



NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY STANDARDS BOARD  
1301 Fannin, Suite 2350  
Houston, Texas 77002  
713-356-0060/Fax 713-356-0067

Contact: S. Lawrence Paulson  
Cheryl W. Hoffman  
(301) 779-6863  
Fax (301) 779-9263

For Immediate Release  
Monday, March 7, 2005

**Mark Maassel, President of Northern Indiana Public Service Co.,  
Installed as Chairman of North American Energy Standards Board**

HOUSTON—Mark Maassel, president of Northern Indiana Public Service Co. (NIPSCO), was installed as chairman of the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB).

He succeeds Michael Desselle, director of public policy for American Electric Power.

Maassel was named president of NIPSCO in 2003. Prior to that he was vice president of regulatory and government policy for NiSource Inc., NIPSCO's parent company. He had served in various leadership roles in his more than two decades with the corporation.

He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Minnesota and a juris doctorate degree with honors from Chicago-Kent College of Law at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

“Michael Desselle provided tremendous leadership for NAESB,” Maassel said. Among Desselle’s accomplishments, Maassel pointed to his development of “excellent working relationships” between NAESB and the North American Electric Reliability Council and the ISO/RTO Council, the approval by NAESB of the first set of wholesale electric standards, and the beginning of a process to develop a standard energy day for the natural gas and electric industries.

“He set the bar very high, doing a great deal to advance NAESB as an organization,” Maassel said. “I intend to follow his lead by continuing to strengthen NAESB’s role as a standards organization that serves the entire energy industry.”

NAESB, formed in January 2002, is an independent and voluntary North American organization that develops and promotes the use of business practices and electronic communications standards for the wholesale and retail natural gas and electricity industries. NAESB is the successor to and is modeled after the Gas Industry Standards Board, which was established in 1994 and now constitutes the Wholesale Gas Quadrant of NAESB. NAESB’s members include over 300 companies and organizations that participate actively in the retail and wholesale natural gas and electricity markets.

# # #