

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



Plus!

- 4 Your Co-op:
A Foundation
Of Principles
- 5 Co-op Director
Election Results
- 9 Who's Your
Legislator?

A Barrel Of Fun:

Portable Sauna Is
Good Fundraiser, Too



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POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

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



IN THIS ISSUE



6 HOME COOKING

Try A New Flavor
By Eating Ethnic

Christin McKamey & Our Readers



7 OUR ENERGY

Electric Capacity Shortfall
Predicted For 2016

Craig Borr



10 FEATURE

A Barrel Of Fun:
Upper Peninsula Sauna Co.

Neil Moran



13 SAFETY

Powering Up: How
Power Gets Restored
After An Outage



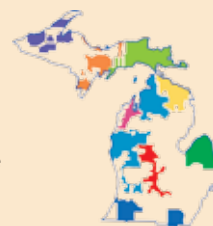
14 READERS' PAGE

Jack's Journal:
Snowmobile Trails &
Vintage Museum;
Mystery Photo

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
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Brian J. Burns
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Your Cooperative:

A Foundation of Principles



Brian J. Burns
President & CEO

What business operating primarily in Alpena, Cheboygan, Montmorency and Presque Isle counties has invested over \$125 million in the area? Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op (PIE&G), of course! What other businesses have made investments of this scale in the areas served by the Co-op? Not many.

As owners of this Co-op, you've collectively invested over \$40 million in equity, which is part of the \$125 million noted above. This aspect of cooperatives demonstrates the principle of "members' economic participation".

How much did you individually contribute? Call us, and we'll tell you. Remember that any year the Co-op has a positive margin, it's "credited" back to members in proportion to the amount of "business" each conducted with the Co-op through their purchases of electricity or natural gas. These positive margins are known as "capital credits," which are noted on our records as belonging to you, the member-owners.

What do we do with these capital credits—your investment? Together with capital borrowed from banks, PIE&G uses it to build the plant that delivers electricity and natural gas to you. Investments are made each year on your behalf, and to best serve *you*. In 2013, that investment was \$3,177,279, and recently, \$3,469,000 was authorized for 2015.

The board of directors—elected annually by you (*see p. 5*)—authorizes these investments, and each director serves a three-year term in accordance with the principle of "democratic member control".

Presque Isle Electric Cooperative exists and was founded on such principles as "voluntary and open membership" and "autonomy and independence", because the Co-op model was needed to bring essential services to rural northeast Michigan. Other utilities would not because the risk to shareholder investments was so high, and the probability of profit so low. These principles were demonstrated once again in 1994 when Presque Isle Electric Cooperative became Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op, and your Co-op brought valuable natural gas service to the area.

Owned by those we serve, locally controlled, not-for-profit, and committed to community. *Your electric and gas co-op is not just another utility!* ■

Members Re-elect Three Incumbents, One New Director at 77th Annual Meeting



John F. Brown



David W. Smith



Allan Berg



Sandy Borowicz

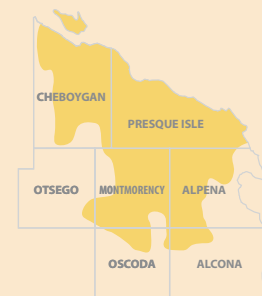
About 500 people attended Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op's 77th annual membership meeting at Posen High School on Oct. 24, 2014. "The annual meeting is a perfect example of our cooperative principles in action," said board chairman John Brown, in his comments to the membership. "Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members. Members have equal voting rights—one member, one vote—and are organized in a democratic manner."

Each year, elections are held for three positions on the board of directors. In 2014, one additional seat became vacant on the board in the Cheboygan District after the sudden passing of director Allen Barr. After all votes were counted, the candidates winning election to three-year terms (2014–2017) were: **John F. Brown** (incumbent, Cheboygan District); **David W. Smith** (incumbent, Montmorency District); and **Allan Berg** (incumbent, Presque Isle District). The Cheboygan District vacancy was won by **Sandy Borowicz**, for a one-year term (2014–15).

During the meeting, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op employees Heather Homan and Taed Price performed a vocal tribute accompanied by a slide show presentation, in remembrance of Director Allen Barr, who served on PIE&G's board from 1985 to 2014. Dale Yankoviak, of Cheboygan, won the \$100 raffle for voting by mail.

In other business, members heard reports from the cooperative's auditor and chief executive officer. Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op provides electricity and natural gas service to approximately 45,000 member-owners in a nine county territory in northeast Michigan. PIE&G has its headquarters in Onaway.

Immediately following the meeting, the board of directors held the election of officers, as follows: **John Brown, chairman; Allan Berg, vice-chairman; David Smith, secretary; and Daryl Peterson, treasurer.** ■



Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

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Your Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative

Co-op Principles

The cooperative principles are guidelines by which cooperatives put their values into practice. Visit touchstoneenergy.com/content/seven-cooperative-principles to learn more details.

1 Voluntary and Open Membership

2 Democratic Member Control

3 Member Economic Participation
Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.

4 Autonomy and Independence

5 Education, Training and Information

6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives

7 Concern for Community



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 Kiefles

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.

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 for more reader recipes!

Photos—831 Creative

Electric Capacity Shortfall Projected for 2016



Craig Borr, CEO,
Michigan Electric
Cooperative
Association

Have 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.

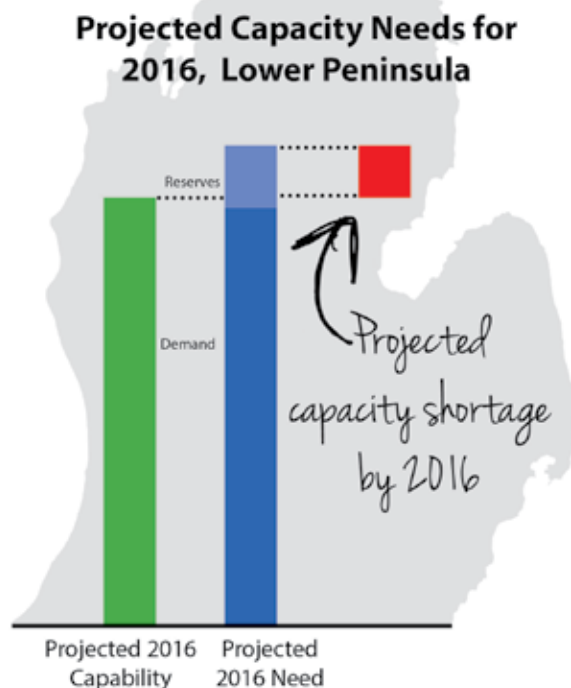
The startling fact, however, is that the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) estimates that Michigan’s Lower Peninsula is facing a 3,000-megawatt (MW) capacity shortfall as early as 2016. The “mitten” needs roughly 15 percent more generating capacity than is currently operating. Ironically, 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



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. ■

Your Board In Action

At their most recent regular meetings, the PIE&G Board of Directors:

- Commended Karl Peters for his 42 years of loyal and dedicated service to the cooperative and its members. Karl will retire on Jan. 2, 2015.
- Welcomed director Sandy Borowicz (Cheboygan District), elected by the membership to fill a vacancy created by the passing of Allen Barr.
- Listened to updates by Wolverine CEO Eric Baker on power supply issues, and to Wolverine CFO Janet Kass explain rate design changes to be filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the impact on PIE&G.
- Previewed items to be considered at the Sept. 29 Member Regulation meeting, including a reduction in the Power Supply Cost Recovery factor (PSCR) for 2015.
- Approved the 2015 Work Plan (projected capital budget), as follows: \$2,847,000 for electric utility plant and \$622,000 for natural gas plant, for a total of \$3,469,000.
- Reviewed and accepted the 2015 Operating Budget and Business Plan as a reasonable forecast for the 2015 fiscal year and as a useful business planning tool for the organization. ■

Welcome to PIE&G's Newest Team Members

(by order of hire)

Stephanie Curtis

Office Clerk

Derek McLennan

Assistant Field Representative

Toni Neuman

Receptionist

A.J. Paulus

Lineman Apprentice

Shawn Curtis

Lineman Apprentice

Tom Hoffmeyer

Lineman

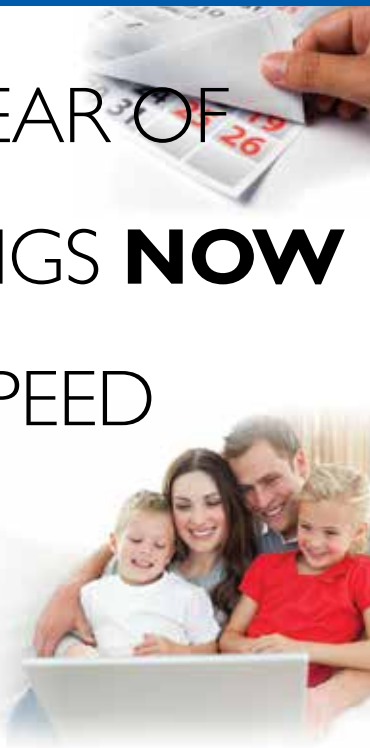
Brandon Vizina

Associate Accountant

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*FCC, 2013 Measuring Broadband America

Who's Your Legislator?

As 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 Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op service area (see map, below). 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 for more information.



Rep. Triston Cole
105th District
(517) 373-0829



Rep. Peter Pettalia
106th District
(517) 373-0833



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

Michigan Senate

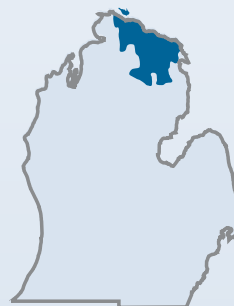
In the Senate, Republicans also continue to hold the majority, by 27–11. Unlike the House, the Senate ran for the first time under the new district lines. Visit senate.mi.gov for more information.



Sen. Jim Stamas
36th District
(517) 373-1791



Sen. Wayne Schmidt
37th District
517-373-2413



**Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op
Service Area**



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



Cooking Efficiently Helps Control Energy Bills

Cooking alone accounts for 4 percent of total home energy use, notes the U.S. Department of Energy, and this estimate doesn't include the energy costs associated with refrigeration, hot water heating, and dishwashing.

Especially when family parties and community potlucks come around, keep these tips in mind to help reduce your energy bill:

- **Don't peek.** Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, forcing it to use more energy to get back to the proper temperature.
- **Turn it down or turn it off.** For regular cooking, it's probably not necessary to have your oven on as long—or set as high—as the recipe calls for. For recipes that need to bake longer than an hour, pre-heating the oven isn't necessary. And, residual heat on an electric oven or stovetop will finish the last 5 to 10 minutes of baking time. Just remember to keep the oven door closed or the lid on until the time is up. Alternately, if you're baking in a ceramic or glass dish (holds heat better than metal), you can typically set your oven for 25 degrees less than the recipe calls for.

- **Give your burners a break.** For your stovetop to function effectively, it's important that the metal reflectors under your electric stove burners stay free of dirt and grime.
- **Don't neglect your slow cooker...** or your microwave, toaster oven, or warming plate. For example, the average toaster oven can use up to one-half the energy of an average electric stove over the same cooking time. Visit EnergySavers.gov to help you estimate how much energy your appliances use.
- **Give your furnace the day off.** If your next party involves a lot of work for your stove, think about turning down your furnace to compensate. The heat of the oven and all those guests will keep the temperature comfortable.
- **Make contact.** Electric stovetops can only transmit heat to pans they are in direct contact with; the less contact your pan has with the burner, the more energy the stovetop will have to expend to heat the pan. If cooking with your warped pan is taking longer than it should, it may be time for a flat-bottomed update. ■

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



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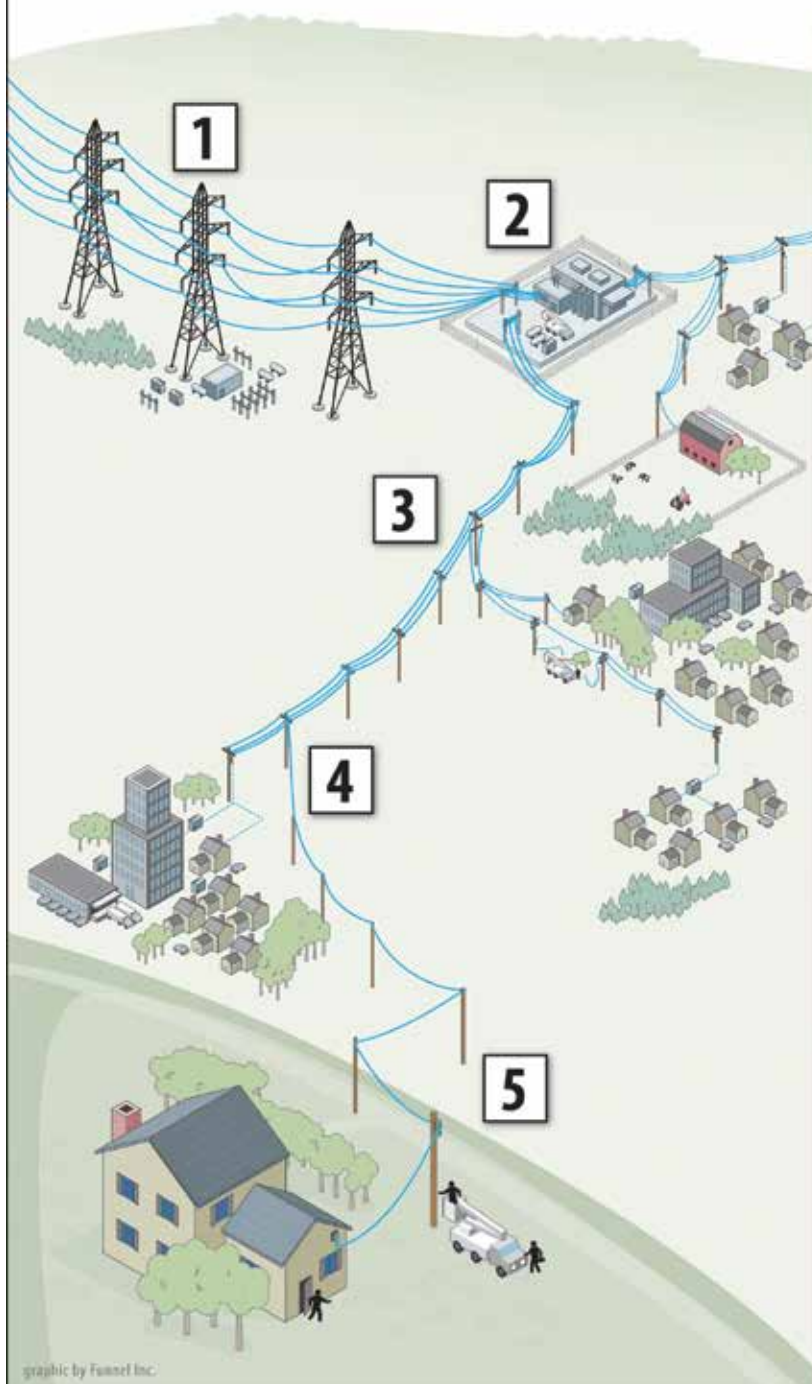
 

Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.

Powering UP

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible.

Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark.



graphic by Funnel Inc.

1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, 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 local issues.

Snowmobile Museum, Trails Are Winter Fun

Did 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!



Jack O'Malley

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



«« 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 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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