STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

PETITION OF NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY FOR (1) AUTHORITY TO MODIFY ITS RATES AND CHARGES FOR GAS UTILITY SERVICE THROUGH A PHASE IN OF RATES; (2) MODIFICATION OF THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS APPROVED IN CAUSE NO. 43894; (3) APPROVAL OF NEW SCHEDULES OF RATES AND CHARGES, GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND RIDERS; (4) APPROVAL OF REVISED DEPRECIATION RATES APPLICABLE TO ITS GAS PLANT IN SERVICE; (5) APPROVAL OF NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE ACCOUNTING RELIEF; AND (6) AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT TEMPORARY RATES CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF IND. CODE CH. 8-1-2-42.7.

CAUSE NO. 44988

VERIFIED PETITION FOR GENERAL RATE INCREASE AND ASSOCIATED RELIEF UNDER INDIANA CODE §§ 8-1-2-61 AND 8-1-2-42.7, NOTICE OF PROVISION OF INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSION’S MINIMUM STANDARD FILING REQUIREMENTS AND REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE

Northern Indiana Public Service Company (“NIPSCO” or “Petitioner”) respectfully requests that the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) issue an order (1) authorizing NIPSCO to increase its retail rates and charges for gas utility service through the phase-in of rates; (2) modifying the settlement agreements approved in Cause No. 43894; (3) approving new
schedules of rates and charges, general rules and regulations, and riders; (4) approving revised depreciation rates applicable to its gas plant in service; (5) approving accounting relief; (6) authorizing NIPSCO to implement temporary rates; and (6) other requests as described herein. This filing is made pursuant to Ind. Code §§ 8-1-2-61 and 8-1-2-42.7 (“Section 42.7”).

In accordance with the Commission’s General Administrative Order 2013-5 (Rate Case Standard Procedural Schedule and Recommended Best Practices for Rate Cases Submitted under Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42.7) (“GAO 2013-5”), NIPSCO hereby provides its Notice of Intent to File Information required under the Minimum Standard Filing Requirements (“MSFRs”), 170 IAC 1-5-1 et seq., as applicable, to provide support for this Petition and to reduce or avoid disputes. NIPSCO also requests administrative notice to be taken of certain Commission orders that are pertinent to this proceeding, as identified herein. In accordance with 170 IAC 1-1.1-8 and 1-1.1-9 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, NIPSCO submits the following information in support of this Petition.

Petitioner’s Corporate Status

1. NIPSCO is a public utility corporation organized and 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 gas (and electric) 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 production, storage, transmission, distribution and furnishing of such service to the public. NIPSCO 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. NIPSCO is a “public utility” within the meaning of Ind. Code § 8-1-2-1 and is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission in the manner and to the extent provided by the Public Service Commission Act, as amended, and other pertinent laws of the State of Indiana. NIPSCO is also a gas utility as defined in Ind. Code § 8-1-2-87(a)(4). NIPSCO is also a “utility” within the meaning of Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42.7(c).

**Petitioner’s Operations**

3. NIPSCO is authorized by the Commission to provide natural gas utility service to the public in all or part of Adams, Allen, Benton, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, DeKalb, Elkhart, Fulton, Howard, Huntington, Jasper, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Lake, LaPorte, Marshall, Miami, Newton, Noble, Porter, Pulaski, St. Joseph, Starke, Steuben, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Wabash, Warren, Wells, White and
Whitley Counties in northern Indiana. NIPSCO renders such gas utility service by means of utility plant, property, equipment and related facilities owned, operated, managed and controlled by it (collectively referred to as the “Utility Property”), which are used and useful for the convenience of the public in the production, storage, transmission, distribution and furnishing of gas. NIPSCO provides gas utility service to more than 819,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers.

4. During the 12 months ended December 31, 2016, NIPSCO delivered more than 339 Million Dekatherms (“Dth”) of natural gas to more than 819,000 residential, commercial, industrial, wholesale and other customers in accordance with its tariffs, rules and regulations. More than 70% of that throughput was provided to NIPSCO’s industrial customers, making its proportion of industrial load among the highest in the industry.

**Petitioner’s Existing Rates and Rate Structure**

5. The Commission’s November 4, 2010 Order in Cause No. 43894 approved a Stipulation and Settlement Agreement between NIPSCO, the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (“OUCC”), the NIPSCO Industrial Group,¹

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¹ In Cause No. 43894, NIPSCO Industrial Group consisted of Arcelor Mittal USA, Beta Steel Corporation, Praxair, Inc. and United States Steel Corporation.
NIPSCO Marketer Group (“Marketer Group”), and Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Inc. (“CAC”) (the “2010 Rate Case Settlement”) establishing NIPSCO’s current basic rates and charges and depreciation rates (“2010 Rate Case Order”).

6. The Commission’s May 31, 2011 Order in Consolidated Cause Nos. 43941, 43942 and 43943 approved a Stipulation and Settlement Agreement between NIPSCO, the OUCC and the Marketer Group whereby the former Kokomo Gas & Fuel Company and Northern Indiana Fuel & Light Company Inc. were merged into NIPSCO, and the rates approved in the 2010 Rate Case Order were made applicable to customers across the footprint of the consolidated company (the “Merger Order”). The Merger Order also approved an addition to the authorized net operating income of the consolidated company resulting in a total authorized net operating income of $44,443,966.

7. The Commission’s August 28, 2013 Order in Cause No. 43894 approved a Stipulation and Settlement Agreement between the parties in Cause No. 43894 modifying the 2010 Settlement (the “2013 Extension Agreement”) (the “Extension Order”). The Extension Order approved the parties’ agreement that the 2013 Extension Agreement shall be subject to review no earlier than May 1, 2017, and that NIPSCO’s basic rates and charges should remain in effect through

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22 In Cause No. 43894, the Marketer Group consisted of Border Energy, Vectren Retail, LLC and Nordic Energy Services, LLC.
November 4, 2020, or further order of the Commission.

8. NIPSCO’s petition initiating Cause No. 43894 was filed with the Commission on May 3, 2010. Therefore, in accordance with Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42(a), more than fifteen months have passed since the filing date of NIPSCO’s most recent request for a general increase in its basic rates and charges.

9. NIPSCO’s current gas depreciation rates were based on the depreciation study filed in Cause No. 43894 and approved in the 2010 Rate Case Order. NIPSCO’s current common and electric depreciation rates and last common and electric depreciation study were approved in the Commission’s July 18, 2016 Order in Cause No. 44688.

10. Pursuant to Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42(g), NIPSCO files a quarterly Gas Cost Adjustment (“GCA”) proceeding in Cause No. 43629-GCA-XXX to adjust its rates to account for fluctuation in its gas costs.

11. Pursuant to the Commission’s December 28, 2011 Order in Cause No. 44001, NIPSCO files an annual proceeding in Cause No. 44001-GDSM-XX for recovery of program costs associated with approved demand side management and energy efficiency programs through its Rider 472 – Gas Demand Side 3  The Merger Order and Extension Order both addressed the treatment of depreciation expense and accumulated depreciation.
12. Pursuant to the Commission’s 2010 Rate Case Order, NIPSCO files an annual update to Appendix E – Unaccounted for Gas Percentage for recovery through NIPSCO’s quarterly GCA proceeding in accordance with Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42(g) in Cause No. 43629-GCA-XXX.

13. Pursuant to the Commission’s January 28, 2015 Order in Cause No. 44403-TDSIC-1, NIPSCO files a semi-annual proceeding in Cause No. 44403-TDSIC-XX to recover 80% of approved capital expenditures and TDSIC costs incurred in connection with NIPSCO’s eligible transmission, distribution, and storage system improvements ("TDSIC Projects") through its Rider 488 – Adjustment of Charges for Transmission, Distribution and Storage System Improvement Charge and Appendix F – Transmission, Distribution and Storage System Improvement Charge Adjustment Factor.

14. Pursuant to the Commission’s March 15, 2012 Order in Cause No. 44081, as approved under Ind. Code § 8-1-2.5, NIPSCO offers the following

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5 The Commission approved a modification to and the indefinite extension of NIPSCO’s Alternative Regulatory Plan ("ARP") applicable to natural gas utility service previously approved by the Commission on March 31, 2010 in Cause No. 43837, as modified in the 2010 Rate
programs as part of its approved alternative regulatory plan (referred to herein as its “Gas ARP Programs”):

(a) **Rate 430 – Large Volume Negotiated Sales Service** – a negotiated sales rate for large volume sales customers. This program was originally approved by the Commission in Cause No. 40342.

(b) **Rate 434A – Off-Peak Commercial and Industrial Interruptible Negotiated Service** – a negotiated sales rate for commercial and industrial customers. This program was originally approved by the Commission in Cause No. 40342.

(c) **Rate 440 – Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Service** – a negotiated rate interruptible service provided from NIPSCO’s LNG facilities when available. This program was originally approved by the Commission in Cause No. 40342.

(d) **Rate 445 – Supplier Aggregation Service (SAS)** – supplier aggregation service allowing for the aggregation of customer load by qualifying third-party gas suppliers (“Choice Suppliers”) to Choice Program customers. This program was originally approved by the Commission in Cause No. 40342.

(e) **Rate 451 – Fixed Gas Bill Service** (also known as DependaBill) – a fixed bill program offered to residential, commercial, and small industrial customers receiving service under Rates 411, 415, 421 and 425. This program was originally approved by the Commission in Cause No. 42097.

(f) **Rider 442A – Optional Storage Service Rider** – a negotiated rate for transportation customers for long-term storage using on-system storage assets. This program was originally approved by the Commission in Cause No. 40342.

(g) **Riders 447 and 448 – Gas Parking Service (GPS) Rider and Gas Lending Service (GLS) Rider** – negotiated rates offered to transportation customers for short term storage using on-system storage assets. This program was originally approved by the

Case Order and Merger Order.
Rider 480 – Supplier Choice Delivery Service (SCDS) Rider (the “Choice Program”) – a supplier choice program for NIPSCO residential, commercial and small industrial customers under Rates 411, 415, 421 and 425. This program was originally approved by the Commission in Cause No. 40342.

Rider 481 – Price Protection Service Rider – a fixed price program offered to residential, commercial, and small industrial customers receiving service under Rates 411, 415, 421 and 425. This program was originally approved by the Commission in Cause No. 40342.

Gas Cost Incentive Mechanism (“GCIM”) – a sharing mechanism providing an incentive for NIPSCO to optimize its gas supply purchases so as to produce shared benefits for NIPSCO and its jurisdictional customers subject to the Gas Cost Adjustment (“GCA”). The GCIM was originally approved by the Commission in Cause No. 40342. The sharing mechanism was modified in consolidated Cause Nos. 42800 and 42884 to a uniform 50% / 50% sharing of benefits with GCA customers.6

Capacity Release Incentive – a sharing mechanism providing an incentive for NIPSCO to optimize its release of under-utilized pipeline capacity so as to produce shared benefits for NIPSCO and its jurisdictional customers subject to the GCA. The Capacity Release Incentive was originally approved by the Commission as an amendment to the ARP approved in Cause No. 40342.

The Gas ARP Programs provide for ongoing dialogue and an opportunity for the update of the ARP at the conclusion of the first year after approval, and every twenty-four months thereafter.7 None of the proposed edits to the Gas ARP Programs included in this proceeding are intended to substantively modify the

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6 The Commission approved revisions to the GCIM on June 28, 2017 in 30-Day Filing No. 50061.
7 44081 Order at 20.
programs in any way.

**Petitioner’s Operating Results Under Existing Rates**

15. Since the 2010 Rate Case Order, NIPSCO’s cost of providing service has increased. NIPSCO has and must continue to make significant capital expenditures for additions, replacements and improvements to its Utility Property, in compliance with various applicable state and federal pipeline safety requirements and to maintain safe and reliable service. In addition, changes in NIPSCO’s Utility Property warrant the implementation of revised depreciation rates. Further, NIPSCO has and must continue to incur increasing operations and maintenance expenses in order to maintain safe and reliable service. It is necessary and appropriate to recognize these and other costs of providing retail gas service by establishing new rates and charges.

16. NIPSCO’s existing rates are below the level required to provide revenues adequate to cover its necessary and reasonable operating expenses and permit NIPSCO to earn a fair return upon the fair value of its property to which NIPSCO is lawfully entitled. Consequently, a rate increase is necessary and appropriate to provide NIPSCO an opportunity to recover its operating expenses and earn a fair return on the fair value of its property used and useful in providing service to its customers. The proposed rate increase is also necessary and appropriate to provide revenues which will enable NIPSCO to continue to
attract capital required for additions, replacements and improvements to its Utility Property and to comply with regulatory mandates and otherwise provide adequate and reliable service at a reasonable cost.

17. As of the date of this Verified Petition, NIPSCO estimates that the proposed increase to its total revenues, including revenues from basic rates and charges and the riders as reset upon effectiveness of new base rates, will represent an increase of 22.7% over NIPSCO’s current retail revenues. Rates for individual customers and different customer classes may change by amounts less than or greater than the average increase for all customers.

Statutory Authority for Requested Relief

18. This Petition is filed pursuant to Ind. Code §§ 8-1-2-61 and 8-1-2-42.7. Other provisions of the Public Service Commission Act, as amended, Ind. Code § 8-1-2-1, et seq. that may be applicable to the subject matter of this proceeding include, but are not limited to, Ind. Code §§ 8-1-2-4, 6, 10, 12, 19, 20, 21, 23, 29, 42, 42.7 68 and 71, Ind. Code ch. 8-1-8.4, Ind. Code ch. 8-1-39 and Ind. Code § 5-14-3-4.

19. In accordance with GAO 2013-5, on August 28, 2017, NIPSCO provided its Notice of Intent to File Rate Case to the Commission. A copy thereof was provided to stakeholders who attended a prefiling meeting.
regarding NIPSCO’s filing of this rate case and to counsel for the parties in Cause No. 43894, which included the OUCC, and counsel for CAC, NIPSCO Industrial Group, and the Marketer Group.

**Test Year and Rate Base Cutoff Date**

20. In accordance with Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42.7(d)(1), NIPSCO proposes and requests that a forward looking test year be used in this proceeding on the basis of projected data for the twelve (12) month period ending December 31, 2018. The historic base period utilized by NIPSCO in this proceeding is the twelve (12) month period ending December 31, 2016. In addition, NIPSCO is utilizing its actual capital structure and cost of capital based on NIPSCO’s forecasted test-year-end regulatory capital structure as of December 31, 2018 for purposes of calculating a fair return on the fair value of its property.

**Petitioner’s Requested Relief**

21. NIPSCO seeks approval of changes to its basic rates and charges for gas utility service and associated accounting relief as proposed in its evidence to be presented in this proceeding that will provide NIPSCO with the opportunity to recover its ongoing costs of providing gas utility service and earn a fair return on the fair value of its property. NIPSCO’s proposal is detailed in its case-in-chief filed contemporaneous herewith and includes, but is not limited to, the following:
(a) **Gas Service Tariff and Standard Contract.** NIPSCO seeks approval of changes to its basic rates and charges for gas utility service that will provide NIPSCO with the opportunity to earn a fair return on the fair value of its property. NIPSCO seeks approval of changes to its Gas Service Tariff, including changing from Series 400 Rate Schedules to Series 100 Rate Schedules, as discussed in more detail herein, revising its Standard Contract, instituting a new Automated Meter Reading (“AMR”) Opt-Out Charge, and miscellaneous changes to its General Rules and Regulations and Standard Contract for improved clarity and administrative simplification, as proposed in its evidence to be presented in this proceeding. The overall structure of NIPSCO’s tariffs remains the same, but NIPSCO is seeking a change to the structure of its gas transportation Rates, Rates 128 and 138 (currently Rates 428 and 438).

(b) **Modification of the 2010 Rate Case Agreement and 2013 Extension Agreement.** NIPSCO seeks approval of the modification of the 2010 Rate Case Agreement and 2013 Extension Agreement to the extent necessary to implement the relief requested in this proceeding including without limitation authority to eliminate the depreciation credit mechanism incorporated into those agreements.

(c) **Depreciation Rates.** NIPSCO seeks approval to revise its gas depreciation rates applicable to its gas plant in service as proposed in its evidence to be presented in this proceeding. NIPSCO continues to use the depreciation rates applicable to its common plant as approved by the Commission in NIPSCO’s last electric general rate proceeding in Cause No. 44688.

(d) **Accounting Relief.** As explained in NIPSCO’s case-in-chief, NIPSCO seeks accounting authority to implement the relief sought in this proceeding.

(e) **Gas DSM.** NIPSCO proposes to exclude from its basic rates and charges all costs associated with its gas DSM and energy efficiency program.

(f) **Regulatory Assets.** NIPSCO proposes to recover through its revenue requirement certain costs NIPSCO has deferred in accordance with the Commission’s Orders identified in NIPSCO’s
case-in-chief, including without limitation deferred amounts associated with its 7-Year Gas TDSIC Plan approved in Cause No. 44403.

(g) Prepaid Pension Asset. NIPSCO’s pension plan is currently in a net prepaid pension asset position, which is the net of the related pension obligation and regulatory asset in accordance with governing accounting standards. This prepaid pension asset reduces the pension cost that would otherwise be reflected in the revenue requirement and preserves the integrity of the pension fund. NIPSCO proposes that its rates reflect this asset as part of its capital structure.

(h) Administrative Notice of Orders. NIPSCO requests the Commission to take administrative notice of the orders as set forth herein.

Submission of Case-in-Chief, Workpapers and MSFRs

22. NIPSCO’s case-in-chief, workpapers and information required by GAO 2013-5, the MSFRs and Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42.7, are being filed contemporaneous with this Petition to aid the Commission in processing this Petition. The supporting workpapers for pro-forma adjustments are also being provided in Excel format on electronic media pursuant to the best practices set forth in GAO 2013-5.

Confidential Information

23. In accordance with 170 IAC 1-5-15(e)(2), the electronic copy of the cost of service study is to be treated as confidential and protected from disclosure to the public under Ind. Code §§ 5-14-3-4 and 8-1-2-29. In addition, NIPSCO will be submitting other information as part of its MSFRs and case-in-chief that is
confidential and trade secret information. NIPSCO is filing a motion for protective order in accordance with 170 IAC 1-1.1-4 and to otherwise comply with 170 IAC 1-5-3 contemporaneous with this Petition. NIPSCO has entered into a Standard Form Nondisclosure Agreement with the OUCC and will work with any intervenors to negotiate an acceptable nondisclosure agreement to facilitate the production of the confidential information as appropriate.

**Request for Prehearing Conference and Preliminary Hearing and Technical Conference**

24. In accordance with 170 IAC 1-1.1-15(b) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure and GAO-2013-5, NIPSCO requests that a prehearing conference and preliminary hearing be promptly set by the Commission on or about October 25, 2017 for the purpose of addressing procedural matters including setting a procedural schedule in this proceeding that will allow completion of this proceeding in accordance with GAO 2013-5 and Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42.7. NIPSCO has worked with the OUCC and other stakeholders to develop an agreed procedural schedule, which is being separately filed as directed in GAO-2013-5. In accordance with the standard schedule set forth in GAO-2013-5, NIPSCO is also agreeable to the establishment of a technical conference to address questions related to NIPSCO’s case-in-chief.
Request for Administrative Notice


A copy of these orders is being filed contemporaneous with this Petition.

Petitioner’s Counsel

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

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Customer Notification

27. In accordance with Ind. Code § 8-1-2-61(a), NIPSCO will publish notice of the filing of this Petition in a newspaper of general circulation published in each Indiana county in which NIPSCO renders gas service. In accordance with 170 IAC 4-1-18(C), NIPSCO will furnish to each residential customer (via bill messaging, bill inserts, or similar mailing) within forty-five (45) days of this Petition, a notice which fairly summarizes the nature and extent of the proposed changes.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner Northern Indiana Public Service Company respectfully requests that the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission approve the agreed procedural schedule being filed contemporaneous with this Verified Petition or otherwise promptly conduct a prehearing conference and preliminary hearing for purposes of establishing the procedural parameters of this
proceeding, make such other investigation and hold such hearings as are necessary or advisable and thereafter, make and enter an order in this Cause by July 24, 2018:

(a) Finding that NIPSCO’s existing rates and charges for gas utility service should be increased; determining, and by order fixing, modified rates and charges to be observed in the future by NIPSCO; and authorizing and approving the filing by NIPSCO of new schedules of rates and charges applicable to its gas utility service on a phased-in basis that will provide just, reasonable, sufficient and non-confiscatory rates;

(b) Modifying the 2010 Rate Case Agreement and 2013 Extension Agreement as proposed in NIPSCO’s evidence herein;

(c) Approving various changes in the terms, conditions and provisions of NIPSCO’s Gas Service Tariff (including rates, charges, rules and riders), Rate Release Form, and Standard Contract as proposed in NIPSCO’s evidence herein;

(d) Authorizing NIPSCO to revise its depreciation rates as proposed in NIPSCO’s evidence herein;

(e) Granting accounting authority necessary to implement the relief authorized in a Final Order in this Cause;

(f) Approving the other requests set forth in this Petition and in NIPSCO’s evidence herein; and

(g) Granting to NIPSCO such additional and further relief as may be deemed necessary or appropriate.
Dated this 27th day of September, 2017.

Northern Indiana Public Service Company

[Signature]

Timothy R. Caister
Vice President, Regulatory Policy
Verification

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

Dated: September 27, 2017.

Timothy R. Caister
Vice President, Regulatory Policy

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

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Dated this 27th day of September, 2017.

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