

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



Meet Our
Deer Blind
Contest Winners!

Plus!

- 4 Midwest Propane:
The Story Continues
- 5 Represent Your Fellow
Co-op Members
- 8 Memories Of Your Days
At The Zoo

JUST GOT THE UTILITY BILL

Thanks to WaterFurnace, homeowners around the world no longer dread receiving their monthly utility bills. That's because a WaterFurnace geothermal system uses the **clean, renewable energy** stored in your backyard to **save up to 70% on heating, cooling and hot water**. And with the volatile prices of electric, natural gas and propane, it's a **smart decision** now and for years to come. So take control of your utility bills and contact your local WaterFurnace dealer today.

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2014
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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.



IN THIS ISSUE



6 HOME COOKING
Holiday Happiness
Christin McKamey & Our Readers



Can you afford a higher electric bill? The EPA thinks you can.

7 OUR ENERGY
Comment: Don't Get Lost In the EPA Shuffle
Craig Borr



10 FEATURE
Winners of the *Country Lines* Deer Blind Contest!



13 SAFETY
Keep Your Family Safe Around Space Heaters & Cords



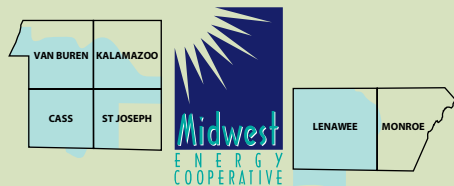
14 READERS' PAGE
Wolverine Plans New Natural Gas Plant, Mystery Photo

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The power of human connections®



A Story Our Propane Customers Won't Stop Sharing



Robert Hance
President/CEO

Almost every morning for the last few months I've heard the same radio ad from the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). After last winter's propane supply crisis and continued lawsuits over price-gouging, the MPSC is encouraging users to establish a relationship with a propane partner and get a tank fill early in the heating season.

It makes me smile, because they're telling the Midwest Propane story.

Our approach to service hasn't changed since we launched Midwest Propane in 1998. We established the business on a promise to take care of our loyal customers with reliable service and a capped-rate approach, free of additional charges, and guaranteed through the heating season. That approach never held more value than during the 2013–14 heating season, when Midwest Propane customers weathered winter with the peace-of-mind of our promise.

Propane users with other providers were denied deliveries and many saw their prices escalate to well over \$4 per gallon. People burned through a lot more gas and were left buried with high bills long after the heating season ended.

The propane year is usually fairly predictable. Once the weather breaks and spring settles in, people typically put away their winter woes and new tank sales come to a virtual standstill through spring and summer. With the first cold days of fall, people start shopping again and we see the most new tank sets during the last three months of the year.

Word-of-mouth created a very different experience this year, as we have added nearly 300 new customers from May 1 through Sept. 30, our traditionally "quiet" season. No amount of marketing or advertising will ever be as valuable as a customer referral, and that's exactly what prompted this year's unprecedented growth.

Weather experts are predicting another tough winter, and now is the time to get your tank filled and have a solid understanding of how your propane partner operates. Is your price capped, or are you subject to market whims and the provider's greed? Will your patronage be honored with reliable service, or will new customers get the provider's attention?

Our service team delivered nearly 400,000 gallons of gas in August to prepare customers for the current heating season, and our price is capped and guaranteed at \$2.199/gallon through May, with none of the hidden fees imposed by other retailers. Do your research and find a partner you trust. We welcome you to take a look our way by visiting TeamMidwestPropane.com or call 1-800-492-5989 for details. ■

Represent Fellow Members On Co-op Board

One of the seven guiding principles of cooperatives is “Democratic Member Control.” Individuals who take electric service from Midwest Energy Cooperative are more than customers—they are owners who have a voice and are encouraged to take an active role in the organization.

Your cooperative is governed by a nine-member board of directors, and each is elected to serve a three-year term. Directors are elected by and represent members living in their district. Board positions are important roles that are not taken lightly, as directors make critical decisions on behalf of their fellow member-owners.

Three seats on the Midwest Energy board will be up for election in 2015. Members interested in serving should contact the co-op to get a petition for nomination. A member securing signatures from 30 or more members on the petition will be placed on the ballot. To be on the ballot for one of the three terms ending in April 2015, a member must complete the petition and a biography, and return them to the Cassopolis office by 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 2, 2015. Ballots will then be mailed to district members on Jan. 26, 2015, and counted on Feb. 10, 2015. All board members must reside in the district they represent.

In 2015, Districts 3, 4 and 8 will be up for election. District 3 is currently represented by **Ron Armstrong**,



Ron Armstrong



Clarence Barth



Kenneth Swope

of Lawton. The district includes Almena, Antwerp, Portage, Prairie Ronde, Oshtemo and Texas townships.

Clarence Barth, of Three Rivers, is the current District 4 director, which includes Brady, Fabius, Flowerfield, Leonidas, Lockport, Mendon, Newberg, Park, Schoolcraft and Wakeshma townships.

District 8 is represented by **Ken Swope**, of Tecumseh. This district includes Adrian, Cambridge, Franklin, Raisin, Ridgeway, Rollin, Rome, Tecumseh, and Woodstock townships, as well as northern portions of Blissfield, Deerfield, Dover, Hudson, Madison and Palmyra townships.

For more information about serving on the board of directors, please call the co-op at 800-492-5989. ■

Access To Rules & Rates

This notice is published pursuant to the rules established by the Michigan Public Service Commission as set forth in the Consumer Standard and Billing Practices for Electric and Gas Residential Services, R460, 2146 and 2149.

As a member-customer of Midwest Energy Cooperative, the following information is available to you upon request:

1. Complete rate schedules;
2. Clear and concise explanation of all rates that the member may be eligible to receive;
3. Assistance from the cooperative in determining the most appropriate rate for the member when the member is eligible to receive service under more than one rate;
4. Clear, concise explanation of actual energy use for each billing.

Co-op Holiday Hours

Midwest Energy Cooperative offices will be closed for the holidays on the following dates:

Thanksgiving

**Thursday and Friday,
Nov. 27–28**

Christmas

**Wednesday and Thursday,
Dec. 24–25**

New Year's Day

Thursday, Jan. 1

*From our families to
yours, happy holidays!*



HOLIDAY HAPPINESS

These make-ahead recipes are time-savers, and a perfect compliment to your holiday feast!

Holiday Spinach Dip

1 large round crusty bread, slice off top and hollow
2 pkgs. 10-oz. spinach, defrosted, chopped, squeezed
2 c. sour cream
2 c. Hellman's® mayo
1 c. chopped onion, very fine
2 t. dill weed
2 T. oregano
1 ½ t. Lawry's® seasoning salt

Mix all ingredients. Chill overnight. Serve in bread.
Use scooped out bread and additional small bread slices to dip. Looks pretty surrounded with cherry tomatoes.

Arlene Russel, Harbor Springs

Bailey's Milk Chocolate Truffles

¾ c. heavy cream
3 T. butter
1 ½ lb. milk chocolate chopped in pieces (not chocolate bits)
¾ c. Bailey's® Irish cream
½ c. confectioners' sugar
¼ c. cocoa powder
⅛ t. cinnamon

Combine cream and butter in saucepan and bring to a light boil; remove from heat. Add chocolate pieces, stir to melt. Stir in Bailey's®. Pour into bowl and refrigerate at least 6 hours. Spoon out walnut size pieces of the mixture onto cookie sheet and refrigerate until firm. Before serving, sift together confectioners' sugar, cocoa and cinnamon or you can do them all separately, for a different variety of colors. Roll each truffle into a ball and roll in cocoa/sugar mixture. Makes 40 or more. Refrigerate in airtight container. Use candy papers to keep them from sticking together when serving at room temperature. These do have alcohol in them, so serve just at an adult party.

Kami Maurer House, Sebewaing

Low Effort Eggnog



4 egg yolks
⅓ c. sugar, plus 1 T.
1 pint whole milk
1 c. heavy cream
3 oz. rum or bourbon (or extract)
1 t. freshly grated nutmeg
4 egg whites

In the bowl of a stand mixer, beat the egg yolks until they lighten in color. Gradually add the ⅓ c. sugar and continue to beat until it is completely dissolved. Add the milk, cream, bourbon and nutmeg, and stir to combine. Place egg whites in the bowl of a stand mixer and beat to soft peaks. With the mixer still running, gradually add the 1 tablespoon of sugar and beat until stiff peaks form. Whisk the egg whites into the mixture. Chill and serve.

Laura Kurella, Sturgis

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite **"Sandwiches"** recipes by **Nov. 10** and your favorite **"Soups"** recipes by **Dec. 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 countrylines.com for more reader recipes!

Photos—831 Creative

Don't Get Lost in the Shuffle



Craig Borr, CEO,
Michigan Electric
Cooperative
Association

Six hundred pages, plus another 1,000 of supporting documents—that's the length of the latest proposal from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It would amend the Clean Air Act (only 465 pages) to limit carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the power plants on which Michigan relies today.

Besides the actual rule, a lot has been written about its legality, feasibility and complexity. In fact, Michigan Rep. John Dingell, the longest-serving member of the U.S. House of Representatives, emphatically stated several years ago that the EPA's regulation of carbon dioxide would result in a "glorious mess". His position, and I agree, is that Congress should determine far-reaching energy policy—not a federal agency loaded with lifetime bureaucrats.

But lost in the shuffle of these thousands of pages is *the impact on people*. How much will electric bills increase? Will manufacturers relocate? How many jobs will be lost? Which power plants will be forced to shut down? In Michigan, one-third of Michigan's coal fleet will close as a result of EPA regulations. Arguably, some of those facilities need to close, as they are old and dirty.

Energy policy questions are often difficult, but they are important questions. Michigan's electric cooperatives work hard to keep your electricity affordable and reliable. That's why we're asking the EPA for answers to these and many other questions.

We don't want you to get lost in the shuffle. We put you—our members—first. We advocate for you. Our member-cooperatives see you every month paying your bill at the office. We work with you. We know when times are tough. We often live next door.

After all, you govern us. Our board members and community leaders are one and the same. We're as local as any organization, and we like it that way.

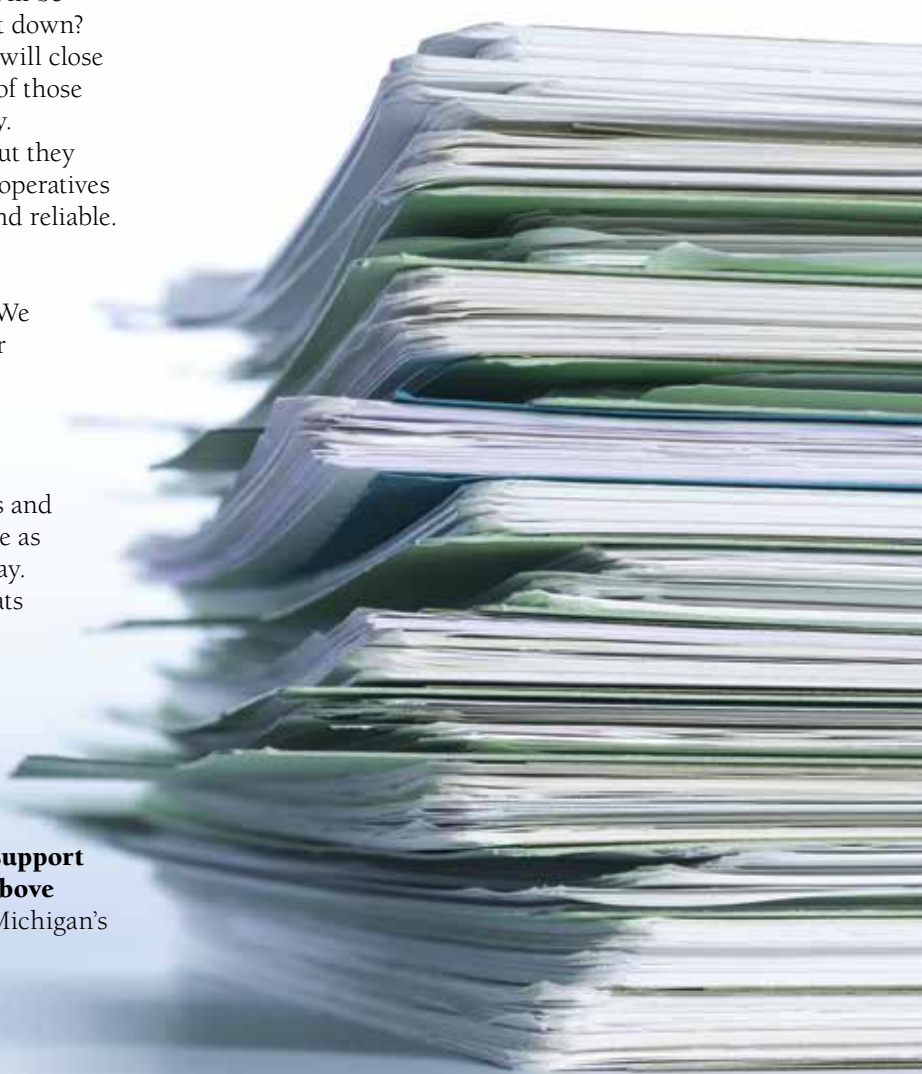
That's why we keep reminding the bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., that the rules they write have an impact on the real world—where we live. That's why we're encouraging everyone to take 30 seconds to sign up at Action.coop and tell the EPA we cannot afford these regulations.

Please raise your voice. Don't get lost in the shuffle. **Together, we can tell the EPA that support for the environment and a true all-of-the-above energy policy are not mutually exclusive.** Michigan's

electric cooperatives lead by example. Our members are proud to be leaders in both energy efficiency and renewable energy. We have been leaders in both of these important areas long before they were required by the Michigan Legislature. Like many of our member-consumers that make their living in the agriculture industry, electric co-ops have always been good stewards of the environment because it is the right thing to do.

Together we need to remind regulators and lawmakers that the impact the EPA's proposed new rules could have on rural Michigan people, and others throughout our country, should be their *first* thought, not their *last*.

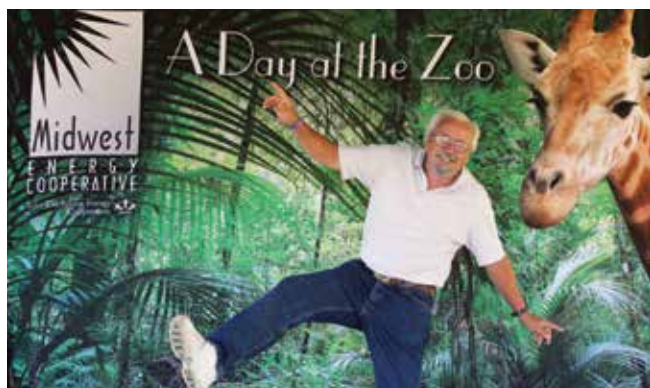
With over 900 electric cooperatives in the country backing us up, our voice can be heard. We have a great and positive story to tell. We can tell the story together. And it won't even take 1,600 pages. The EPA's public comment period is extended to Dec. 1—please take a moment to visit Action.coop today and let your voice be heard. ■



Midwest in the Community

Giving back to our communities is one of the core values of Midwest Energy. We believe in doing what we can, individually and as a family of employees, to strengthen and support the communities in which we live, work and serve. Following are some of the ways we've impacted our communities and members.





Days at the Zoo 2014

Mother Nature could not have provided a better backdrop for our 2014 “Appreciation Days at the Zoo.” With sunny skies and temperatures in the 70s, over 5,000 members and families joined us for a picnic lunch and afternoon of fun and memories at Toledo and Binder Park zoos over the last two weekends of September. A roaring good time was had by all!

To view more photos from the day, visit TeamMidwest.com and click on the Flickr icon at the top of the homepage.

Fueling the Fight Against Cancer

Midwest Propane once again “Fueled the Fight” in 2014, raising money and awareness for cancer care and services across Michigan. The campaign began in July with a charity golf scramble benefitting the Susan P. Wheatlake Cancer and Wellness Endowment Fund of the Big Rapids Hospital Foundation. Efforts continued through the summer as we committed one penny for every gallon of gas delivered in August and \$10 for every customer signing up for new propane service in September. Our pink-shirted service technicians could be seen all over our service area delivering gas and setting tanks! Those proceeds were donated to the West Michigan Cancer Center in Kalamazoo and Hickman Cancer Center in Adrian. In total, Midwest Propane donated nearly \$17,000.



Lenawee County United Way Day of Action

The Lenawee County United Way brought together over 700 volunteers to assist with 52 projects during its annual Day of Action in September. Team Midwest's 12 employee volunteers partnered with Habitat for Humanity's Rock the Block effort—a neighborhood revitalization mission where teams worked on seven projects in a two-block area on the east side of Adrian. Projects including painting, yard work and other outdoor home maintenance, and even a garage demolition. ■



Meet Our Deer Blind Contest Winners!

From hideouts that resemble a cozy cottage (complete with area rug) to basic shelters, we received more than 60 entries in our *Country Lines* tricked-out deer blind contest. Who knew there were so many cool deer blind styles? Thanks to all who participated—it was difficult to choose! Our winners are featured here, but visit countrylines.com to tour the tricked-out blinds of other electric co-op members who entered.

"Most Tricked-Out"

Congratulations to **Ward Forquer**, a HomeWorks Tri-County member, for having the most tricked-out blind. Affectionately known as "Fort Miller Lite," it's a two-story 10 by 14-foot insulated structure with a carpeted observation room, solar panel, propane heat and lights, 13-inch flat screen color TV, bunk beds, and customized Miller Lite memorabilia. Located in Isabella County, it can host up to 12 people.



Photos—David Trumpie Photography

"Most Interestingly-Engineered"

Kudos to **Ronald Camp** for building the most interestingly-engineered blind. Working in underground excavation for 30 years, Ron envisioned a 36-foot underground storage tank for his shelter. The HomeWorks Tri-County member set the tank upright, above ground, and added a cupola at the top that swivels 360 degrees. Getting to the top means climbing a 28-rung ladder, but he is installing a 12-volt elevator.



"Best Story Behind the Blind"

Dean Ronk made his deerblind after finding that nearly every garage sale had a fake Christmas tree—usually with a bent, broken base or missing branches. The Midwest Energy co-op member decided to bend the wire tree branches around a circle of hog fencing, with heavy plastic as a roof. His idea has gained popularity, and he says, "it makes hunting affordable, and a 'green' way to hunt by recycling old trees." Now he makes them for friends, and people are giving him their old trees. ■



Photo Courtesy - Dean Ronk

Home Heating Assistance Programs • 2014–2015 Season

Program: Winter Protection Plan
Contact: Your Local Utility Company

Income Guidelines 2014–2015	
# in Household	150% Poverty Guide Maximum Income
1	\$17,505
2	23,595
3	29,685
4	35,775
5	41,865
6	47,955
7	54,045
8	60,090

Add \$6,090 for each additional member.

Note: All customers 65+ are eligible regardless of income. Customers are responsible for all electricity and natural gas used. At the end of the protection period, participants in the plan must make arrangements with their utility company to pay off any money owed before the next heating season.

Program: Home Heating Credit
Contact: Mich. Dept. of Treasury

# Exemp.	Max. Income	# Exemp.	Max. Income
1	\$12,842	4	26,243
2	17,329	5	30,728
3	21,786	6	35,186

Add \$4,457 for each exemption over 6.

Program: Earned Income Credit
Contact: U.S. Treasury Dept., Internal Revenue Service irs.gov/EITC
 Michigan Dept. of Treasury
michigan.gov/treasury

The **Winter Protection Plan** protects eligible senior and low-income customers from service shut-offs and high utility bill payments during the winter months (Nov. 1–March 31). You may enroll between Nov. 1 and March 31. If you are an eligible low-income customer, your utility service will remain on from Nov. 1 through March 31, if you:

- pay at least 7% of your estimated annual bill each month, **and**
- make equal monthly payments between the date you apply and the start of the next heating season of any past due bills.

When the protection period ends (March 31), from April 1 through Oct. 31, you must begin to pay the full monthly bill, plus part of the amount you owe from the winter months when you did not pay the full bill. **Participation does not relieve customers from the responsibility of paying for electricity and natural gas usage, but does prevent shut-off during winter months.** You qualify for the plan if you meet at least one of the following requirements:

- are age 65 or older,
- receive Department of Human Services cash assistance, including SSI,
- receive Food Assistance,
- receive Medicaid, or
- household income is at or below the 150% of poverty level shown in the Income Guidelines chart at left.

Senior citizen customers (65 or older) who participate in the Winter Protection Plan are not required to make specific payments to ensure that their service will not be shut off between Nov. 1 and March 31. However, seniors are encouraged to pay whatever they can during the winter so they will not have large, unmanageable bills when the protection ends.

You can apply for a **Home Heating Credit** for the **2014** tax year if you meet the income guidelines listed at left, or you qualify based on alternate guidelines including household income, exemptions, and heating costs. Additional exemptions are available for seniors, disabled claimants, or claimants with 5% or more of their income from unemployment compensation.

If you qualify, you may receive assistance to help pay for your winter heating bills. **Forms are available mid- to late-January wherever tax forms are provided, or from the Michigan Dept. of Treasury (517-636-4486, or michigan.gov/treasury).** The Home Heating Credit claim form must be filed with the Michigan Dept. of Treasury **before Sept. 30, 2015.**

The **Earned Income Credit (EIC)** is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families who meet certain requirements and file a tax return. Those who qualify will owe less in taxes and may get a refund. Even a person who does not generally owe income tax may qualify for the EIC, but must file a tax return to do so. If married, you must file jointly to qualify. File Form 1040 or 1040A and attach the EIC.

You may claim a **Michigan earned income tax credit** for tax year **2014** equal to a percentage of the federal earned income tax credit for which you are eligible. Visit the website or see the **2014** MI tax booklet for details.

Program: Crisis Assistance Program

Contact: Local Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS)
michigan.gov/mdhs

State Emergency Relief Program (SER): mibenefitsaccess.org You do not have to be a DHS client to apply for help with a past due bill, shut-off notice or the need for deliverable fuel through the SER. This program, available Nov. 1–May 31, provides most of its utility assistance during this crisis season. However, limited assistance is available outside the crisis season. If you receive a DHS cash grant, you may vendor part of it towards heat and electric bills. Contact your local DHS or call the Home Heating Hotline, 855-275-6424.

Program: Low-Income Home Weatherization

Contact: Local Community Action Agency

You may be able to receive help with weatherizing your home to reduce energy use if you meet low-income eligibility guidelines (200% of poverty guidelines shown above) and funding is available. **Weatherization** may include caulking, weatherstripping, and insulation. Contact your local Community Action Agency for details. Visit mcaaa.org to find one in your area.

Program: United Way

Contact: Call 2-1-1 or UWmich.org/2-1-1

2-1-1 is a free phone service operating 24 hours daily to provide information about help that may be available in a particular area with utilities and other needs. Learn more at UWmich.org/2-1-1.

Program: Medical Emergency Protection

Contact: Local Utility Company

You are protected from service shut-off for nonpayment of your natural gas and/or electric bill for up to 21 days, possibly extended to 63 days, if you have a proven **medical emergency**. You must provide written proof from a doctor, public health or social services official that a medical emergency exists. Contact your gas or electric utility for details.

Program: Shut-off Protection for Military Active Duty

Contact: Local Utility Company

If you or your spouse has been called into **active military duty** you may apply for shut-off protection from your electric or natural gas service for up to 90 days. You may request extensions. You must still pay, but contact your utility company and they will help you set up a payment plan.

Program: Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Emergency Grant Program

Contact:

The Trust Fund provides temporary assistance to veterans and their families facing a financial emergency or hardship including the need for energy assistance.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund at (517) 284-5299 or <http://Michigan.gov/dmva>

Program: MI Energy Assistance Program

Contact: Utility or 2-1-1 in late November

Agency assistance through MEAP, which includes funds from the Low Income Energy Assistance Fund (LIEAF), became available in early October. Visit Michigan.gov/mpsc for details about organizations that have received MEAP grants. Shut-off protection is provided Nov. 1–April 15 for all residential customers (regardless of income) of any Michigan electric that has chosen not to collect 97 cents monthly from its customers for the LIEAF fund.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF
MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE
CASE NO. U-17676**

- Midwest Energy Cooperative requests Michigan Public Service Commission approval to implement a power supply cost recovery (PSCR) plan and a PSCR factor of 5.40 mills per kilowatt-hour (kWh) or \$0.00540 per kWh to compute its member-customer bills for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2015.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write Midwest Energy Cooperative, 901 East State Street, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031, (800) 492-5989 for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the application at the offices of Midwest Energy Cooperative.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

DATE/TIME: December 2, 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 Suzanne D. Sonneborn

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 Midwest Energy Cooperative's (Midwest) September 29, 2014, application to implement a PSCR plan and a PSCR factor of 5.40 mills per kWh or \$0.00540 per kWh with a 77.72 mills per kWh or \$0.07772 per kWh allowance for cost of power supply included in base rates to compute its member-customers' bills for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2015.

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 November 25, 2014. (Petitions to intervene may also be filed using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Midwest 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 Midwest request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: michigan.gov/mpscdockets, and at the office of Midwest Energy Cooperative. 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 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 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 460.6j et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; and the 460.17101 et seq.

Use Your Space Heater Safely

Many people use space heaters for winter warmth, but they can be dangerous if used improperly.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that 25,000 home fires every year are associated with space heaters, and cause over 300 deaths. An additional 6,000 people annually go to the hospital for related burns.

These fires are caused by contact with or nearness to the heating elements, flammable fuels used in the heaters, defective wiring, and carbon monoxide poisoning caused by improper venting or incomplete fuel combustion.

Here are tips for using a space heater safely:

- Keep it at least 3 feet from flammables, such as curtains, clothing, furniture or bedspreads.
- Select a model with an automatic shut-off, in case it tips.
- Buy one that is certified by an independent testing lab, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Buy the right size to handle the area to be heated.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Keep kids and pets at a safe distance.
- Never leave it unattended, or sleep with it on.
- Never use or store flammable liquids near it.
- Do not use in a bathroom—a high-moisture area can cause damage.
- Keep it away from water to prevent electrocution.



- Check the cord for fraying and cracks, and do not use an extension cord to run it.
- Be sure the plug fits snugly in the outlet. (The cord and plug may feel warm when operating, but it shouldn't feel hot. If it does, unplug it and have a repair person check for problems.)
- Do not try to repair a broken heater yourself—go to a qualified appliance service center.

Visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSC/PUBS/PUBS/463.html> for more safety tips on space heaters that use wood or kerosene. ■



Save energy, save money!

There are plenty of cues telling us that the end of the year is near—the air is cooler, the leaves have fallen, and the calendar is almost open to December. Opportunities are still available to save energy AND receive rebates and incentives.

ENERGY TIP: Do you have a plan to save energy? Electricity demand by U.S. homes is forecast to climb as much as 21 percent by 2040. Act now.

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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.



Alpine Power Plant
Northeast view from M-32 Hwy

Wolverine Co-op Plans New Natural Gas Power Plant

A new, natural gas-fueled electric generating plant is being planned by Wolverine Power Cooperative, of Cadillac. Called the Alpine Power Plant, its location will be in Elmira Township, Otsego County, west of Gaylord. Wolverine, a not-for-profit electric cooperative, provides wholesale electric power to six electric cooperatives throughout Michigan.

“Wolverine is excited about moving forward with a new natural gas peaking plant,” said project spokesman, Ken Bradstreet. “Our Alpine Power Plant will provide a nice balance to Wolverine’s existing power supply portfolio, while at the same time increasing electrical reliability in northern Michigan and complementing the ever-increasing amount of renewable energy in Michigan.”

Wolverine intends to present its development plans to both the Elmira Township and Otsego County planning commissions within the next month. Wolverine will also apply for an air quality permit with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

After a nearly two-year evaluation, Wolverine chose the Elmira Township site and entered into property options for nearly 170 acres of land. The location was

chosen, in part, due to the convergence of existing interstate natural gas pipelines and high-voltage electric transmission lines on the property.

Wolverine expects the project investment associated with the Alpine Power Plant to exceed \$100 million and provide significant tax revenues to several local units of government. “The Alpine Power Plant will provide a major boost to the local economy,” Bradstreet explains.

Through sound financial management, Wolverine is able to build this project with existing funds. Based on preliminary cost estimates, it is anticipated there will be no rate impact on the electric co-ops that purchase power from Wolverine. Visit alpinecleanenergy.com for further details on the proposed plant.

Wolverine supplies wholesale power to Cherryland Electric Cooperative (Grawn); Great Lakes Energy (Boyer City); HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative (Portland); Midwest Energy Cooperative (Cassopolis); Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op (Onaway); Spartan Renewable Energy, Inc. (Cadillac), and Wolverine Power Marketing Cooperative (Cadillac). ■



«« Do You Know Where This Is?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **Dec. 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 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 January 2015 issue.

The September contest winner is Phyllis Burge, of Manistique, a Cloverland Electric Cooperative member who correctly identified the photo as the



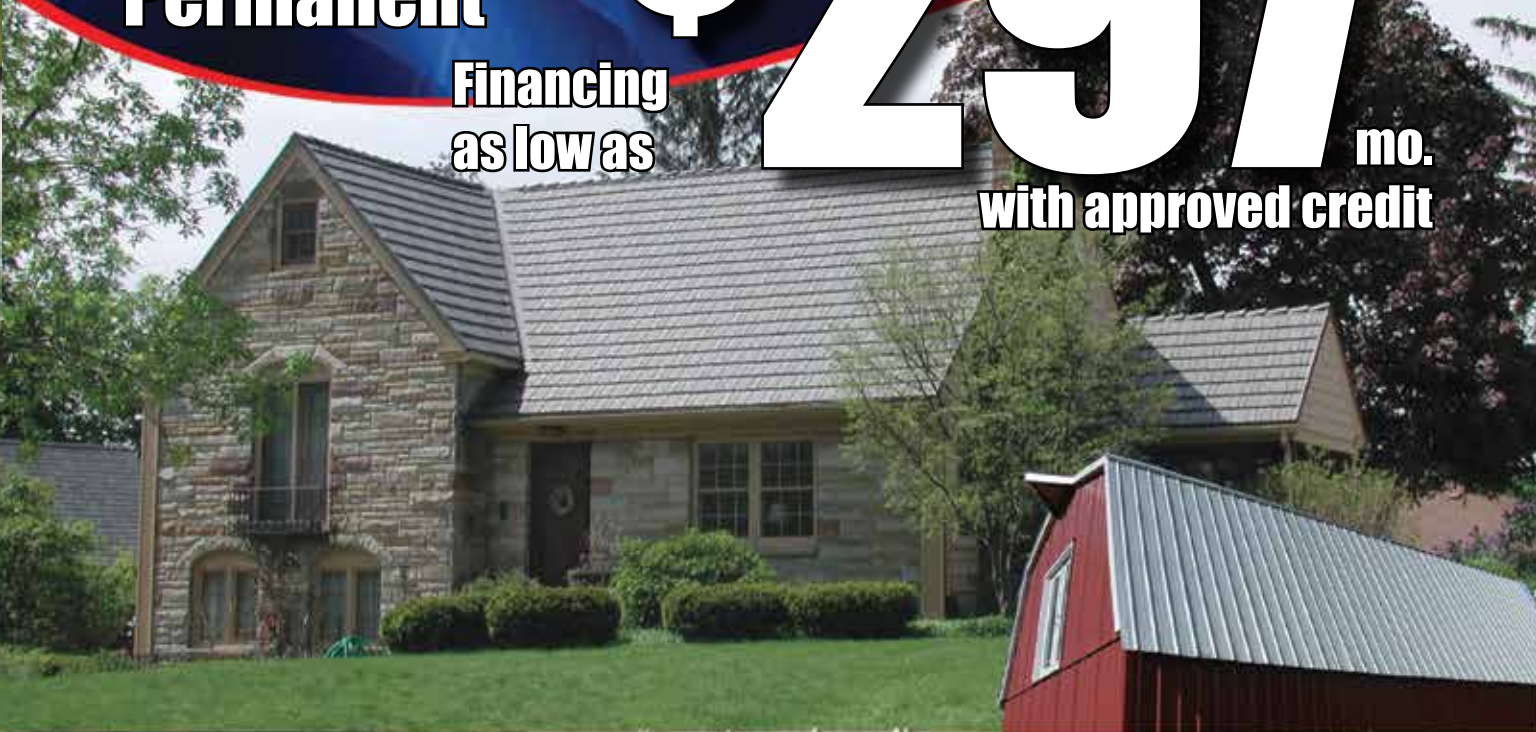
East Channel Lighthouse on Grand Island in the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore area.

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