



## Technical Assistance Plan (TAP)

### Technical Assistance Plan Finalized

A Technical Assistance Plan (TAP) has been finalized for the Pines Area of Investigation. The TAP provides funding for a local community group to select a technical advisor to review and explain technical reports.

#### Introduction

Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) and Brown Inc. (Brown) are announcing that the Technical Assistance Plan (TAP) for the Pines Area of Investigation has been finalized. The TAP provides for funding of up to \$50,000 to a local community group to select a technical advisor to review and explain technical reports and decisions for the Pines Area of Investigation.

This *Pines Update* has been prepared to announce the TAP, and to provide community members with more detailed information about the TAP and how you can be involved.

#### **What is the Technical Assistance Plan (TAP)?**

The TAP for the Pines Area of Investigation is a funding program that provides up to \$50,000 for the community to have a technical advisor as a resource. The TAP is funded by NIPSCO and Brown, and is modeled on a similar Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program administered by USEPA.

#### **What's the benefit of the TAP?**

The benefit of the TAP is that a local community can have a technical

adviser as a resource to help them understand the technical aspects of the investigation work being done in the Pines Area of Investigation.

#### **What process was followed to grant the TAP?**

USEPA published the availability of the TAP program and funds and requested applications from local community groups starting in Spring 2004. USEPA advertised the TAP on their website and in the local newspaper, and announced the TAP in public meetings held in the Town of Pines in January and April of 2004. In these announcements, USEPA requested that all applications be submitted by June 9, 2004. From the applications received, USEPA selected the P.I.N.E.S. group.

#### **What will the P.I.N.E.S. group do with the TAP?**

The P.I.N.E.S. group will select a technical advisor with the funds made available through the TAP. The adviser may be asked to:

- 1) Review documents;
- 2) Explain information to community members; and
- 3) Attend meetings.

#### **How are the TAP activities related to the other activities the P.I.N.E.S. group is involved in?**

The TAP program funding and activities are to be maintained by the P.I.N.E.S. group as separate and independent from any other activities they are engaged in. By accepting these funds, the P.I.N.E.S. group is acknowledging this difference and is making the commitment to serve as a representative of the community as a whole.

#### **How can other community members participate?**

Community members should contact this group if they have questions about the TAP, or to inquire about circulation of information or community meetings.

#### **Who should be contacted if I want to participate in this process?**

The contact for the P.I.N.E.S. group is as follows:

Ms. Cathi Murray  
P.I.N.E.S.  
PO Box 216  
Beverly Shores, IN 46301-0216

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### **Our Commitment....**

NIPSCO and Brown are committed to keeping you informed on the progress of the municipal water service extension and the investigation of the Pines Area of Investigation. Look for future *Pines Updates* to update you to our progress. We have also created a website to provide continual updates on the project:

**[www.pinesupdate.com](http://www.pinesupdate.com)**

Please contact the Communications Coordinator at the address listed below to be placed on the mailing list.

**Communications Coordinator  
Brown Inc.  
720 W. US Hwy 20  
Michigan City, IN 46360**

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