

APPENDIX C
LEGAL NOTICE

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U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

NiSource Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) / Incidental Take Permit (ITP) Permitting Process

Pursuant to the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) of 1969, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is advising the public of its intention to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposed application from NiSource Inc. for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) issued under Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the *Endangered Species Act* of 1973, as amended (the Act). In accordance with this Act, a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is being developed by NiSource as it seeks an ITP for the operation and maintenance of its network of pipelines in 17 northeastern, midwest, and southeastern states. In the EIS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will evaluate the possible environmental impacts of implementing NiSource's HCP and the potential effects of granting an ITP under the *Endangered Species Act*.

A series of NEPA EIS open houses/scoping meetings will be held throughout November 2007 in the following cities: Lafayette, LA; Jackson, MS; Nashville, TN; Lexington, KY; Philadelphia, PA; Pittsburgh, PA; Columbus, OH; Cleveland, OH; Charleston, WV; Richmond, VA; Washington, DC; Binghamton, NY; and Portsmouth, NH. Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to provide comments during the EIS process. Comments and/or statements of concern can be submitted in writing before December 8, 2007, by:

U.S. Mail: Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Division of Ecological Services
 1 Federal Drive
 Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4056
Fax: 612-713-5292
Website: http://infoman.amec.com/SIMS_PublicComment

For further information on the Project or the open houses, please go to:
www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/permits/hcp/hcp_nisource.html or contact:

Mr. Tom Magnuson at 612-713-5467 or tom_magnuson@fws.gov, or
Mr. Forest Clark at 812-334-4261 ext. 206 or forest_clark@fws.gov