

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



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## A Barrel Of Fun:

Portable Sauna Is  
Good Fundraiser, Too



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



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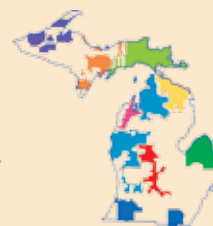


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ON THE COVER\*

Zeak DeWyse is a builder and electric co-op member who has started a new business making portable, barrel saunas. Called the U.P. Sauna Company, their cedar saunas are suitable for most any landscape, but are also proving to be a good fundraising draw for charitable causes.

Photo—Shawn Malone/lakesuperiorphoto.com



Michigan's Electric  
Cooperatives  
countrylines.com



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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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# Cost Increase Delay is Victory for Now

**T**he Dec. 1 date for increased costs for Cloverland members has been delayed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) until late February or early March. Before issuing a decision, FERC is requesting information from the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO).

Cloverland members are not out of the woods yet, however. It is through your efforts in writing letters, emails, petitions and phone calls that have made our voice heard in Washington, D.C., and Lansing. Thank you for your efforts!

In a nutshell, FERC is questioning the formula MISO used to determine Cloverland’s financial responsibility for the Presque Isle Power Plant (PIPP), and wants to know why Cloverland’s cost increased from a long-standing 2.7 percent to 22.6 percent, or \$22 million per year. Cloverland’s position is that the financial responsibility for PIPP should be paid by the utilities or loads that benefit from the plant.

The largest beneficiary of the plant’s power are the Empire and Tilden ore mines, which use about 70 percent. The remaining 30 percent is divided between all U.P. electric utilities and Wisconsin ratepayers. As a result of a 2008 amendment to Michigan law P.A. 286, the mines’ owners—Cliffs Natural Resources—were able to shop for cheaper power. In 2013, Cliffs signed a three-year contract with Integrys Energies, ending their contract with WE Energies, of Milwaukee, WI. As the PIPP plant owner, WE Energies lost 80 percent of its U.P. load and announced they would close the plant. However, because PIPP is the largest plant in the U.P., MISO is requiring it to stay open and asked FERC to make the U.P. pay all the costs.

The best short-term solution is for the mines to return to WE Energies until a long-term solution is in place. The Michigan Legislature needs to fix this, since it was the amendment to P.A. 286 that got us into this. If this happens, then the entire PIPP operating costs will be shared equitably by the plant’s beneficiaries, as it has been for nearly 20 years.

We have a short-term crisis with PIPP that needs to be resolved first, and a long-term need to improve the U.P.’s infrastructure. The U.P.’s generation and transmission challenges will require all area stakeholders to be involved. Long-term solutions could include new generating plants. Costs for a new generation plant could be \$400 million with an aggressive construction schedule of three to five years. Another long-term solution is transmission lines, but they could take up to 10 years to build at a cost of \$500 million to \$700 million.

At Cloverland Electric Cooperative, we are fortunate to have about 50 percent of our power produced economically through our hydroelectric plant on the St. Mary’s River. However, Cloverland supports all opportunities to secure the needed infrastructure to power the E.U.P. for years to come.

We will continue to keep you informed as this issue plays out. Your board will consider all possible solutions with the goal of providing you with affordable, reliable electricity. ■



**Daniel Dasho**  
President & Chief Executive Officer

“The Michigan Legislature needs to fix this, since it was the amendment to P.A. 286 that got us into this.”

## Your Co-op Board In Action

The board of directors met on Sept. 26 and Oct. 17. All directors were in attendance.

### September

- Reviewed department reports, including financial.
- Discussed a public comment concerning the donations to community organizations. Cloverland has always donated to organizations in the service area.
- Heard positive comments concerning the fast recovery efforts following the September multi-day outage.
- Approved the revolving line of credit agreement with Cooperative Finance Corporation.
- Discussed the retirement of capital credits.
- Discussed the agenda, schedule and advertising activities for the co-op's community outreach programs.
- Received an in-depth CEO report concerning the Presque Isle Power Plant and MISO.
- Received an update from legal counsel concerning delinquent commercial accounts.

### October

- Heard updates on commercial bankruptcies, personnel matters and pole attachment agreements.
- Shared comments on information presented at the community outreach programs. CEO will be working with the state Legislature.
- Reviewed department reports, including financial.
- Authorized a capital credit retirement for the years 1990, 1991 and a portion of 1992.
- Viewed a presentation concerning the multi-year hydro canal refurbishment project.
- Heard an update on safety inspection of the Sault administration building and hydro plant.
- CEO reported on his meetings with state representatives, senators and candidates concerning the SSR/FERC/Presque Isle Power Plant issue.
- Discussed concern over a satellite dish company grounding its equipment to the co-op's meter base. This is against code and will be stopped.

Meetings are held at the co-op's administrative office at 725 E. Portage Avenue in Sault Ste. Marie each month. Time is reserved for members who wish to address the board. Members who wish to present an item for board consideration may submit a request for time using the comment request form on [cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com) or by calling 906-632-5143. ■

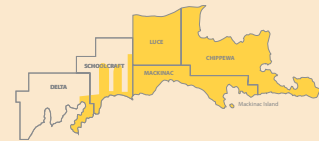
## Co-op Director Nominations

Cloverland Electric Cooperative is a nonprofit electric utility that is owned and democratically-controlled by those it serves. As member-owners, you have a voice in the cooperative through the members you elect to serve on the board of directors. Our service area is divided into three districts, with each represented by three directors elected by and from the members of that district to serve a three-year term.

A Cloverland member interested in seeking election to the board must meet the director qualifications outlined in the co-op's bylaws and file a petition for nomination containing the valid signatures of at least 25 members from his or her district.

Director elections will take place in May. The mail-in ballot and information about director candidates will be included in the May/June issue of *Country Lines*. Election results will be presented at the annual meeting of the cooperative's members in June.

For a nominating petition and information packet, call 906-632-5143. Nominating petitions and supporting documents must be returned to the cooperative's administrative office located at 725 E. Portage Avenue in Sault Ste. Marie by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 6, 2015.



**President & CEO**  
**Daniel Dasho**

**Local Editor**  
**Todd Chapman**

[cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com)

### Member Service Centers

Monday–Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
**906-635-6800**  
**1-800-562-4953**

**2916 W. M-28**  
**Dafer, MI 49724**

**836 M-134**  
**DeTour Village, MI 49725**

**6214 County Rd. 403**  
**Newberry, MI 49868**

**2972 W. 8th St.**  
**Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

Cloverland Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## EATING ETHNIC

Experience distant lands with these flavorful dishes.

### Moroccan Tagine in Crockpot *(pictured)*

Olive oil	1 T. honey
6–8 pieces bone-in or boneless pork or chicken	1 cinnamon stick
McCormick® Moroccan Seasoning	$\frac{2}{3}$ c. dried apricots, chopped
$2\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped onions	2 15-oz. cans chickpeas
$\frac{1}{4}$ c. finely chopped garlic	$\frac{1}{4}$ c. cilantro leaves (optional)
1 c. unsalted stock (chicken, pork or vegetable)	Lemon wedges (optional)

Heat a large skillet on medium-high heat. Add olive oil to pan; swirl to coat. Sprinkle meat with Moroccan seasoning. Add meat to pan and cook 5 minutes until well-browned. Remove from pan and let rest (do not brown the other side). Add extra olive oil if needed, onions and garlic. Sauté for 4 minutes. Add more Moroccan seasoning to taste, cook another minute stirring constantly to loosen browned bits. Add stock, honey and cinnamon stick; bring to a simmer. Carefully pour mixture into crockpot. Stir in apricots and chickpeas. Arrange meat so the browned side is on top of the chickpea mixture. Cover; cook on low for 7 hours. If desired, garnish with cilantro and lemon wedges. Serves great alongside couscous, quinoa or rice.

*Leann Butler, Wolverine*

### Cream Cheese Kieflies

1 c. real butter	1 egg yolk
8-ozs. cream cheese	$2\frac{1}{2}$ c. flour

#### Filling:

2 c. nuts (pecans), ground fine	$\frac{1}{2}$ c. honey
1 egg white, beaten stiff	$1\frac{1}{2}$ c. powdered sugar

Mix all ingredients and shape into teaspoon-size balls. Refrigerate overnight. Take out about 5 from fridge at a time. Roll out until paper thin. Fill each pastry with 1 teaspoon of filling. Roll like a candy kiss and pinch each end. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake at 400° until brown.

*Barbara Kedik, Dowagiac*

## Congratulations

to Patsy Castagne-Miller of Pickford. Her name was drawn from all readers whose recipes we printed in 2014 and *Country Lines* magazine will pay her January electric bill (up to \$200) as a prize.



Patsy and her family have been Cloverland Electric Cooperative members for nine years. Besides cooking and creating, she loves the outdoors, and her other hobbies are growing flowers and vegetables. "I love to try new recipes all the time," she says. "Some people say I can make great soups!"

### SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "**Healthy Living**" recipes by **Jan. 10** and your favorite "**Pizza**" recipes by **Feb. 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](mailto:recipes@countrylines.com).

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2015 will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner's January 2016 electric bill (up to \$200)!

Visit [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) for more reader recipes!

Photos—831 Creative

# Electric Capacity Shortfall Projected for 2016



**Craig Borr, CEO,**  
Michigan Electric  
Cooperative  
Association

**H**ave you ever wondered why a grocery store builds 15 check-out lanes, but only has three of them open most of the time? Simply put, the store has built its “lane capacity” to meet peak demand, the roughly 10 percent of the year when the store is busiest.

It works the same way for electricity providers, including your electric cooperative. Most of the time

there are enough power plants and renewable resources running to meet our member-owners’ needs. At other times, particularly on very hot or cold days, energy needs increase and additional electricity is needed to meet this “peak demand”.

Unlike the grocery store, where a capacity shortfall means a longer wait in line, a shortfall in electric capacity can cause the lights to go out. And, it is your electric cooperative’s job to make sure it has the capacity to meet its members’ maximum need at all times.

The startling fact, however, is that the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) estimates that Michigan’s Lower Peninsula is facing a 3,000-megawatt (MW) capacity shortfall as early as 2016. The “mitten” needs roughly 15 percent more generating capacity than is currently operating. Ironically, MISO is projecting the Upper Peninsula will actually have a small amount of excess capacity beginning next year.

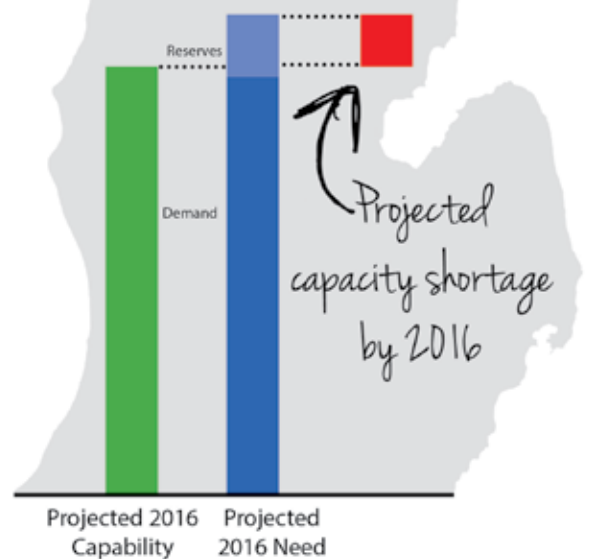
What is causing this projected deficiency, why should you care, and what are electric cooperatives doing to ensure that the lights stay on for you, our member-owners?

## Who is MISO and why are they projecting a shortfall?

MISO is the independent nonprofit grid operator, based in Carmel, IN, that is responsible for operating wholesale electricity markets in both of our peninsulas, much of the Midwest, and parts of Canada. Electric utilities in MISO are required to have enough generating capacity to meet their projected peak needs as well as a 15 percent “reserve” margin each year.

Lower Peninsula utilities, MISO warns, will not have adequate generation and reserves, starting in 2016, because of projected growth in electricity sales combined with the closure of many, older coal-fired power plants throughout Michigan and the Midwest that will not meet

## Projected Capacity Needs for 2016, Lower Peninsula



new air quality standards required by the Environmental Protection Agency.

## What are electric co-ops doing to meet the projected shortfall?

Wolverine Power Cooperative, the Cadillac-based wholesale power supplier to five of Michigan’s nine electric distribution cooperatives, is certainly doing its part.

In October 2015, Wolverine announced the development of a new, 400-plus megawatt clean natural gas-fueled electric peaking plant. Located west of Gaylord, it would meet the future needs of Wolverine’s member distribution cooperatives. However, *the Lower Peninsula needs nearly seven more plants of this size if it expects to meet MISO’s estimated shortfall.*

Wolverine is working to obtain necessary approvals from local, state and regional agencies, and if all goes well, construction on the plant could begin later this year. Named the Alpine Generating Plant, Wolverine will use clean natural gas to generate electricity during times of peak demand and to generate energy that complements the ever-increasing amount of intermittent renewable energy in our state.

## Even more capacity needs to be built soon.

I am proud to say that Wolverine is doing its part to meet the future needs of its member cooperatives, as are others, such as municipal electric utilities in Lansing and Holland. But we need more capacity to be built very soon.

To learn more about the exciting new Alpine project, visit [alpinecleanenergy.com](http://alpinecleanenergy.com). ■

## Co-op Retires \$750,000 in Capital Credits to Members

**A**nually, **Cloverland Electric Cooperative** allocates margins to its member-owners as “capital credits”. In October, the board voted to retire \$750,000 in capital credits for the years 1990, 1991, and a portion of 1992. Members with an active account during these years received a credit on their November electric bill. Checks have been mailed to members with inactive accounts during this time period.

The amount allocated to each member’s account is based on the amount of electricity purchased. The annual

allocation notice printed on your electric bill confirms your share of the margins (profits) allocated for the prior year and the unretired capital credits in your account.

Over time, Cloverland retires and returns capital credits to current and former members. Before deciding to issue a retirement, your board of directors considers the co-op’s current financial condition and future borrowing needs. Adequate margins must be maintained to satisfy the requirements of our lenders. ■

## Right-of-Way Maintenance Schedule Set

**C**loverland Electric Cooperative will invest \$1.4 million this year to re-clear about 400 miles of power line rights-of-way starting in DeTour and Drummond Island townships. Trees, Inc. contractors will perform right-of-way maintenance even through the winter months in the Soo, Dafer, Bruce and Neebish Island townships, as weather permits.

The National Electrical Safety Code and Michigan Public Service Commission require that we maintain the proper clearances around power lines for the safety of our employees, members, and for electric service reliability. The established clearance zone around distribution lines is 30 feet (15 feet on either side). Contractors prune limbs and remove select trees within or encroaching this zone

using a variety of methods, including mechanical mowers and hand-cutting.

Contractors will notify property owners when they will be working in the area. If the property owner is unavailable, a door hanger notification is left that explains the scope of work and the contractor’s name and phone number.

Our goal is to provide you with safe, reliable electric service. We can reduce power interruptions and improve safety by keeping the areas around our power lines clear of brush and trees. If you have any questions, call Jim Wilson, right-of-way construction supervisor, at 800-562-4953, ext. 144. ■





# Who's Your Legislator?

**A**s a guide to help you understand who represents you in the Michigan Legislature, we have listed here all the legislators (both House and Senate) that represent districts that include the Cloverland Electric Cooperative service area. Whatever their background, most represent districts with large rural populations, which are areas where electric co-ops serve. In fact, several legislators are electric co-op members themselves. There are a total of 44 new members in the Michigan House of Representatives and 10 new members in the Senate. Legislation affecting cooperatives and their owners most likely originates in those committees covering utilities, energy, technology, transportation, environment, land use, safety and taxes.

## Michigan House of Representatives

In the House, Republicans continue to hold the majority, by 63-47. The House district lines are the same, since the redistricting process that occurs every 10 years was established in the last election. Visit [house.mi.gov](http://house.mi.gov) for more information.



**Rep. Lee Chatfield**  
107th District  
(R-Levering)  
(517) 373-2629



**Rep. Ed McBroom**  
108th District  
(R-Vulcan)  
(517) 373-0156



**Rep. John Kivela**  
109th District  
(D-Marquette)  
(517) 373-0498



**Sen. Tom Casperson**  
38th District  
(R-Escanaba)  
(517)-373-7840



**Sen. Wayne Schmidt**  
37th District  
(R-Traverse City)  
(517) 373-2413

## Michigan Senate

In the Senate, Republicans also continue to hold the majority, by 27-11. Unlike the House, the Senate ran for the first time under the new district lines. Visit [senate.mi.gov](http://senate.mi.gov) for more information. ■

## Time to Update Your Account— Co-op Director Elections Near

**N**ow is the time to review and update your membership account so you can vote in this year's director elections. The ballot will be mailed to the address listed on your membership account as of the date of record—March 27, 2015.

If an account is held jointly (e.g., spouse), any one of the joint members may cast the vote for that membership, but the names must be properly listed on the account. These names will be printed on the mailing label.

A business or other entity, such as a firm, association, corporation, partnership or governmental unit, must designate on its stationary the representative who is authorized to cast a vote on behalf of the entity and file the designation with the cooperative.

You have until Friday, March 27, 2015, to update your account. Call our office and a member service representative will assist you. ■

## Cash For College

If you are a Cloverland Electric member with a son or daughter graduating from high school this year, you can find our scholarship application online. Visit [cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com) and click the "My Community" tab and then "Youth Programs" to download it and find mailing instructions.

This year, the co-op will award three \$1,500 Power of Excellence Scholarships for use at any university, college or vocational/technical school during the 2015–16 academic year. Scholarship applications must be postmarked by *April 10, 2015*. All required supporting documents must be submitted with the application.



Zeak DeWyse (standing, far right) has a crew of six local workers that help him handcraft his company's unique barrel saunas.

Photo—Shawn Malone/Lake Superior Graphics



# A Barrel Of Fun:

Portable Sauna Is Good Fundraiser, Too

**It's 18 degrees outside.** Steam rises from a large hole cut in the middle of Millecoquin Lake. A mixed group of younger and older people are standing around looking like they're getting ready to go to the beach, except their lips are quivering and their teeth chattering. They're getting ready to take the "Polar Bear Plunge" challenge to benefit the Engadine Intermediate School District.

Luckily, after their plunge, warmth awaits these "polar bears" in what looks like a huge wooden keg resting on its side on the frozen lake. The attractive, cedar-hewn structure is actually a sauna, built by the Upper Peninsula Sauna Company in tiny Engadine, MI. Saunas and polar bear plunges certainly aren't new in the U.P., but this type of barrel sauna is definitely a novelty that is catching on fast because they are extremely mobile (trailerable) or can be stationary, and fit into most any lifestyle and landscape.

The saunas are manufactured by a seasoned crew of builders led by Zeak DeWyse, a local, licensed contractor and owner of DeWyse Construction. A Cloverland Electric Co-op member, DeWyse says he was looking for another source of income that would keep his crew busy when he latched onto the idea of building barrel saunas.

"It wasn't my original idea," DeWyse says about the sauna's unique construction. "I saw one for sale on the west end of the U.P." He also bought a barrel-shaped sauna from a backyard mechanic that he and his building crew used as a prototype. The saunas the DeWyse crew builds are crafted out of cedar felled from the woods near Engadine and sawn in local mills.

The Upper Peninsula Sauna Company is a welcome addition to the community and to the employees of DeWyse Construction. DeWyse says it has allowed his workers to stay busy during inclement weather. The company is a part of DeWyse Construction and shares the



The cozy barrel sauna holds four adults comfortably and comes with a custom-fabricated woodstove, solar lights, a thermo-hygrometer, water pail, and a cedar spoon. The stove rocks all come from the U.P.

same building—a very old one on Main Street—which was vacant for several years.

"It's working out really well that my guys aren't losing days from their income," DeWyse explains. "When it rains everybody comes to the shop and we build saunas, so that's been kind of a gift for our employees."

Supporting local events is nothing new for the DeWyse company. They're very much involved with the community, especially the schools, and helping other volunteers with fundraisers, parades, and similar events. The saunas are a good draw and have been used to raise funds for different causes. Besides the Polar Bear Plunge, DeWyse recently offered a barrel sauna to anyone who can make a hole-in-one during golf scrambles. The prize is placed on the designated hole.

Along with beating the winter blues, DeWyse adds, there are health benefits to taking a sauna, including removing toxins from your body and sweating-out colds, the flu, and sore muscles—and avoiding hypothermia after an icy plunge in a lake! ■

Below: An aerial view of the "Polar Bear Plunge" local school fundraiser. Plunge participants can warm up in the Upper Peninsula Sauna Company's barrel sauna set up at the right of the hole cut into the lake.

Photos—Sigurd Utych



## Practicing What We Preach...

**C**ontrolling energy costs is on the mind of business owners since a large percentage of their monthly expense is for electricity. One retrofitting project that can quickly yield a positive return in energy savings is to replace older, ballast-controlled fluorescent lighting with LED tubes. Cloverland Electric Cooperative recommends replacing older light fixtures with new, energy-saving fixtures. The co-op not only preaches energy efficiency, but practices it, too.

In October, Positive Energy and Design electrical contractors, of Sault Ste. Marie, removed over 620 ballasts and replaced 650 old T12 fluorescent light tubes in the co-op's administration building with 340 LED T8 light tubes.

Chuck Zane, the co-op's information technology director and building manager, coordinated the project and has calculated the savings. The old T12 tubes were 32 watts per tube and required ballasts which were 80 percent efficient. The new T8 LED tubes require only 16 watts and do not require a ballast. "Calculating the savings based on a 10-hour, five-day work week, the energy consumption will drop from 5,824 kWh to



1,088 kWh," Zane says. "This is an 80 percent reduction in energy use. In terms of dollar savings, the new tubes will save \$542 per month or \$6,514 per year."

And, this project will pay for itself in just three short years, which is a great return on investment for the co-op and its members. Visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) for more information on energy-saving tips and rebates. ■

—Todd Chapman, Communications Manager

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# Free Travel, Programs for Teens

**T**he Michigan Electric Cooperative Association will host its annual Youth Leadership Summit on April 22–24 at SpringHill Camp in Evart. Students will participate in a variety of indoor and outdoor team-building exercises, including a high-ropes challenge.

Cloverland Electric will select up to five area high school sophomores or juniors who are 16- or 17-years-old to attend this co-op sponsored event. The students' parents must be Cloverland members. Visit miYLS.com for an application.

The Youth Leadership Summit is the first step toward an even more exciting adventure! All participants will be considered for a “once in a lifetime” opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. Cloverland will select one student to represent the cooperative at the National Rural Electric Youth Tour, June 13–18. Over 1,500 students from all across America take part in the Youth Tour each year. Students meet with their U.S. representatives and senators, hear from dynamic inspirational leaders on a special Youth Day, and explore our capital's museums and memorials. ■

Photo: Jennifer Marske was sponsored by Cloverland Electric Co-op to travel to Washington, D.C., for the 2014 Rural Electric Youth Tour. She's pictured here in front of the U.S. Capitol, which she was able to tour with other Youth Tour students and visit Michigan Congressional representatives.



## Powering Up

When an outage occurs, line crews work to pinpoint problems

### 1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of consumers) rarely fail. But when damage occurs, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

### 2 Distribution Substation

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

### 3 Main Distribution Lines

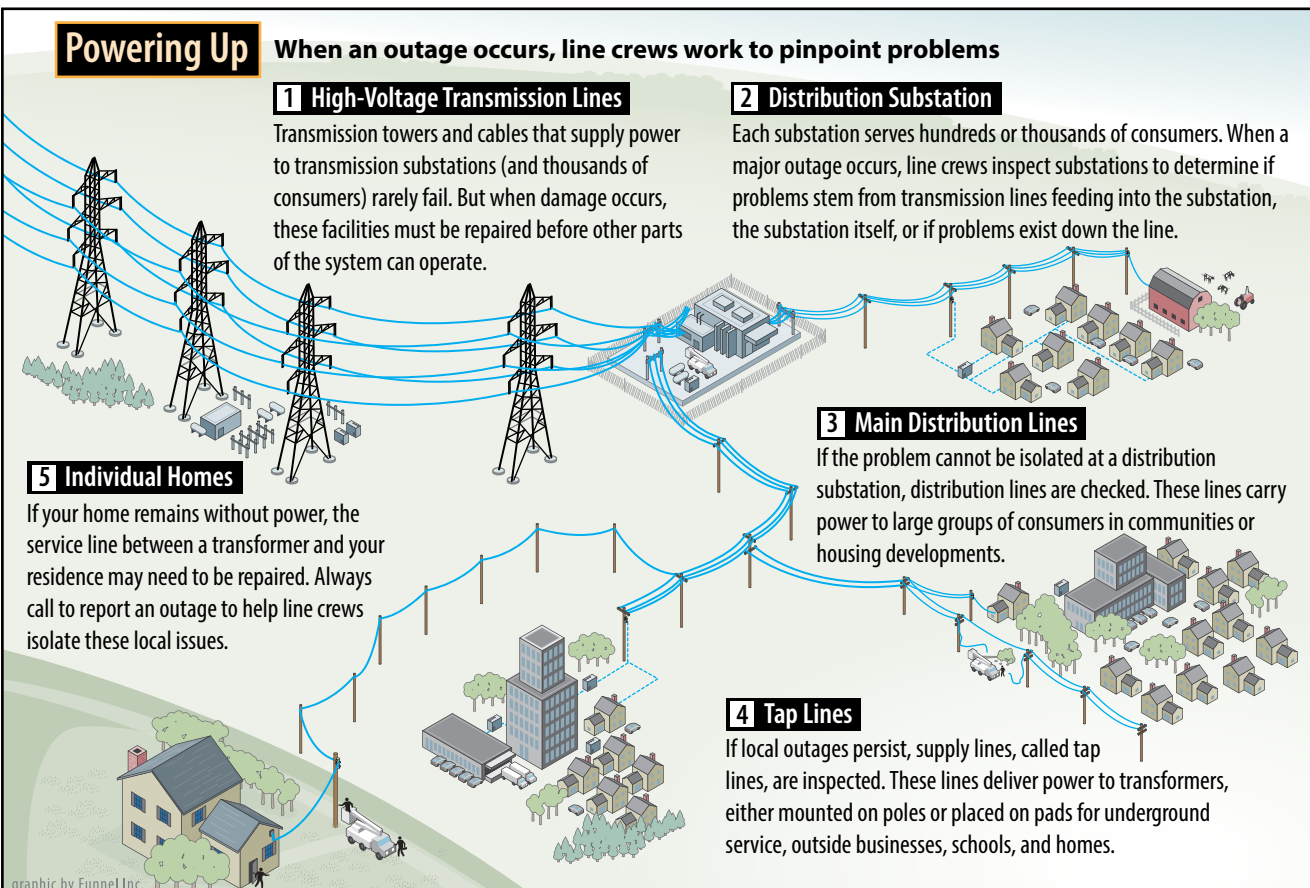
If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

### 4 Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

### 5 Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate these local issues.



graphic by Funnel Inc.

When a major storm causes widespread damage, it can cause longer outages. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark.

# Snowmobile Museum, Trails Are Winter Fun

**D**id you know that over 6,500 snowmobile trails run throughout Michigan? To survive winter, you may want to buck-up with boots and a snowsuit to explore some of them. A few phone calls or an easy internet search reveals resorts and sport shops that rent snowmobiles.

Once #1 in the country for registered snowmobilers, Michigan now ranks second behind Minnesota. But don't let that cool your sleds. Bill Manson, of the Michigan Snowmobile Association (MSAsnow.org), says the related family time draws folks in and keeps them coming back. "In the early days of snowmobiling, the sport was a 'guy thing.' Now, everyone including the grandparents are out enjoying the woods together."

Higher quality machines are credited with the wider range of people enjoying the sport. Ergonomic seats with warmers, smooth suspensions, and easy handling allows the entire family to ride comfortably, go fast, and have fun.

Originally, snowmobiles were designed as work vehicles, says Charlie Vallier of the Snowmobile Museum in Naubinway, MI (on U.S.-2). "Sleds first appeared in Wisconsin around 1924 and were used by utility companies, trappers and commercial fishermen. Not until the late '60s did consumers realize they could be used for recreation."

Nostalgia for the old machines runs deep—enough so that the Snowmobile Museum recently expanded. "Throughout winter, enthusiasts can find at least one vintage snowmobile show on the Great Lakes every



1962 Polar

weekend," Vallier adds. "People love the old sleds. Seeing them, restoring them, and riding them. They represent a simpler time."

A walk through the Snowmobile Museum is a walk through that time (open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at \$5

for adults and kids 16 and under free). Over 130 different machines spanning the decades are displayed, and the folks who restore them love to share stories of the days when sleds didn't have seat warmers!

Share a story idea by email to [jack@countrylines.com](mailto:jack@countrylines.com) or write J. O'Malley, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. ■



Jack O'Malley



## «« Do You Know Where This Is?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **Feb. 10** will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 credit for electricity from their electric co-op.

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) or send by mail to: *Country Lines Mystery Photo*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, 48864. Include the name on your account, 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 March 2015 issue.

The November-December contest winner is Keith Kettinger, of Lake Ann, a Cherryland Electric Cooperative member who correctly identified



Nov/Dec Photo

the photo as the blacksmith building at the Almira Historical Society Museum in Lake Ann.

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