



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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**NiSource Energy Technologies announces installation  
of distributed generation technology at Stripco Inc.**

**MISHAWAKA, Ind.** -- NiSource Energy Technologies, a wholly owned subsidiary of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI), and Stripco Inc. today announced the installation and commissioning of a combined heat and power (CHP) system at Stripco Inc., a steel processing center, in Mishawaka, Ind.

The installation is a result of a collaborative effort between NiSource Energy Technologies and Stripco Inc. Other participants in the project include the Indiana Department of Commerce, American Electric Power (AEP), and Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), also a NiSource subsidiary.

CHP systems, also referred to as cogeneration, provide increased energy efficiency and environmental benefits over traditional electric production and provide customers with energy choice and flexibility. CHP systems also help reduce congestion on the electric grid by alleviating load, which improves the reliability of the electricity transmission and distribution system for other customers. The systems generate heat and electricity simultaneously at the site and increase energy efficiency by utilizing the by-product heat created in the production of electricity for productive purposes such as plant heating and cooling, domestic hot water heating, water chilling (using an absorption chiller) or industrial processes.

“Stripco is a great example of how this technology can work in an industrial application. We customized the system to fit our customer’s needs while providing the customer with a back-up supply for its electricity needs,” said Mark Wyckoff, president of NiSource

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Energy Technologies. “Customers are now exercising the choices and flexibility they have when it comes to energy decisions.”

The system uses one 60 kW microturbine and a heat exchanger to generate electricity for use throughout the building. The site maximizes the use of recovered heat energy from the microturbine by replacing a large portion of the current electrical heating requirements needed to maintain the temperature of the process oils used during production, providing space heat in the plant, warming the used oil recovery system, and supplying hot water for a clean and safe work environment. In the event of an extended electrical grid power failure, the microturbine will provide power to the administration building and critical stations in the mill.

This project, installed in 2002, was the first industrial application in the state of Indiana that demonstrates the benefits of distributed generation using this new microturbine technology. As a result, Stripco Inc. calculates savings of approximately 10 percent in electrical costs and a decrease of 3-1/2 percent in prorated annual energy costs adjusting for increased loads added to the system.

By adopting this innovative technology, Stripco Inc. believes it has increased safety conditions and is producing a higher quality finished product. CHP systems also help the environment through reduced emissions of climate changing pollutants.

“It just made sense for us to do it,” said Jack Hiler, president of Stripco. “We needed an economical solution to our energy issues, and NiSource Energy Technologies was able to provide it for us.”

Hiler added: “Our management philosophy is centered around customer service, pollution control and maintaining regulatory compliance. This system was a right fit for us to continue down that path.”

### **About NiSource Energy Technologies**

NiSource Energy Technologies, a subsidiary of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI), markets and sells distributed power generation to commercial and small industrial customers. These small on-site generating systems enhance power quality, improve reliability and operate with or without the local electric utility grid. The company is focused on targeting early adopters of distributed generation technology.

### **About Stripco**

Stripco Inc. is a manufacturer of production-ready steel coils and strips. The Mishawaka, Ind. company produces hot rolled, hot rolled pickled and oiled, precision cold rolled, and galvanized steel products in thicknesses of .018 to .312 and widths from .375 to 26.000.

Founded in 1984, Stripco offers unsurpassed quality steel products and service that is both knowledgeable and personalized.

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