

Michigan

COUNTRY LINES



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David Anderson, Director
Boston/Lake Linden District

PERSONNEL

Debbie Miles, General Manager

Donna Siren, Billing Clerk

OTHER INFORMATION

Date of Incorporation: Sept. 30, 1937

Fiscal year-end: Dec. 31

countrylines.com/coops/ontonagon

MANAGER’S MESSAGE

What Does the Service Charge on Your Bill Mean?

Part of my job at Ontonagon County REA is answering questions that you, as co-op member-owners, may have about our operations, your electric bill, or other topics. One of the most common questions our members ask is, “What is the ‘Service Charge’ on my bill?” Some worry that it’s a late fee, but that’s not the case.

It takes a solid infrastructure of complicated equipment and dedicated people to keep safe, reliable and affordable power flowing to your home or business. So, that’s really what the service charge is all about—covering the many costs of providing electricity. The graph on page 3 is a quick summary to answer the service charge question, but it’s also important to know a few supporting facts, which follow.

Materials, Supplies, Transportation

This portion of your service charge dollar represents the cost of materials and supplies used to install and maintain electric distribution lines and equipment. Vehicles, metering supplies, network and computer equipment are also included in this category.

Right-of-Way Clearing & Other Contracted Services

Right-of way clearing, which improves our service reliability, represents a large portion of these costs. Also in this category are legal, auditing and engineering services.

Labor & Benefits

The largest portion of labor and benefit costs for the co-op’s workforce is for line operations and maintenance personnel. Other costs include administrative, member service and accounting personnel.

Interest, Taxes, Other

In addition, your co-op paid property taxes totaling over \$199,000. Property tax is paid to each township and other tax authorities that have Ontonagon’s utility poles and equipment within their boundaries.

Another cost the service charge has to cover is interest on our long-term debt. Our utility plant in the amount of \$22 million is financed by low-interest loans (ranging from 2 to 5 percent) from the Rural Utilities Service (U.S.

Dept. of Agriculture), the Cooperative Finance Corporation, and Co-Bank (the latter two are banks for co-ops).

Safety, And More...

Did you know that Ontonagon’s employees save you money every day by working safely? In addition to limiting costly lost-time accidents, our employees attend regular safety meetings. Ontonagon County REA has not had a lost-time accident in over seven years, which is reflected by our workers’ compensation insurance rates.

Finally, 59 cents of every dollar collected from our members goes to our wholesale power suppliers (WE Energies, Wisconsin Public Service, and U.P. Power) for generating the electricity we distribute to your homes and businesses. This includes purchased power generation costs as well as high-voltage delivery of the power across Michigan through transmission lines and substations.

I hope this information helps answer any questions about the service charge—as you can see, it covers a lot of things necessary to bring you service at the flip of a switch!



Debbie Miles
General Manager

What Does My Service Charge Cover?

Ever wondered what your monthly service charge supports? It takes a solid infrastructure and great people to keep safe, reliable, and affordable power flowing to your home or business. Here's how Ontonagon County REA's service charge breaks down:

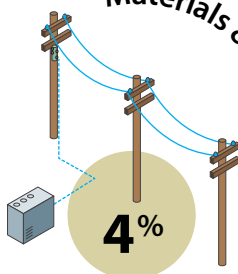
Labor & Benefits

43%



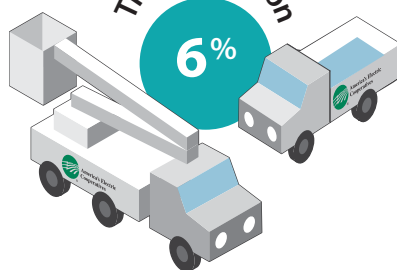
Materials & Supplies

4%



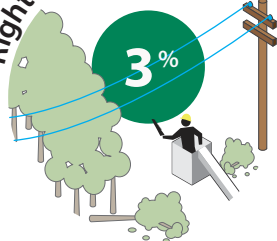
Transportation

6%



Right-of-Way Clearing

3%



Other
20%

Legal, Engineering,
Audit Services

Interest
& Taxes

24%

Source: Annual Report

New Heating Assistance Law Passed

Ontonagon County REA will not participate this year in a new social program known as the Low Income Energy Assistance Fund (LIEAF). Although Ontonagon has opted-out, we will re-evaluate after the first year.

Public Act 95 of 2013 was approved in late June and created LIEAF within the state Treasury. It authorized the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) to approve a LIEAF funding factor no later than July 31 of each year for the subsequent fiscal year. The funding is being created by a monthly surcharge, not to exceed \$1 per meter, to the electric bills of all Michigan consumers whose utility opts-in to the program.

On July 29 it was announced that a factor of 99 cents, plus tax, would be added to all electric bills of member-customers of those utilities that have opted-in to the program, effective with the September billing month.

The Act provides that electric utilities may elect not to collect the surcharge by annually filing a notice with the MPSC; however, utilities that do not collect the surcharge shall not shut off service to any residential customer from Nov. 1 to April 15 for nonpayment of a delinquent account.

Ontonagon County REA was joined in opting-out this year by several other cooperatives and municipal utilities.

A list of other potential sources of winter home heating assistance will appear in the November-December issue of *Country Lines*. Or, visit michigan.gov/mpsc/consumer information (some may have earlier deadlines), or contact your county Department of Human Services office.

Member Notice: Access To Rules & Rates

This notice of *Access to Rules and Rates* is published pursuant to the rules established by the Michigan Public Service Commission as set forth in the Consumer Standards and Billing Practices for Electric and Gas Residential Service, R460-2146.

As a member-customer (member) of Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association, please be advised that the following information is available to you from the cooperative, upon request: **1.)** Complete rate schedules; **2.)** Clear and concise explanation of all rates the member may be eligible to receive; and **3.)** Assistance from the cooperative in determining the most appropriate rate for a member when the member is eligible to receive service under more than one rate.

New Thermostat Programs Itself

A programmable thermostat is one of the easiest energy savers you can buy. Unfortunately, most people don't follow through and program it to automatically adjust the temperature when their home is empty or full.

But this problem may have been solved by a cool, although relatively expensive, new energy gadget called the Nest Learning Thermostat™. This “smart” thermostat learns from your behaviors, preferences and surroundings to create a custom heating and cooling schedule, keeping you comfortable when you're home and conserving energy when you're away.

“It was unacceptable to me that the device controlling 10 percent of all energy consumed in the U.S. hadn't kept up with advancements in technology and design,” says Tony Fadell, cofounder/CEO of Nest Labs. So, his team set out to reinvent the thermostat using the advanced technologies, high-quality manu-



Photo - Nest Labs

facturing and thoughtful design the iPhone generation expects, he adds. “We hope it will not only save money and energy, but teach and inspire people to think more about how they can reduce home-energy consumption.”

The U.S. Department of Energy and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab report that the annual energy bill for a typical single-family home is about \$2,200, with heating and cooling accounting for about one-half. The programmable thermostat, developed in the '70s, promised to help people conserve energy, but 89 percent of owners rarely or

The new Nest Learning Thermostat was created by Tony Fadell, Nest co-founder/CEO. The self-programming thermostat is part of a wave of home automation that is creating new smart appliances and monitoring technology that will help homeowners reduce energy costs and improve comfort and convenience.

never set a program.

The Nest thermostat (nest.com) addresses this programming problem through a combination of sensors, algorithms, machine learning and cloud computing. It programs itself based on the temperatures you set, then learns your personal schedule in a week and starts automatically turning down heating or cooling when you're away. You can even connect it to your home's Wi-Fi to control it from your laptop, smartphone or tablet. Change the temperature, adjust your schedule, and check your energy use.

Note: For today's models, there is caution against using this thermostat with geothermal heating/cooling systems, which are not programmed correctly for this type of use and actually increase energy consumption as it switches to the auxiliary electric strip heat way too soon.

Slaying Silent Energy Killers

Brian Sloboda, a vampire slayer, hunts for energy killers that feed on electricity when nobody's looking.

“We need to kill what I call the ‘energy vampires,’” the senior program manager for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) says. “Look around your house for any plug with what we call a ‘wall wart’—those larger black boxes that are actually transformers. Those are energy killers.”

Found on the cords of devices such as cell phone chargers and video game systems, these big plugs eat energy all day and night.

“They consume electricity whenever they

are plugged in, whether turned on or off,” says Sloboda. “It's a tiny amount of electricity, but the power's drained for nothing.”

In some cases, he adds, the consumption is more than just a little.

“Some video game systems from before 2010, even when they're turned off, use practically as much energy as when they're turned on,” Sloboda explains, noting the same is true for some cable boxes and digital video recorder units.

To combat energy vampires, he has two recommendations: look for electronic devices with the Energy Star® logo (equipment that's



certified as energy-efficient); and use smart power strips.

“These power strips can sense a change of voltage running through them that will stop the flow of energy to that item or to other related items,” he says. For example, a smart power strip can sense when a computer is turned off or in sleep mode and will automatically stop the flow of power to monitors, printers and speakers.

Adding a Breath of Fresh Air

Energy conservation and air quality go hand-in-hand, but it's often an inverse relationship.

“As we tighten the building envelope, problems that have been around before now become prevalent—air quality issues, humidity, carbon monoxide, mildew and mold,” explains Art Thayer, energy efficiency programs director for the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association. “In today's no-leak construction, there's no place for these

culprits to escape, so we have to make sure we get proper air exchanges in addition to controlling energy leaks.”

Specialized units called energy recovery ventilators are now available and can handle the task perfectly. “It can be done with passive air management—basically opening a window—but usually some mechanical intervention is needed to take care of moisture and air quality issues,” Thayer adds.

Air quality is a major concern, especially

when there have been previous leaks. Controlling moisture at the source in basement and crawl spaces makes a big difference in mold and mildew issues. Proper bathroom ventilation can help improve air quality and health. While it may not be a top consideration during a bathroom or kitchen remodel, it is a critical improvement you'll want installed correctly.

“Electric co-ops work to help educate homeowners about the advantages of properly insulating and addressing air infiltration, ventilation, and heat loss issues,” Thayer says, “to help ensure health and safety.”

Co-ops Are Different

What makes electric cooperatives different from other types of utilities lies in their core mission.

Michigan *Country Lines* magazine comes to you because you are a member and owner of the local electric “cooperative” that provides the power to your home or business. That’s why you’ll often see references to “the cooperative difference” in these pages. The differences between electric co-ops and other electric utilities range from how they refer to the people they serve—co-ops serve “members” or “member-owners” not “customers”—to the business model itself.

For example, electric co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis. Revenues above operating costs, called “margins,” are returned to members in the form of capital credits in years when the co-op has profit above the actual cost of providing service and maintenance of the system for future reliability.

In the U.S., there are two other kinds of not-for-profit electric providers: public utility districts (PUDs) and public power districts (PPDs). There are also two other types of electric utilities: city-owned municipal electric systems and profit-driven investor-owned utilities. In every case, utilities receive financial assistance from the federal government in some fashion. Following is a look at each.

Co-ops, PUDs, PPDs

Electric co-ops are joined by public power districts—located exclusively in Nebraska—and public utility districts (all in the Pacific Northwest) as being not-for-profit. But while co-ops choose directors/trustees from their membership (people served by the co-op) and are required by state law to hold annual membership meetings, PUDs and PPDs are local government units—similar to school districts—and are not required to hold annual meetings or allocate capital credits. In addition, their directors (commissioners in the case of PUDs) are elected on the state



Photo—iStockphoto.com

ballot. Candidates only need to reside within the PPD/PUD’s boundaries to serve on a board; they do not have to receive power from the utility.

Federal assistance to electric co-ops comes in the form of low-interest loans from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), formerly the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). Based on current interest rates, RUS loans actually make money for the federal government—about \$274 million in fiscal year 2012. Aside from aiding in the construction of critical infrastructure that keeps electric service reliable and electric rates affordable, RUS financing remains important because household incomes in co-op service territories run about 11 percent lower than the national average.

Co-ops also have fewer consumers to share the cost of providing electricity. Co-ops serve an average of 7.4 consumers per mile of line, over which they collect annual revenue of about \$14,900. Nationally, electric co-ops pay \$1.4 billion in state and local taxes each year.

Municipal Electric Systems

Municipal systems are electric distribution utilities owned by a city, borough or other incorporated community. As public entities, they can levy taxes, issue government bonds, and adopt and enforce rules and regulations.

Not-for-profit municipals serve the most consumers per mile of line, an average of 48, and collect an average of \$113,301 per mile of line. The federal government subsidies municipals, too—when cities or boroughs issue tax-exempt bonds, interest paid to bond

owners is not taxed. The cost of this benefit in 2003 (the last year data is available) was \$909 million, or \$55 per consumer.

Investor-owned Utilities

Investor-owned utilities (IOUs) are governed by and generate profits for shareholders (stock owners) who do not necessarily live in the utility’s service area. IOUs average 34 customers and \$75,498 in revenue per mile of line.

In almost every case, IOUs charge electric rates that include amounts for presumed federal tax liabilities. However, available tax breaks (investment tax credits and accelerated depreciation) allow IOUs to retain most of the taxes collected, a total of about \$107 billion to date. At a cost to the government of \$4.6 billion in 2010, this federal subsidy to IOUs equals about \$44 per customer.

Back to the Co-op Difference

Your local electric co-op exists to provide affordable, reliable, environmentally responsible electric power. But at the core, it’s really about improving the quality of life in the communities it serves. That’s the main difference—the cooperative difference.

Keep reading *Country Lines* to see how electric co-ops make a difference in their communities.

Magen Howard writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service organization for the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Rebates,
tax credits
available!

Fall is Best Time to Replace Furnace, Central Air

With winter on the horizon, making sure your furnace is in tip-top shape is smart. But, if your heating equipment is over 15 years old, it's even smarter to replace it.

New Furnace Benefits & Essentials

Not only are older furnaces unreliable, they waste energy. This adds up since heating costs represent 29 percent of your home's annual energy bill—more than any other category. A new energy-efficient furnace offers the same features and functionality as standard models, but uses 16 percent less energy.

Energy "essentials" in a new furnace system include: a variable speed, electronically commutated motor (ECM); proper unit size (not too big or small); tightly sealed ducts; and a programmable thermostat.

Double Up

If you have central air conditioning, do you know that it works hand-in-hand with your furnace? Central air requires a blower motor—usually part of the furnace—to push

cool air through your home's ducts.

According to ENERGY STAR®, the only way to ensure that a new air conditioner performs at its rated efficiency is to replace your heating system at the same time. Installing a new central air conditioner

ACTION	REBATE	FEDERAL TAX CREDIT	TOTAL CASH BACK
Retrofit existing furnace	\$150	\$150	\$300
Buy new furnace (AFUE ≥ 95%)	\$150	\$150	\$300
Buy new central air conditioning unit	\$100	\$300	\$400
DOUBLE UP: Buy new furnace + central air ...	\$350	\$450	\$800
Buy programmable thermostat	\$20	N/A	\$20

without replacing the furnace may lead to premature failure of the system.

Rebates and Tax Credits

Ontonagon County REA has structured its Energy Optimization rebates so they offset installation costs associated with energy-efficient furnaces or air conditioners. The federal government also offers 2013 tax credits for buying efficient heating and/or cooling systems this year. Plus, there is the benefit of ongoing energy savings over the

equipment's lifespan. In time, an efficient heating and cooling system pays for itself (find qualifying equipment at michigan-energy.org).

How HVAC Rebates Work:

■ **Work with a local heating and cooling contractor.** Ask if they are familiar with Energy Optimization rebates and request help in selecting a qualifying furnace and/or air conditioner. Need a referral? Call 877-296-4319.

■ **Schedule installation before Dec. 31, 2013.** Beat winter's bite and complete the project before the end of this year. To claim a tax credit, add Form 5665 to your 2013 federal tax return.

■ **Submit rebate application.**

Applications are available at michigan-energy.org. Your contractor can assist you with documentation and will often submit it on your behalf.

■ **Get rebate.** Look for your rebate check in the mail.

Savings for Everyone

Ontonagon County REA rewards businesses, agribusinesses/farms and residents for saving energy. See current incentives at michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319.

DOUBLE UP



How much can you save?

Why settle for one when you can have two? Receive a **\$150 Energy Optimization rebate** when you install a qualifying energy-efficient furnace. **Or, double up and get \$350** when you purchase an efficient furnace and central air conditioner together. With double deals, now is the time to save!

ENERGY TIP: An energy-efficient furnace with a variable speed motor cuts energy use by 16% per year.

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 michigan-energy.org.

How to Buy an Energy-Efficient Appliance

Some new appliances feature the Energy Star® logo, which means that the appliance is significantly more energy efficient than the average comparable model. For an energy-smart deal on your next appliance, consider the following information:

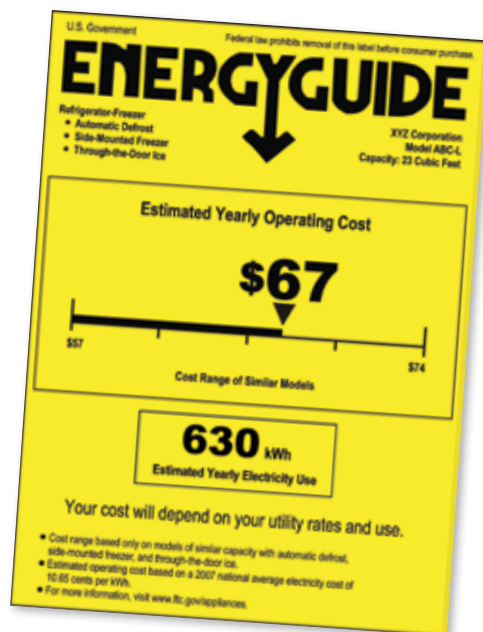
- ▶ Read the EnergyGuide label (required for refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, water heaters, and select HVAC systems).
- ▶ Compare the energy use of competing models.
- ▶ Estimate their differences in energy costs.
- ▶ Consider both purchase price and estimated energy use when deciding which brand and model to buy.

Shopping Strategy

- **Select the size and style.** Measure the space the appliance will occupy to be sure your new purchase will fit. Make sure that you'll have enough room to open the door or lid fully and enough clearance for ventilation. This may help you narrow your choices as you settle on the best capacity and style.
- **Know where to shop.** Appliance outlets,

electronics stores and local retailers carry different brands and models. Dealers also sell appliances through print catalogs and the internet.

- **Compare the performance of different brands and models.** Ask to see the manufacturer's product literature. Decide which features are important to you. Ask questions about how the different models operate: Are they noisy? What safety features do they have? What about repair histories? How much water do they use? How energy efficient are they?
- **Estimate how much the appliance will cost to operate.** The more energy an appliance uses, the more it will cost to run. Consult the EnergyGuide label to compare the energy use of different models. The difference on your monthly electric bill can be significant, especially when considered over the 10-to-20-year life of the appliance. You could save money over the long run by choosing a model that's more energy efficient, even if the purchase price is higher.
- **Ask about special energy efficiency offers.** Ask your salesperson or local elec-



tric cooperative about cash rebates, low-interest loans, or other incentive programs in your area for energy-efficient product purchases—and how you can qualify.

Source: Federal Trade Commission

'My Plate' is Healthy Eating Tool

The USDA has a great tool to guide and help you be mindful of eating a balanced diet. The MyPlate tool at ChooseMyPlate.gov helps you determine healthy portions for meals. Following are some easy ways to keep this healthful eating in mind.



Make half your plate fruits & vegetables

- Eat a variety of vegetables, especially dark green, red and orange varieties, as well as beans and peas.
- When buying canned vegetables, choose "reduced sodium" or "no salt added" whenever possible. Rinsing whole varieties like beans, corn and peas can also reduce sodium levels.
- Dried and frozen fruits and those canned in water or their own juice are good options when fresh varieties are unavailable.
- Make sure every meal and snack has at least one fruit, vegetable or both.

Make at least half your grains whole

- Choose brown rice, barley, oats and other whole grains for your sides and ingredients.

- Switch to 100 percent whole-grain ((check package ingredients for this term) breads, cereals and crackers.

Vary your protein choices

- Eat a variety of foods each week from the protein food group like seafood, nuts, and beans, as well as lean meat, poultry and eggs.
- Eat more plant-based proteins such as nuts, beans, whole grains, and whole soy foods like tofu and edamame (soy beans in the shell).

- At least twice a week, make fish and seafood the protein on your plate. Keep meat and poultry portions lean and limit to 3 ounces per meal.

Switch to fat-free or low-fat milk

- These varieties have the same amount of calcium and other essential nutrients as whole milk, but less fat and fewer calories.
- If you are lactose intolerant, try lactose-free milk or a calcium-fortified soy beverage.

Cut back on sodium & empty calories from solid fats & added sugars

- Drink water instead of sugary drinks like regular sodas, fruit-flavored drinks, and sweetened teas and coffees. Choose 100 percent fruit juice.
- Compare sodium in foods and choose those with the least amount.
- Season foods with spices or herbs instead of salt.
- Use heart-healthy oils like olive, canola and sunflower oil instead of butter or shortening.

Visit eatright.org/nnm for more helpful tips, recipes, games, promotional tools, and nutrition education resources.

Source: USDA



When the crops are ready to be harvested, farmers have only a window of time—between weather, equipment breakdowns, and life events—to bring the best-quality crop out of the field. This flurry of activity to get as much work done as possible also means extra caution should be taken to watch for safety hazards.

Overhead power lines pose one of the biggest hazards. This is partly because we have to look up to see them, so especially **farm operators and workers are urged to:**

- ▶ Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- ▶ Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- ▶ Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines—at all times, in all directions.
- ▶ Inspect farm equipment heights to determine clearance.
- ▶ Always remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- ▶ Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- ▶ If a power line is sagging or low, call the local utility immediately.

If contact is made with a power line, it is almost always safest to stay on the equipment. Warn others to stay away, and call the local utility provider immediately. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. In this case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, “bunny hop” away. Also consider these additional tips:

- ▲ Do not use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.
- ▲ Always hire qualified electricians for any electrical issues.
- ▲ Do not use equipment with frayed cables.
- ▲ Make sure outdoor outlets are equipped with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).
- ▲ When operating a portable generator, make sure nothing is plugged into it when turning it on, and never operate a generator in a confined area. Generators can produce toxic, deadly gasses, such as carbon monoxide.
- ▲ Always use caution when operating heavy machinery.

Visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org) for more electrical safety tips.

Fuel Mix Report

The fuel mix characteristics of Ontonagon County REA as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 6/30/13.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	63.8%	57.9%
Oil	0.1%	0.4%
Gas	5.5%	12.2%
Hydroelectric	3.4%	0.9%
Nuclear	23.1%	25.0%
Renewable Fuels	4.2%	3.6%
Biofuel	0.0%	0.1%
Biomass	0.1%	0.4%
Solar	0.0%	0.0%
Solid Waste Incineration	1.1%	0.5%
Wind	2.8%	2.2%
Wood	0.1%	0.5%

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas.

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	1.9	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,585	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	1.1	2.0
High-level nuclear waste	0.0000	0.0083

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

Figures for Ontonagon County REA are based on those of its principle power suppliers, WPS and We Energies.

Public Act 295: The Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act 2012 Annual Energy Optimization Report Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association MPSC Case Number U-16684

Ontonagon County REA has contracted with the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) to administer the Energy Optimization efforts in order to comply with P.A. 295. MECA filed a 4-year Energy Optimization plan with the MPSC on Aug. 1, 2011, as required by P.A. 295. This EO plan was approved by the MPSC on Nov. 10, 2011, and we began implementing the plan Jan. 1, 2012. The Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (WECC) was selected to implement all Residential, Commercial and Industrial Programs, and the Energy Optimization website michigan-energy.org. WECC has subcontracted with JACO, Michigan Energy Options, Franklin Energy, Morgan Marketing Partners, and Honeywell to assist with the implementation of the EO Programs. MECA contracted with KEMA as the independent third party evaluation contractor for the certification of kilowatt-hour savings.

In 2012, Ontonagon County REA collected \$67,193 through the Energy Optimization Surcharge and spent \$45,447, resulting in an over-collection of \$21,746, which will be applied towards the 2013 EO Program delivery expenses and goal achievement. Ontonagon County REA achieved 252.6 megawatt-hours of energy savings in 2012. The full report can be obtained at michigan-energy.org or efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile.

STATE OF MICHIGAN BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter of the Commission's own motion, regarding the regulatory reviews, revisions, determinations, and/or approvals necessary for Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association to fully comply with Public Act 295 of 2008.

Case No. U-17371

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

On March 15, 2013, April 2, 2013, and May 2, 2013, the Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) ordered Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association to file an energy optimization plan on or before August 1, 2013, to comply with the "Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act" (2008 P.A. 295, MCL 460.1001, et seq.) in Case No. U-17371. On July 30, 2013, Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association filed its application for an Energy Optimization Plan with the Commission.

Any interested person may review the filed Energy Optimization Plan on the MPSC website under Case No. U-17371 at: michigan.gov/mpscdockets and at the offices of Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association, 500 J.K. Paul Street, Ontonagon, Michigan or at the office of the Commission's Executive Secretary, 4300 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan 48917, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Written and electronic comments may be filed with the Commission and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 6, 2013. Written comments should be sent to the: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, Michigan 48909, with a copy mailed to Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association, 500 J.K. Paul Street, Ontonagon, Michigan 49953. Electronic comments may be emailed to: mpscdockets@michigan.gov. All comments should reference Case No. U-17371. Comments received in this matter will become public information, posted on the Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private.

The Commission will review the energy optimization plan together with any filed comments and provide a response indicating any revisions that should be made. If the Commission suggests revisions, Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association will file a revised EOP plan. A Commission order will be issued following the filing of the application.

ONTONAGON COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION



**Ontonagon County Rural
Electrification Association**



We're All About You.

October is National Cooperative Month! Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities owned by those who receive their services. Our philosophy is simple, and defined by the following principles.

Open Membership | Member Control | Economic Participation

Independence | Education & Training | Cooperation | Concern for Community

**ONTONAGON COUNTY
REA**