



## **Assurance Statement**

CH2M HILL evaluated NiSource Inc.'s 2010 Sustainability Report and the basis for its self-declaration of Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Application Level B+, relative to the GRI reporting framework as detailed in the GRI G3 Guidelines. In addition, CH2M HILL recommended specific improvements for future reporting efforts.

## **Completeness**

NiSource reported on all Management Approaches and all Profile Indicators regarding Strategy and Analysis; Organizational Profile; Report Parameters; and Governance, Commitment and Engagement. NiSource also reported on the Performance Indicators of the greatest materiality to the organization within each category of performance indicator. The level of compliance (partial or full) with GRI G3 Guidelines is provided for each performance indicator. Performance is reported for well over 20 indicators, and including at least one indicator in each category. Performance is reported primarily in the body of the Sustainability Report, with some references to the 2010 Form 10K and the NiSource website for additional data and information.

## **Assurance Approach**

CH2M HILL's assurance activities included meetings on two occasions, including one on-site, early in the report development process with senior NiSource staff responsible for report preparation; benchmarking review of sustainability reporting efforts of five peer companies; and multiple readings of the NiSource draft Sustainability Report. We used the test checklists provided in the GRI G3 Guidelines as well as the GRI Indicator Protocols to analyze the report quality and content according to the GRI Principles. We held conference calls with the report preparers to discuss data collection, reporting methodologies and boundaries, and strategies for balanced and appropriate disclosure of economic, environmental, and social performance.

After we reviewed the initial draft of the report, we identified improvements for a number of Profile and Performance Indicators to provide greater transparency and better consistency with GRI G3 Guidelines. NiSource addressed these comments in the final version of the report.

## **Recommendations for Improvement**

CH2M HILL has identified several areas for improvement, including greater clarity in the presentation of some information; strategies to address secondary indicators; and better integration of sustainable performance with long-term organizational strategy, risks, and opportunities. We have prepared a memorandum for NiSource detailing our recommendations.

## Key Findings

Based on the scope and limitations of our review:

- Based on the information provided by NiSource in both writing and interviews during the assessment, nothing has come to our attention which causes us to believe that the information reported by NiSource in the 2010 Sustainability Report has been materially misstated.
- We found that the NiSource 2010 Sustainability Report provides a reliable representation of NiSource's economic, environmental and social performance and that it meets the intent of the GRI reporting framework with respect to boundary, balance, materiality, and quality. Nothing has come to our attention to cause us to believe that the NiSource self-declared application level of B+, in relation to its reporting against the GRI G3 Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, is materially misstated.

This independent statement should not be relied upon to detect all errors, omissions or misstatements that may exist.

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CH2M HILL

May 25, 2011