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# NEWS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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## Kokomo Gas Employees Ratify New Labor Agreement

**KOKOMO, Ind.** - Kokomo Gas announced today that bargaining employees have ratified a new three-year labor agreement.

The agreement between the United Steelworkers Local 2958-20, representing the utility's hourly employees at Kokomo Gas was reached prior to the February 16 expiration date of the existing five-year contract.

"Both parties stayed focused and fully engaged in the negotiating process, which allowed us to reach an agreement in a relatively short timeframe and prior to expiration of the existing contract," said Tim Dehring, Senior Vice President of Energy Delivery. "This agreement provides our employees with a solid wage and benefit package that is in line with the current economic climate."

"The dedication to detail by both parties allowed us to complete this agreement, in a win-win manner for both parties. The Company achieved additional flexibility in work rules, and the Union was able to maintain protection for its members in regard to contracting out work, along with being able to retain the benefits they had been receiving," said Keith Olmstead, Staff Representative USW District 7, Sub District 3. "The package as a whole was well received by our members employed at Kokomo Gas."

The agreement allows for wage increases of 2.5 percent in the first two years and three percent in the final year.

The United Steelworkers is the largest Industrial Union in North America, representing over 1.2 million active and retired members in many varying industries such as Steel, Paper, Oil and Chemical, Rubber, Glass, Aluminum, Energy and Service Industries. Local Union 2958 in Kokomo, Ind. represents members at locations in Kokomo, Peru, and Elwood, Ind. with over 1,500 active and retired members. Additional information is available at [www.usw.org](http://www.usw.org)

Kokomo Gas & Fuel, with headquarters in Kokomo, Ind., serves 36,000 natural gas customers in a six-county area and is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource, Inc. (NYSE: NI). NiSource distribution companies serve 3.8 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in seven states. More information about Kokomo Gas & Fuel is available at [www.kokomogas.com](http://www.kokomogas.com).

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