

A service of **Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op**

March 2014

Michigan

COUNTRY LINES

Going to the Edge For Perfect Shots



YOU MAY HAVE
UNCLAIMED MONEY!
SEE CAPITAL CREDIT
CENTER INSERT

4 Tree Clearing Means
Better Service for You

12 Wolverine Ends
Generation Projects

13 College Scholarships For
High School Seniors

1 YEAR.

THOUSANDS

of happy

geothermal

owners.

MILLIONS

of dollars saved.



Real WaterFurnace Owners



Over the last year we've saved thousands of happy homeowners millions of dollars on heating, cooling and hot water using the clean, renewable energy in their backyard! During SEVENbration, we're offering instant savings of \$2100 on the most efficient unit on the planet. With the additional 30% federal tax credit, there's never been a better time to upgrade to WaterFurnace. But hurry, this rebate ends April 30th, so contact your local dealer today—and join the SEVENbration!

Your Local WaterFurnace Dealers

Bad Axe
B & D Htg
(989) 269-5280

Berrien Springs
WaterFurnace
Michiana
(269) 473-5667

Big Rapids
Stratz Htg & Clg
(231) 796-3717

Caro
AllTemp Comfort, Inc.
(866) 844-HEAT
(4328)

Carsonville
Certified Temperature
Innovations
(810) 300-7748

Clifford
Orton Refrig & Htg
(989) 761-7691

DeWitt
S & J Htg & Clg
(517) 669-3705

Grand Rapids
Total Comfort
Resource, LLC
(616) 406-3182

Hart/Ludington
Adams Htg & Clg
(231) 873-2665

Indian River
M & M Plmb & Htg
(231) 238-7201

Ionia
Home Experts
(800) 457-4554

Jackson
Comfort 1 Htg/
Lenawee Htg
(517) 764-1500

Kalkaska
Kalkaska Plmb & Htg
(231) 258-3588

Lapeer
Porter & Heckman
(800) 445-4328

Mount Pleasant
Walton's Htg & Clg
(989) 772-4822

Muskegon
Adams Htg & Clg
(231) 873-2665

Muskegon
Kiessel Geothermal
Htg & Clg
(231) 747-7509

Onaway
Standard Htg
(989) 733-8309

Palms
Lakeshore
Improvements
(989) 864-3833

Portland
ESI Htg & Clg
(517) 647-6906

Traverse City
Geofurnace Htg
& Clg
(231) 943-1000

Traverse City
D&W Mechanical
(231) 941-1215

UPPER PENINSULA
Manistique
Hoholik Enterprises
(906) 341-5065

Marquette
J Goods Plmb
& Htg
(906) 235-5788

Marquette
Swick Plmb & Htg
(906) 228-3400

**Sault Ste Marie/
Kinross**
Great Lakes
Services Inc.
(906) 632-5543



instant REBATE **\$2,100**

Learn more at waterfurnace.com/SEVENbration

IT'S A
SEVEN
bration

March 2014
Vol. 34, No. 3

Executive Editor
Casey Clark

Editor
Gail Knudtson

Publisher
Michigan Electric
Cooperative
Association

Michigan

COUNTRY LINES

IN THIS ISSUE

Michigan Country Lines, USPS-591-710, is published monthly, except August and December, with periodicals postage paid at Okemos, MI, and additional offices. It is the official publication of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864.

Subscriptions are authorized for members of Alger Delta, Cherryland, Cloverland, Great Lakes, HomeWorks Tri-County, Midwest Energy, Ontonagon, Presque Isle, and Thumb electric cooperatives by their boards of directors. Subscriptions for nonmembers are \$6 per year.

POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

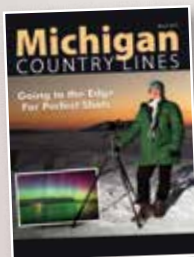
Letters to the editor should be sent to Country Lines, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. Phone 517-913-3531. Email: gknudtson@meca.coop.

Association officers are Ken Swope, Midwest Energy, chairman; Robert Schallip, Cloverland, 1st vice chairman; Jon Zickert, Cherryland, 2nd vice chairman; Eric Baker, Wolverine Power, secretary-treasurer; and Tony Anderson, Cherryland, past chairman. Craig Borr is president and CEO.

Unsolicited letters, photos and manuscripts are welcome. Country Lines, however, will not be responsible for their safe keeping or return.

The appearance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.

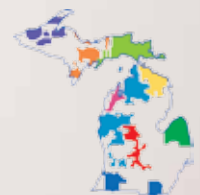
Change of Address: Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.



ON THE COVER

Photographer Shawn Malone, who recently opened a studio and gallery in Marquette, literally goes to the edge of cliffs and makes nighttime forays into the wilderness to capture the glory of the Upper Peninsula's land, water and sky.

Photo Courtesy – Shawn Malone/lakesuperiorphoto.com



Michigan's Electric
Cooperatives
countrylines.com

6

HOME COOKING Shakes & Smoothies

Christin McKamey
& Our Readers



7

OUR ENERGY Maintaining Affordable, Reliable Electricity—You Can Take Action to Help



10

FEATURE Going to the Edge for Perfect Shots

Kath Usitalo



13

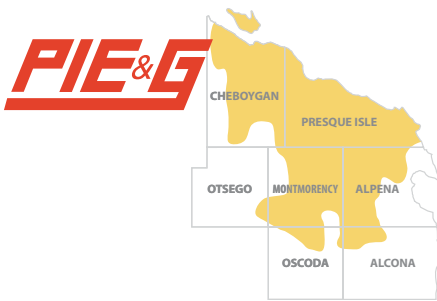
SAFETY Stay Clear of Downed Power Lines



14

READERS' PAGE Help With Affordable Health Care Law • Mystery Photo • Energy Tip





PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC & GAS CO-OP

**19831 M-68 Hwy., P.O. Box 308
Onaway, 49765**

Business Office & Billing: **989-733-8515**

Toll-free: **800-423-6634**

Gas emergency toll-free: **800-655-8565**

pieg.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John F. Brown, Chairman
231-625-2099
21 W. Devereaux Lake Rd.
Indian River, MI 49749

Allen Barr, Vice-Chairman
231-625-2128
2591 Grant Siding Road
Cheboygan, MI 49721

David W. Smith, Secretary
989-785-5345
P.O. Box 180
Atlanta, MI 49709

Daryl Peterson, Treasurer
989-742-3145
P.O. Box 54
Hillman, MI 49746

Allan Berg – 989-734-0044
1117 E. Heythaler Hwy.
Rogers City, MI 49779

Sally Knopf – 989-734-4196
1849 W. 638 Hwy.
Rogers City, MI 49779

Kurt Krajniak – 989-379-3037
7630 Wallace Rd.
Alpena, MI 49707

Robert Wegmeyer – 989-379-2311
16181 Beaver Lake Park Rd.
Lachine, MI 49753

Raymond Wozniak – 989-766-2498
6737 State St.
Posen, MI 49776

PRESIDENT & CEO
Brian J. Burns
bburns@pieg.com

Most PIE&G natural gas rates and charges are not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission.



YOUR CO-OP

Tree Clearing Means Better Service for You

To protect our lines and keep power flowing safely and reliably to your home, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op takes a proactive approach to maintaining its rights-of-way.

Right-of-way (ROW) and easement maintenance helps to keep tree limbs and other obstacles away from high-voltage power lines. It's an important part of the service PIE&G provides for three important reasons: safety, reliability, and cost.

The safety of our workers and members is our primary concern. Properly maintained ROW keeps our crews safe when they are restoring service and working to maintain our system. Keeping trees clear of power lines also keeps your family safe. From making sure a tree doesn't hit power lines to creating a safe environment while doing yard work, a well-maintained ROW helps avoid tragedy.

Power lines are a constant part of our landscape, but it's easy to forget they are around. We work hard to keep the area around our lines clear, but we need your help. Be alert this spring. Don't plant trees or tall vegetation under power lines, and keep an eye out for power lines when

working in your yard.

If severe spring weather blows through, a well-maintained ROW leads to fewer outages and faster response time. Trees that are kept in check by trimming are less of a threat. When trees do fall, crews are able to

restore service more quickly than they could with poorly maintained ROW areas due to overgrown trees.

Your electric co-op works diligently to keep costs affordable for you, and ROW maintenance is an important part of controlling costs, which ultimately affects rates.

Fewer and shorter outages save money for everyone in the long

run, but there is an expense to maintaining our ROW. Your co-op typically spends about \$1 million each year on vegetation management. In recent years, there have been increasing numbers of dead and dying trees in our service area due to oak wilt, beech bark disease, and the emerald ash borer. As a result, PIE&G increased its 2014 ROW maintenance budget to \$1.1 million.

Safety, reliability, and cost – these are all equally good reasons why ROW maintenance is a shared priority – not just for us, but your safety, comfort, and pocketbook.



Brian J. Burns
President & CEO

Your Board in Action

At their December 2013 and January 2014 regular meetings, the PIE&G Board of Directors:

- Recognized and thanked retiring employees Gail Pardike (28 years), Mike Preseau (40 years), and Dale Quade (40 years) for their dedication, loyalty and years-of-service.

- Listened to Eric Baker, president/CEO of Wolverine Power Cooperative, give an update on current power supply issues.

- Authorized quarterly write-offs for bad debt in the amount of \$19,998.50.

- Approved 205 new memberships from November and December 2013.

- Reviewed financing cost reduction goals, risk tolerance, rate conversion trigger points and cost recovery period guidelines per Board Policy #201 – Debt Portfolio Management.

- Authorized management to borrow up to \$2 million of long-term debt in the year 2014.

- Accepted executive team reports from CFO Soback, CEO Burns, and managers Szymoniak and Kieliszewski.

Why Your Co-op Clears Vegetation

What We Do and Why

PIE&G strives to obtain and maintain a ground-to-sky line clearance of 15 -20 feet, free from all obstructions, on each side of the power line. Where our facilities cross private property, an easement gives us the right to use that property to maintain our right-of-way. An easement can be written and recorded, meaning it is signed and on file at the county Register of Deeds office where the service is located. An easement may also be unwritten or “prescriptive”, where the land has been used for utility purposes in a continuous and open manner for the statutory period of 15 years under Michigan law.

PIE&G’s line clearing program (also called “Vegetation Management”), consists of two approaches: mechanical clearing and herbicide application.

2014 Mechanical Clearing Plan:

Mechanical clearing is scheduled to begin between February and December. PIE&G’s licensed contractors will be cutting approximately 328 miles of overhead line at various locations throughout our nine county service territory. Members who may be in proximity to areas designated for mechanical clearing will be notified by mail prior to the onset of work in that area. PIE&G will determine if there are trees in your maintained lawn area that should be trimmed or cut. A representative from one of our contracted crews will attempt to contact you in person before the work is started.

2014 Herbicide Application:

The schedule for herbicide application is set to occur between April and October. PIE&G has hired professional, licensed contractors to treat approximately 477 miles of line throughout its service territory with state approved herbicide. PIE&G will notify members whose service is near the designated areas by mail prior to the onset of work. Herbicide is not applied to mowed lawn areas. Herbicide effectively controls tall-growing trees and bushes while promoting low-growing plants such

as grasses, wildflowers and shrubs that are beneficial to wildlife. It offers longer term results in a more cost effective way, and is endorsed by a number of environmental, forestry and wildlife providers as offering benefits to many wildlife species.

Jobsite Cleanup

Our contract crews dispose of trimmed branches and limbs in the most economic and practical manner possible. It is customary during regular line clearing activity, that crews will remove branches and limbs within maintained or landscaped areas, and leave the wood for use by the homeowner or resident. In unmaintained areas, crews will leave wood, branches and limbs for use by the homeowner or resident to decompose naturally. PIE&G does not remove stumps after tree removal. During emergency power restoration activities, crews clear trees off and away from our lines and facilities and move on to make repairs to restore power at the next problem location. PIE&G does not return to remove wood, branches and limbs that were removed during outage restoration efforts.

Our Commitment to Safety

Safety is another top priority for PIE&G. Although Mother Nature provides an amazing setting for our enjoyment of outdoor activities, it’s best to keep your activities away from overhead power lines. If you see a downed power line due to a fallen tree or branch, stay away and immediately call PIE&G to report it. Never attempt to remove branches or trim trees that are near power lines to avoid contact. Any tree in close proximity to a power line can present a safety hazard.

Service Line Trimming

PIE&G will trim along the service line running from the transformer to your home when a tree is in contact with the power line. We do not remove trees located near service lines. If you plan to have a tree removed from your property, contact us several days in advance so we can



Before ▲ and after ▼ shots of a line circuit. A newly cleared right-of-way can look extreme at first, but as the growth returns the landscape regains its natural beauty.



▲ The ground-to-sky approach to line clearance helps to make sure that trees don’t form a canopy over the lines.

schedule a crew to visit, de-energize and drop the line so you can have the tree safely removed. PIE&G will need at least two days prior notice.

Plan Ahead

Trees and power lines do not mix, so careful planning is important before you begin any landscape plan or outdoor project. Trees grow quickly so the seedling you plant today may well reach heights exceeding 30-50 feet in a few years. Avoid planting trees beneath overhead utility lines or near your service line. Look around and note what’s overhead, on the ground, and underground before beginning any outdoor work project.

For More Information

For more information about our line clearance procedures, contact our Member Services Department at 800-423-6634.

Shakes & Smoothies

Shakes and smoothies are a refreshing treat any time of day. With so many different ingredients and combinations, you'll never get bored. They are also unbelievably easy to make. All you need is a blender.



Photography by: 831 Creative

Coconut Granola Berry Smoothie

- 1/2 c. granola
- 6 fresh strawberries
- 1 T. flax seed oil
- 3/4 c. unsweetened coconut milk
- 3 T. vanilla yogurt
- 7-8 ice cubes

Blend until smooth and enjoy. Makes 1-2 servings.

Christin McKamey, Royal Oak

Kate's Green Smoothie

- 1 c. ice
- 1 c. apple juice
- 2 ripe bananas
- 1 1/2 c. kale
- 3/4 c. chopped celery

Place all ingredients in blender and process until smooth. So simple and so good for you. Enjoy! Rinse out your blender and glasses as soon as you can - this mixture sticks to everything.

Becky Schlatter, Chippewa Lake

Peanut Butter Banana Flip Smoothie

- 1 c. milk of choice
- 2 T. natural peanut butter, creamy or chunky
- 1 t. pure vanilla
- 1 frozen banana, cut into chunks
- 6 ice cubes

Pour milk into blender and add peanut butter, vanilla, banana and ice. Blend on high speed until smooth and serve.

Lorraine Green, South Boardman

Nutty Monkey Shake

- 1/4 c. milk
- 1 banana, cut into chunks
- 1/4 c. malted milk powder
- 2 T. creamy peanut butter
- 2 c. fat-free frozen yogurt

In a blender, combine milk, banana, malted milk powder and peanut butter. Cover and process for 10-15 seconds or until smooth. Add frozen yogurt, cover and process until blended. 5 servings.

Janice L. Thompson, Martin

Blueberry Cherry Cheesecake Smoothie

- 2 c. fresh or frozen blueberries
- 1/2 c. fresh or frozen cherries
- 1 1/4 c. milk
- 1/4 c. (2-oz.) cream cheese
- 1 to 3 ice cubes

Combine blueberries, milk, cherries and cream cheese in blender. Process until mixture is smooth. Add 3 ice cubes if using fresh fruit and 1 to 2 cubes if using frozen fruit. Process until smooth and pour into 2 glasses. Makes 2 (12-oz.) servings.

Tina Bates, East Jordan

Adult Peach Smoothie (Fresh Peach Martini)

- 2 peaches, peeled, pitted and quartered
- 4 oz. vodka
- 1 oz. peach schnapps
- 1-2 oz. simple syrup
- 1 1/2 c. ice

Place all ingredients in blender and process until smooth. Makes 2 drinks.

Becky Schlatter, Chippewa Lake

Coffee Bananas Foster Smoothie

- 1 1/2 c. strong coffee, chilled
- 1/2 t. cinnamon
- 2 T. brown sugar
- 2 small ripe bananas
- 6 oz. vanilla yogurt
- 1/2 c. fat-free half & half
- 1 c. ice cubes

In a blender, combine all ingredients and blend well.

Pat Sullivan, Bozeman

Submit your recipe! Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "All About Snacks" recipes by **June 10** and "Best Original Recipes" by **July 10**.

Mail (handwritten or typed on one side, please) to: Country Lines Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email recipes@countrylines.com.

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2014 will be entered in a drawing and Country Lines will pay the winner's January 2015 electric bill (up to \$200)!



Visit recipe editor Christin McKamey's website, veggiechick.com, for healthy, vegetarian recipes and info!

Help Your Electric Co-op Keep Rates Affordable

A message for all Michigan electric co-op member-owners...
The fight to maintain affordable, reliable electricity continues—and you can help!

Co-op members are needed to step up and let their voices be heard. Electric co-ops across the country are fighting to maintain a balanced energy policy that protects affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible electricity generation.

Co-op members are being asked to join the fight to instill common sense into the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) rule-making process by commenting online at Action.coop. It only takes a few minutes to complete.

Proposed regulations threaten to end the use of coal at new power plants. This is a concern because the regulations, along with the ones EPA has in store for existing plants, have the potential to drive up everyone's electric bills.

Nationwide, coal is responsible for about 40 percent of all electricity generated.

"As not-for-profit, consumer-owned utilities, electric co-ops rely on a diverse fuel mix to provide affordable, reliable electricity to 42 million Americans," explains Jo Ann Emerson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the trade

association for America's electric co-ops. "We believe strongly in our responsibility both to our environment and to members, who often serve some of the most economically vulner-

COOPERATIVE ACTION NETWORK

able populations in this country.

"That's why NRECA continues to urge the administration to reconsider this proposal and the potentially damaging effects it could have on communities and the economy," she adds.

Electric rates are something consumer-owned electric co-ops take personally because they know the tough choices many of us face in trying to live on a budget. That's what sets co-ops apart from other utilities and that's why we must stick together.

Thousands have already answered the call and sent comments through Action.coop, but more are needed. About 609 Michigan co-op members have started sharing their

thoughts with the EPA. "This is a start, but we can do better, as it's critically important that the voice of co-op members is heard on this issue," says Craig Borr, president/CEO of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association.

Bringing common sense to the rule-making process is also important as the EPA develops rules for existing plants, which are scheduled for release in June.

In just the last decade, power supply co-ops have invested over \$3.4 billion to reduce emissions and boost efficiency. And, *co-ops are only asking that environmental regulation be balanced with realistic costs and benefits.*

By stepping up to comment, you will be asking the EPA to recognize the unique circumstances of your nonprofit, member-owned electric co-op and to work with co-ops to forge a fair solution that allows them to continue providing you with affordable, reliable power.

Electric co-ops serve over 42 million people nationwide. By joining together, co-op members can make a difference in shaping responsible energy policy.



RENEWABLE ENERGY



NUCLEAR POWER



NATURAL GAS



CLEAN COAL

America needs an
ALL OF THE ABOVE STRATEGY
to keep electric bills affordable

TELL THE EPA TO RECONSIDER
ITS "ALL-BUT-ONE" APPROACH

ACTION.COOP

Fuel Mix Report

The fuel mix characteristics of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 12/31/13.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

Regional average fuel mix used

Your co-op's fuel mix

FUEL SOURCE	Your Co-op	Regional Average
Coal	54.1%	59.4%
Oil	2.9%	0.6%
Gas	18.1%	9.8%
Hydroelectric	2.7%	0.6%
Nuclear	17.0%	25.4%
Renewable Fuels	5.2%	4.2%
Biofuel	0.4%	0.5%
Biomass	0.1%	0.5%
Solar	0.0%	0.0%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.0%	0.0%
Wind	4.6%	2.7%
Wood	0.1%	0.5%

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas, and wind includes a long-term renewable purchase power contract in Wolverine's mix.

Your Co-op's Fuel Mix



Regional Avg. Fuel Mix



EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON

TYPE OF EMISSION/WASTE	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	5.1	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,522	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	1.8	2.0
High-level nuclear waste	0.0056	0.0083

*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the twelve-month period ending 12/31/13.

Presque Isle Electric & Gas purchases 100% of its electricity from Wolverine Power Cooperative, which provided this fuel mix and environmental data.

New Bulb on the Block: Meet LED Lucy

There's a new mascot in town. It's LED Lucy, and she's a dazzling, spunky mascot who's lighting the way for even brighter lightbulb savings. She joins CFL Charlie, and both are cartoon mascots for Touchstone Energy Cooperatives®, a national brand for the nation's nonprofit, consumer-owned electric co-ops that helps families become "Super Savers" by switching to energy efficient lightbulbs.

Lighting standards moved away from traditional lightbulbs in 2012, and the mascots want to make sure electric co-op members know about all lighting options.

"I'm older than I look," LED Lucy confides. "The first LED was created in 1927. Since then we've added stylish colors, and costs have dropped. I love bargains, and LED prices get lower every year!"

Following, the mascots share a few pointers on their energy efficiency namesakes.

Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)

CFL Charlie—and bulbs like him—are the most common and economical efficient lightbulbs on the market. The swirly style is linked to the concept of efficient lighting, but some consumers haven't warmed to the design.

"Not everyone likes to see my swirls,"

explains Charlie. "That's fine by me—everyone has a different sense of style, but several of my friends are designed to look just like a traditional lightbulb."

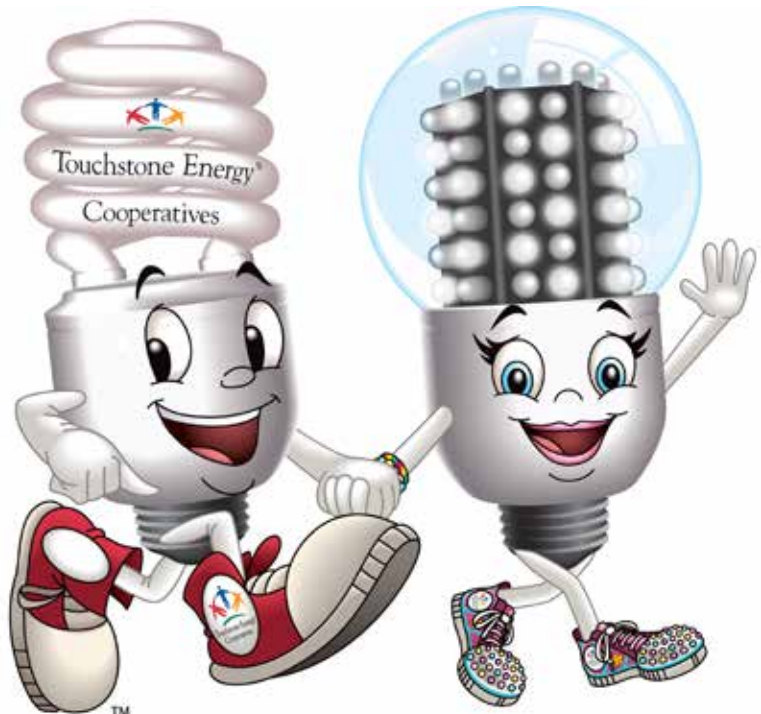
CFLs offer 75 percent energy savings over traditional bulbs and pay for themselves in nine months, notes the U.S. Department of Energy.

Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs)

Light emitting diodes (LEDs) have been used for years in cell phones and other electronics, and most are small—about half the size of a pencil eraser. By banding several small diodes together, a bright, dependable light emerges. As popularity grows, some companies are making light with a single, bright LED chip. New ways to build LEDs will help drive costs down.

"It's going to be fun to watch LED Lucy gain fans," laughs Charlie. "She uses a little less energy than me, and lasts 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs." Lighting adds up to 10 percent of a home's electric bill, so every bulb counts.

Visit kidsenergyzone.com for fun ways to help kids learn about lighting and electrical safety, too.



CFL Charlie & LED Lucy

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE MICHIGAN REGULATED GAS DIVISION CUSTOMERS OF PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC & GAS CO-OP CASE NO. U-17336

- Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op requests Michigan Public Service Commission authority to implement a gas cost recovery plan and uniform gas cost recovery factor of \$0.4614 per hundred cubic feet for the period of April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015, plus additional amounts contingent on future events for its Regulated Gas Division.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op, 19831 M-68, P.O. Box 308, Onaway, Michigan 49765, (800) 423-6634 for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the application at the offices of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op.
- The first public hearing in these matters will be held:

DATE/TIME: March 25, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. This hearing will be a prehearing conference to set future hearing dates and decide other procedural matters.

BEFORE: Administrative Law Judge Theresa A.G. Staley

LOCATION: Constitution Hall
525 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan

PARTICIPATION: Any interested person may attend and participate. The hearing site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 241-6160 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op's (Presque Isle) December 31, 2013 application for approval of a gas cost recovery (GCR) plan and gas cost recovery factor of \$0.4614 per hundred cubic feet (CCF) for the period of April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015, plus additional amounts contingent on future events for its Regulated Gas Division. Presque Isle's requested contingent GCR factor ceiling prices would be calculated using a Quarterly Adjustment Process, which could potentially increase the GCR factor, as described in its application, to reflect increases in the price of gas on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX).

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: michigan.gov/mpscdockets. Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: mpscdockets@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 241-6180 or by email at: mpscdockets@michigan.gov.

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by March 18, 2014. (Petitions to intervene may also be filed using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Presque Isle's attorney, Shaun M. Johnson, Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of his or her wish to make a statement of position. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information: available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure R 460.17315 and R 460.17335. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 241-6060.

A copy of Presque Isle's request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: michigan.gov/mpscdockets and at the office of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 241-6180.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 300, as amended, MCL 462.2 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6h et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1999 AC, R 460.17101 et seq.

GOING TO THE EDGE



She's dangled over an icy wall and rappelled its glassy facade, come dangerously close to the edge of several cliffs, and inched along narrow paths in the pitch-black night of the Upper Peninsula's wilderness to capture stunning images. Photographer Shawn Malone actually studied music in college, but a decade or so after leaving the Chicago skyline behind, she's developed a worldwide following for her impressions of the natural wonders surrounding her adopted hometown of Marquette.

"I was doing a lot of auditions in major cities and grew weary of all the concrete, traffic, and smog. I realized I couldn't possibly be happy in that environment," Malone says of her past life. So, she and husband Brian took a jaunt to the U.P.

and, she recalls, "We fell in love with the area after seeing Lake Superior for the first time in Grand Marais, and were struck by the quality of the water. I always remember that. We just moved up here, with no jobs, for the quality of life."

Looking to earn a living, Malone picked up a camera and began seasonally capturing the woods, waterfalls, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Lake Superior, and the Mackinac Bridge and lighthouses.

With Brian, also a photographer, she then traveled and sold their work on the art fair circuit for many years, including the Ann Arbor show. Burned out by the traveling grind, however, the couple missed the land they loved. "I moved to the U.P. to be in the U.P.," she says. "The next step was to figure out how to stay in the U.P."

One year ago, they cut all but a few art fairs from their schedule and opened Lake Superior Photo, a gallery and studio in Marquette, where they exhibit and sell prints of all sizes.

Besides landscapes, Malone has pointed her lens to the night sky and captured spectacular Northern Lights images, which have catapulted her into the national and international limelight—especially with the release of her time-lapse video, "North Country Dreamland." She edited 10,000 still images taken throughout 2012 into the 7-minute program, which was the "People's Choice" winner in a 2013 Smithsonian online competition (see lakesuperiorphoto.com).

"The Northern Lights have really caught on with the media," Malone says of her extensive portfolio of sky shots. She believes it's because most people will never see the lights in person. While it's possible to catch the colorful, dancing flares most of the year, conditions must be just right. Even in the best viewing spots, including the U.P., there's no guarantee that clouds won't obscure them. "You might go years without seeing a strong display," she says, citing the spans between activity she witnessed in 2004, 2011, and those in her second video, "Radiance" (Oct. 2013). "Those kinds of displays you remember the rest of your life."

Monitoring space weather websites helps her decide whether to venture out and attempt a photo shoot, but she adds, "A lot has yet to be learned on how the aurora works, but you have a good opportunity to see it with a strong solar flare off the sun that is Earthward-directed." Once she sees some activity, her experience helps to



Lake Superior sea caves—This is one of the photographer's favorites because of the arch portals' composition and reflection in the foreground. The sun only sets through the left portal a few days in the year.

FOR PERFECT SHOTS



▲ **Northern Lights, Crisp Point Lighthouse**—One of Malone's most difficult shots, this 10-frame panoramic shows a 180-degree view, and received an Epson International Panorama Competition Silver Award. Lake Superior had to be flat-calm for the composite to mesh, and aurora borealis made an appearance!

▼ **Mackinac Moonrise**—This shot only happens once a year due to where the moon rises, and the weather.



Photos by Shawn Malone

▲ **Milky Way Road**—A unique shot of the Milky Way on a moonless night, creatively lit by the car's headlights.

judge how much time to invest and whether it will pay off.

Patience and luck are given credit for some of her success, too, especially as she ventures into the wilds where there are no danger warning signs. Recalling a trip to Isle Royale after shooting the Northern Lights at Tobin Harbor, she headed back to her lean-to. "I had a two-mile hike at two in the morning along basically a deer path...a cobblestone, trippy kind of thing." It was so dark that she couldn't see what was around her, but could hear moose sparring nearby. "That sound puts the fear of God in you because you could just feel the power of the animals," she says, shuddering while remembering that

too-close call.

"Getting the shot" also involves experimenting with manual settings and using a tripod to keep the camera steady for long exposures, Malone tells shutterbugs in her teaching workshops.

Her imagery also appears in magazines, websites and books, and she freelances as a managing photographer at *Upper Peninsula Second Wave*, an online magazine. Her artwork is also viewable and for purchase at <http://www.lakesuperiorphoto.com>, and this year she'll ponder a book project.

Meanwhile, her camera will be kept ever-ready to record impressions of the land, water and sky she loves.



Photographer Shawn Malone says the difficulty of a shot is related to logistics and understanding what happens at certain times with light and subject matter. Follow her on Facebook at [fb.com/LakeSuperiorPhoto](https://www.facebook.com/LakeSuperiorPhoto)

Wolverine Ends Generation Projects

Wolverine Power Cooperative recently announced that it is ending the development of two generation projects in northern Michigan.

Construction of a 600-megawatt (MW) power plant and a wind turbine farm near Rogers City was proposed by Wolverine in 2006. An air quality permit was approved in June 2011 for the proposed Wolverine Clean Energy Venture power plant, but the co-op significantly scaled back development of the project in late 2011 with the passing of new emissions rules for new plant construction.

"I am very proud of our efforts on the Wolverine Clean Energy Venture," said Eric Baker, Wolverine's president/CEO. "The project team worked diligently to develop a proposed state-of-the-art power plant to serve co-op members efficiently and cost-effectively."

Wolverine has also brought its joint venture with We Energies (of Milwaukee, WI) at the Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette to a close. The companies had proposed joint ownership of the plant in January 2012 in exchange for Wolverine's investment in an air quality control system.



Presque Isle Power Plant

"We're disappointed to end the joint venture with We Energies, yet that has become the best option for both parties," Baker explained. "We believe this joint venture would have brought economic and environmental benefits for the region, along with helping to ensure energy reliability."

We Energies plans to evaluate long-term options for the plant and may solicit other potential buyers for some or all of its output.

In keeping with its mission to provide

outstanding service to its members, Baker noted that Wolverine will continue to seek reliable, competitively priced power supply that encompasses a mix of fuels and business partners.

Wolverine is the power supplier for Cheryland, Great Lakes Energy, HomeWorks Tri-County, Midwest Energy, Presque Isle Electric & Gas and Wolverine Power Marketing co-ops, and Spartan Renewable Energy.



Get in the ring

Knock out energy waste

Tired of high energy bills? Fight your frustrations and keep more money in your pocket with the help of your electric co-op's Energy Optimization program. Whether you choose to replace an energy-guzzling furnace or install a high-efficiency CFL or LED bulb, rebates are available to help you complete just about any energy-saving project at home.

ENERGY TIP: Save up to 40 percent in furnace electricity costs by changing the filter regularly.

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org PHONE: 877.296.4319

Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michiganenergy.org.

Notice to Members of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

Case No. U-15820
2012 Renewable Energy Plan
Annual Report Summary

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) requires all Michigan electric utilities to get approximately 2 percent of their power supply from renewable sources by 2012, and increasing to 10 percent by 2015.

Under this requirement, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op submits an annual report to the MPSC regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. In 2012, Presque Isle acquired 10,121 renewable energy credits and 207 incentive credits from its wholesale power supplier, Wolverine Power Cooperative, Inc. Wolverine will continue to generate renewable energy and bank unused renewable energy credits for future use and compliance with statutory renewable portfolio standard requirements on behalf of all of its members.

The Energy Plan annual report that was filed with the MPSC is available on the cooperative's website at pieg.com or by request at the cooperative's office.

Attention Graduating Seniors!

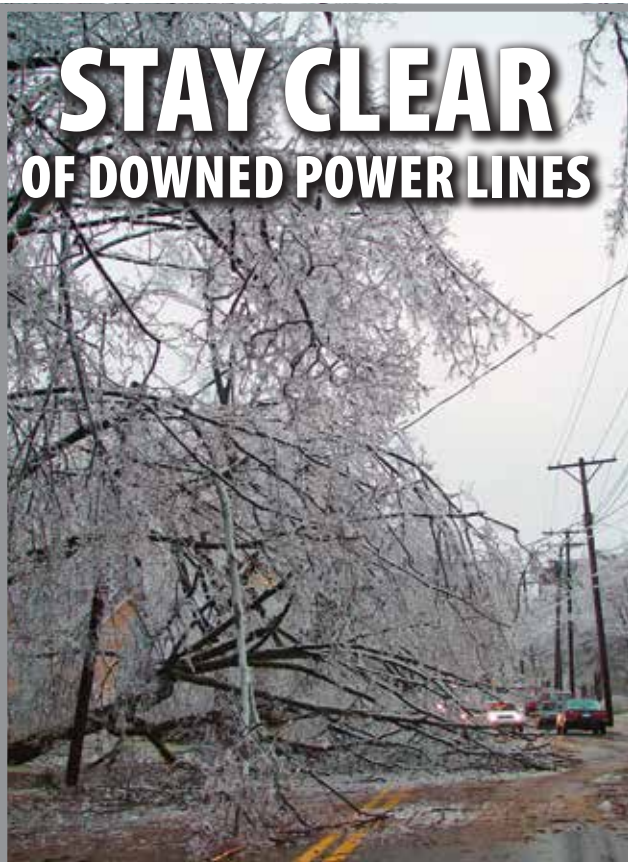
The Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op Communities First Fund has been awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors since 1999. Recently, the board of directors that oversees this fund made changes to the program.

The scholarship has been expanded to include *all* accredited colleges or universities in Michigan, and the award is now \$1,000 and is payable upon successful completion of the first term.

Eligibility requirements and applications are available online at pieg.com or by calling 1-800-423-6634. Completed applications with supporting documentation are *due by the last business day of March, 2014*. Scholarships will be awarded by June 1.



STAY CLEAR OF DOWNED POWER LINES



- ▼ **Assume all power lines are energized and dangerous.** Even downed lines that seem "dead" can be re-energized at any time during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators. Lines do not have to be sparking to be live!
- ▼ **Any utility wire, including sagging or downed telephone or cable lines could be in contact with an energized power line, making them very dangerous, too.**
- ▼ **Never touch a downed line—or a person or object that is touching it!** A downed line can cause things around it to become energized, traveling through the ground to chain link fences or other objects.
- ▼ **If someone is injured from electrical contact, do not try to assist. You could be injured or killed, too. Call 911.**
- ▼ **If lines fall on your vehicle, do not drive away or get out.** Stay inside until utility workers say it's okay. Warn others to stay away. If you must leave the vehicle—only in the case of fire—jump free without touching the ground and auto at the same time, keeping both feet together, and hop to safety. A live wire touching the ground causes electricity to fan out, and walking or running allows one foot to move from one voltage zone to another. Your body then becomes the electricity's path, and electrocution results.
- ▼ **Never drive over a downed line,** it could cause poles or other equipment to come crashing down.
- ▼ **Call 911 immediately to report a downed power line.** Then call your electric co-op or the local utility.

Visit SafeElectricity.org for other electrical safety tips.

MSU Extension Offers Help for Understanding Affordable Care Act



Michigan State University Extension wants to help individuals, families and businesses make the right health insurance decision.

Extension has a team of educators that can help residents understand the new rules and requirements, navigate the federal Health Insurance Marketplace, and make a decision that fits both health needs and financial realities.

“People need to be extremely careful when signing up for insurance,” explains Brenda Long, who spearheads MSU Extension’s education efforts. “This is one of the most important decisions a person can make, and they will be dealing with concepts they are often unfamiliar with.”

“We hope to give people the knowledge they need so they can meet with a local certified application counselor, or go to the federal health care site and make the appropriate decisions for themselves and their families.”

Part of the service offered is a series of free, weekly, unbiased educational webinars and a new website that explains changes in the insurance landscape. A list of the webinars, as well as details about the Affordable Care Act, Health Insurance Marketplace, and how both affect Michiganders can be found at Extension’s Affordable Care Act Roadmap (aca.msue.msu.edu).

Organizations that provide health or

community assistance, or employers looking to provide education for their employees can also contact MSU Extension directly at healthinsurance@anr.msu.edu and request information about setting up an in-person training session.

“We aren’t trying to push consumers to select any one specific plan,” Long adds. “We hope to teach people skills they can use so they can decide on the plan that best fits the needs for themselves, their families or their employees.”

The online educational webinars for individuals are held every Monday from 9-11 a.m., 3-5 p.m., and 6-8 p.m.; and for farmers and small-business owners every Monday from Noon-2 p.m.



◀ DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS IS?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **April 10** will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 credit for electricity from their electric cooperative. **We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone!** Email mysteryphoto@countrylines.com; enter your guess at countrylines.com; or send by mail to *Country Lines Mystery Photo*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, 48864. Include your name, address, phone number and name of your co-op. Only those sending complete information will be entered in the drawing. The winner will be announced in the May 2014 issue.

The January contest winners are Gary and Elaine Pohl of Westphalia, who are members of both Home Works Tri-County Electric Cooperative and Cloverland Electric Cooperative. The Pohls correctly identified the photo as a mural at the R. E. Olds Transportation Museum near the riverwalk in downtown Lansing.



Programmable thermostats can save up to \$160 a year in energy costs. Match thermostat settings to your schedule: cold when you’re away and warm when you’re at home. In winter, set the thermostat to 68 degrees during the day (lower at night when you’re snug in bed). By turning your thermostat down 10 to 15 degrees for at least eight hours, you can shave 5 to 15 percent from your heating costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com, U.S. Department of Energy

Did snow bury your roof this winter?

Watch snow slide off a metal roof*

[YouTube.com/AmericanMetalRoofs](https://www.youtube.com/AmericanMetalRoofs)


Showcase Homes WANTED! Earn Big Discounts

We would like to use your home to showcase a beautiful American Metal Roof. Qualified homes can earn big discounts. Call today to see if your home qualifies. 844.638.2576 (Note: Not all homes will qualify. Not a free roof.)

Frank Farmer, President,
American Metal Roofs

Why choose metal?

- Permanent/Lifetime Guarantee
- Add beauty & value to your home
- Many colors/styles to choose from
- Year round statewide installation
- Senior/Veteran discounts
- Ask about our Do-It-Yourself seminars
- Visit our showrooms:
FLINT • 6140 Taylor Dr.
LANSING • 1875 Lansing Rd.

 facebook.com
/AMRmichigan

Call today! 844.638.2576
844.METAL.ROOFS



NEW! Pocket Rib Panel for Rural Buildings

Toughness and low maintenance requirements make metal roofing perfect for the demanding needs of agricultural applications. Each roof is handcrafted and finished with custom trim and accessories by installers with a minimum of 300 hours of training. Available in a variety of colors.

Financing Available

www.AmericanMetalRoofs.com

*When the temperature reaches 40°F outside, snow will slide off the roof.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

pieg.com

**ELEVATE YOUR
FUTURE**

YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
 >> PRESENTED BY MICHIGAN'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

April 23-25, 2014 | SpringHill Camps | Evert, MI



YOU ARE A LEADER.

In the classroom, on the team, and in your community, you guide and inspire others to contribute their best efforts. Join other young leaders like you from throughout Michigan at the **YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (YLS)**, presented by Michigan's electric cooperatives. This **FREE**, high-energy experience will help you develop your leadership habits, explore career opportunities in the electric industry, and learn how to be actively involved in the democratic process. You are a leader.



>> PARTICIPANTS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR AN ALL-EXPENSES-PAID WASHINGTON, D.C. YOUTH TOUR. VISIT miYLS.com TO LEARN MORE.

miYLS.com



>> SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE TO LEARN MORE, OR TO APPLY ONLINE

YOU ARE THE FUTURE.