

NEWS RELEASE

Columbia Gas of Ohio Contact: Ken Stammen, (614) 460-6231
Nationwide Contact: Eric Hardgrove, (614) 677-8516

COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO PLANS MOVE TO ARENA DISTRICT *Relocated office facility will retain more than 650 jobs downtown*

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 31, 2011 — Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc., a subsidiary of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI), has entered into a contingent lease agreement with Nationwide Realty Investors (NRI) to relocate its headquarters from its current location at 200 Civic Center Drive to Nationwide Boulevard in the Arena District. NRI President and COO Brian J. Ellis and Columbia Gas President Jack Partridge made the announcement.

“Downtown Columbus has been a great place to do business for Columbia, and we’re excited to make the Arena District our new home,” said Partridge. “Our teams have put a great deal of work into getting to this point, and we’re looking forward to starting construction.”

“We have worked closely with Columbia Gas and the City of Columbus to develop a creative plan that will not only keep the company downtown, but retain more than 650 jobs in the city,” said Ellis. “This is a great thing for the City of Columbus, Columbia Gas and the Arena District.”

The development plan calls for an investment of more than \$50 million by NRI for the construction of two Class A office buildings at 240 and 290 Nationwide Blvd. and is contingent upon NRI successfully obtaining tax incentives. The tax incentive application is pending before Columbus City Council. The two buildings would be connected on the top floors. Columbia Gas would serve as the project’s anchor tenant, occupying approximately 208,000 square feet of the 280,000 square feet of new office space. A new parking garage is also included in the plan.

The Arena District building will provide Columbia Gas with flexible spaces and room for employee growth as opportunities arise to unify employees under one roof and add workers as the company grows its business. Columbia Gas is expected to take possession of the new building in late 2014, after its lease on the Civic Center Drive building expires.

About Columbia Gas of Ohio

Columbia Gas of Ohio, with headquarters in Columbus, is one of the nine energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With approximately 1.4 million customers in 61 of Ohio’s 88 counties, it is the largest natural gas utility in the state. NiSource distribution companies serve approximately 3.8 million gas and electric customers primarily in seven states. More information about Columbia Gas of Ohio is available at www.columbiagasohio.com.

About NRI

NRI is the real estate development affiliate of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. Directly and through joint ventures, NRI owns more than \$1 billion in real estate investments. For more information on the NRI, visit www.nationwiderealtyinvestors.com.

About the Arena District

The Arena District is an \$800 million, 75-acre mixed-use development located in downtown Columbus owned by Nationwide Realty Investors and Capitol Square, Ltd., an affiliate of The Dispatch Printing Company. The Arena District includes more than 1.5 million square feet of office, restaurants, entertainment, and residential uses. www.arenadistrict.com.

Forward-Looking Statements:

Some of the statements provided herein include forward-looking information. Readers should understand that many factors govern whether any forward-looking statement contained herein will be or can be realized including, but not limited to dealings with third parties over whom Columbia has no control, the impact of potential new environmental laws or regulations, changes in general economic, capital and commodity market conditions, and counter-party credit risk, and the matters set forth in the "Risk Factors" section of NiSource Inc.'s 2010 Form 10-K. Such factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. All such forward-looking statements are expressly qualified by these cautionary statements. All forward-looking statements are based on assumptions that management believes to be reasonable; however, there can be no assurance that actual results will not differ materially. NiSource Inc. and Columbia expressly disclaim a duty to update any of the forward-looking statements contained in this release.