful. Petitioner is filing its case-in-chief contemporaneous with its Petition and in accordance with 170 IAC 1-1.1-15(e), for purposes of this proceeding, NIPSCO, the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor, and NIPSCO Industrial Group propose a 210 day procedural schedule, as follows:

NIPSCO files Petition and Case-In-Chief	June 1, 2021
OUC / Intervenors Filing	August 30, 2021
Cross-Answering and NIPSCO Rebuttal	September 15, 2021
Evidentiary Hearing	September 29, 2021 (or another date available on the Commission's calendar) (to allow 10 business days between rebuttal and hearing date)
Order	No later than December 28, 2021

Discovery is available for all parties and shall be conducted on an informal basis. Any response or objection to a discovery request shall be made within seven calendar days of the receipt of such request. After the OUC / Intervenors' Filing date, any response or objection to a discovery request shall be made within five calendar days of the receipt of such request. Discovery requests received after 5:00 p.m. EST on Monday through Thursday or after 12:00 p.m. EST on Fridays or the day before a Holiday shall be deemed received the next business day. All discovery requests and responses shall be served on all parties of record. The parties have agreed to electronic service.

Potential Customer Bill Impact

While the ultimate impact of the 2021-2026 Electric Plan on the average residential customer's bill will be dependent on a number of different factors, NIPSCO currently estimates TDSIC costs in the first adjustment proceeding after approval would result in a charge of approximately \$2.65 to an average residential customer using 700 kWh per month. This is slightly higher than the \$2.08 in TDSIC costs proposed in NIPSCO's pending TDSIC-8 adjustment proceeding and the \$2.61 in TDSIC costs under NIPSCO's currently-effective TDSIC-7 tracker.

WHEREFORE, Northern Indiana Public Service Company LLC respectfully requests that the Commission promptly publish notice, make such other investigation and hold such hearings as are necessary or advisable, and thereafter make and enter appropriate orders in this Cause:

(a) Finding that the capital investments contained in the 2021-2026 Electric Plan are "eligible transmission, distribution, and storage system improvements" within the meaning of Ind. Code § 8-1-39-2;

(b) Finding the best estimate of the cost of the eligible improvements included in the 2021-2026 Electric Plan;

(c) Determining that the public convenience and necessity require or will require the eligible improvements included in the 2021-2026

Electric Plan;

(d) Determining that the estimated costs of the eligible improvements included in the 2021-2026 Electric Plan are justified by incremental benefits attributable to the Plan;

(e) Approving the 2021-2026 Electric Plan as reasonable and designating the eligible transmission, distribution, and storage system improvements included in the 2021-2026 Electric Plan as eligible for TDSIC treatment;

(f) Granting to Petitioner authority to defer costs associated with the 2021-2026 Electric Plan that are incurred prior to and subsequent to the issuance of an Order in this proceeding until such amounts are recovered through rates;

(g) Approving inclusion of the 2021-2026 Electric Plan projects in its rate base in any proceeding involving Petitioner's rates pursuant to Ind. Code § 8-1-2-23;

(h) Approving Petitioner's proposed process for updating the 2021-2026 Electric Plan in future TDSIC annual adjustment proceedings;

(i) Authorizing Petitioner to recover operation and maintenance

expenses as TDSIC costs pursuant to Ind. Code § 8-1-39-7 under its approved Rider 888 – Adjustment of Charges for Transmission, Distribution and Storage System Improvement Charges; and

(j) Granting to Petitioner such additional and further relief as may be deemed necessary or appropriate.

Dated this 1st day of June, 2021.

Northern Indiana Public Service Company LLC



Erin E. Whitehead
Vice President
Regulatory Policy and Major Accounts

Verification

I affirm under penalties for perjury that the foregoing representations are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Dated: June 1, 2021.



Erin E. Whitehead
Vice President
Regulatory Policy and Major Accounts

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Attorney for Petitioner
Northern Indiana Public Service Company LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing was served by email transmission upon the following:

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A courtesy copy has also been provided by email transmission upon the following:

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Dated this 1st day of June, 2021.



Bryan M. Likins