

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

An underwater photograph of a shipwreck, likely the USS Mackinac Island, with a diver visible in the lower right corner. The ship's hull and superstructure are visible, partially covered in green algae. The water is clear and blue.

SUNKEN TREASURE

THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

2014 Annual Report (see page 12)

Plus!

4 Meet Your Director Candidates

9 PIE&G Special Meeting



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Kiessel Geothermal
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Mark Woodman
Plmb & Htg
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Traverse City
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Traverse City
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PENINSULA**

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Manistique
Hoholik Enterprises
(906) 341-5065



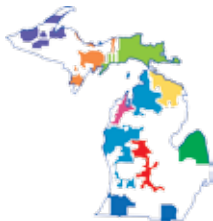
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POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

Association officers are **Robert Schallip**, Cloverland Electric Cooperative, chairman; **Mark Kappler**, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, vice chairman; and **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power Cooperative, secretary-treasurer. **Craig Borr** is president and CEO.

CONTACT US:
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Lansing, MI 48933
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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

ON THE COVER*

The 4,300-square-mile Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, located on Lake Huron in Alpena, protects one of America's best-preserved and nationally-significant collections of shipwrecks.

**Some co-op editions have a different cover.*

Photo courtesy of NOAA Thunder Bay NMS

IN YOUR WORDS

Our new question of the month section of *Michigan Country Lines*. Let us know your answer and it may appear in the next month's issue or on your electric co-op's social media site. Please answer the question in your own words at <http://bit.ly/1MgI7W5>.

Now the question:

What in your life are you most thankful for?

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Board Of Directors

Allan Berg, Vice-Chairman

1117 E. Heythaler Hwy., Rogers City, MI 49779
989-734-0044 • Term Expires 2017

Sandy Borowicz

5341 Carlson Rd., Cheboygan, MI 49721
231-627-9220 • Term Expires 2015

John F. Brown, Chairman

21 W. Devereaux Lake Rd., Indian River, MI 49749
231-625-2099 • Term Expires 2017

Sally Knopf

1849 W. 638 Hwy., Rogers City, MI 49779
989-734-4196 • Term Expires 2015

Kurt Krajniak

7630 Wallace Rd., Alpena, MI 49707
989-379-3037 • Term Expires 2016

Daryl Peterson, Treasurer

P.O. Box 54, Hillman, MI 49746
989-742-3145 • Term Expires 2015

David W. Smith, Secretary

P.O. Box 180, Atlanta, MI 49709
989-785-5345 • Term Expires 2017

Robert Wegmeyer

16181 Beaver Lake Park Rd., Lachine, MI 49753
989-379-2311 • Term Expires 2016

Raymond Wozniak

6737 State St., Posen, MI 49776
989-766-2498 • Term Expires 2016

PRESIDENT & CEO: Brian J. Burns

bburns@pieg.com

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

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

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

Toll-Free: **800-423-6634**

Gas Emergency Toll-Free: **800-655-8565**

pieg.com

2014 CEO Annual Salary: \$162,480

2014 Director Compensation Rate:

\$750 per regular meeting

\$200 per special meeting

New memberships in 2014:

Electric – 1,159

Natural Gas – 164

2014 Non-member Revenue – \$144,373

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

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Your Touchstone Energy
Cooperative

Meet Your Candidates!

See instructions on the cover wrap of this magazine for voting details.

CHEBOYGAN DISTRICT

SANDY BOROWICZ Cheboygan



I have appreciated the opportunity to serve on the PIE&G board for the past year. This experience has deepened my understanding of the cooperative philosophy as well as the business structure of non-profit organizations. I want to continue to actively serve the people and communities of northeast Michigan and I would very much appreciate your vote to allow me to continue to do so as a member of the PIE&G board.

My husband and I have been PIE&G members for over 40 years and we are lifelong residents of Cheboygan County.

I have a degree in human resource management and was employed for 28 years with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. I have worked with many business, government and industry leaders throughout northern Michigan. I continue to be involved with the Cheboygan Area Chamber of Commerce and have served a term as board chairman. I continue to volunteer with our local church, and have been an active member of the Cheboygan County Farm Bureau for over 40 years.

JOHN MORRISON Cheboygan



I retired in July 2009, but now work part-time for The Salvation Army in Cheboygan. I am a volunteer Ombudsman for the State of Michigan, visiting eight nursing homes in five counties each month as a rights advocate for residents. I also volunteer as chaplain for our local Hospice program in Cheboygan. I serve on the N.E.M.C.S.A. Board of Directors and am a committee chairperson.

I spent 35 years as a Salvation Army officer-pastor-administrator, serving in five states and seven cities throughout the Midwest and on the East Coast. In my last appointment prior to retirement, I was responsible for an annual budget of \$12 million and for over 300 employees.

I am married with two children, 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

MONTMORENCY DISTRICT

BARRY DANKS Atlanta



I was raised on Lockwood Lake near Atlanta. I earned a Mechanical Technical degree and an Associate degree in Business Administration. My wife and I now live on Gilchrist Creek, 2 miles from where I grew up.

Married for 46 years, my wife Connie and I raised our family in Highland, Michigan. I coached soccer and football at Milford High. I served as Charter President on the Highland Jaycees, on the Highland Volunteer Fire Department and became Association President. I retired from GM after 30 years of service.

I was involved with Loud Township and the Tri-Township Ambulance Board. I was elected to and served as Chairman on the Montmorency County Board of Commissioners. I belong to the Elk Country Gobblers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and served as Treasurer, Chairman and currently as Vice-Chairman. I'm currently the President of the Howard and Neva Klein Homestead Association, a family-owned estate dedicated to wildlife preservations and conservation.

I welcome the opportunity to serve my community on the PIE&G Board.

MONTMORENCY DISTRICT

DARYL PETERSON Hillman



Thank you for the trust you've placed in me with my election to the board of directors for the last two terms. I have also served as treasurer during that time and I'm again asking for your support.

During my service on the board, electric rates have remained fairly stable, gas rates have decreased, our equity has grown by 5% and our financial position is sound. We have returned capital credits to you for four consecutive years. I have taken numerous courses which have given me an understanding of the co-op and

its mission. I'm a very conservative decision maker. I have been a Hillman resident for 45 years and have always tried to promote better jobs, education, and the environment for our area.

DIRECTOR AT-LARGE

SALLY KNOPF Hawks



I live with my husband, Eldon, in Belknap Township near Rogers City. We own a Centennial Farm and have been members of the co-op for 51 years.

I was elected to the PIE&G Board of Directors in 1990 and served until 2008. I served as Board Secretary for 16 years. I was elected as Director At-Large in 2009. I have also previously served as director on each of the boards of Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative and Rural Electric Supply Cooperative (RESCO).

As a director, I participated in the education programs and attained qualification as a Certified and Credentialed Director and Board Leadership.

The current issues facing the co-op today cover a wide variety of topics and it takes time and experience to understand the workings of the energy industry. I feel strongly that reliable and affordable energy now and for the future is very important.

I would like to serve the members of PIE&G again and would appreciate your vote.

ELIAS TARATUTA Hawks



I am a life-long resident of Hawks, MI, and had various occupations—owner of an income tax service, licensed investor, licensed building contractor and real estate agent. I am proud to be an Army military police veteran. I have served on several PIE&G boards, such as Communities First Fund, the Nominating Committee, and the Election & Credentials Committee. Formerly, I served as a Presque Isle County building inspector, served on the NE Michigan Affordable Housing board, and was treasurer of the Hawks Community Improvement Association.

I believe in the cooperative business structure and maintaining local control. I consider myself to be fiscally responsible, am a hard-working individual, and would be honored to serve as your representative on the PIE&G board.

Thank you for your consideration and I would welcome your vote.

Don't miss your co-op's

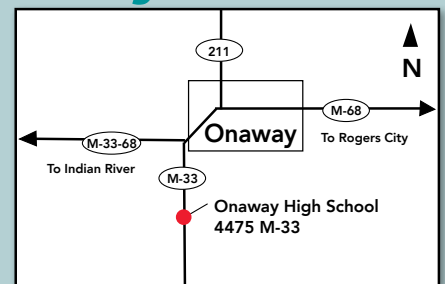
2015 Annual Meeting

Onaway High School
Friday, Oct. 23
10 a.m.

**Registration starts
at 8:30 a.m.**

Lunch is provided

See you there!



*Just like you, these candidates
are member-owners of the co-op.*

Your vote is important!

\$100
prize drawing for
voting by mail, with
an additional \$50 if
you are present at
the meeting!

*See the back cover of this
magazine and the ballot cover
wrap for voting details.*

PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS



Always read the Owner's Manual and instructions for your generator. Do NOT cut corners when it comes to safety.

These tips are merely supplemental and are not intended to substitute reading of the Owner's Manual.

Carbon Monoxide and Ventilation

- Using a generator indoors **CAN KILL YOU IN MINUTES**. Exhaust contains carbon monoxide, a deadly poison gas you cannot see or smell.
- NEVER run a generator indoors or in partly enclosed areas, such as garages.
- ONLY use outdoors and far from windows, doors, vents, crawl spaces and in an area where adequate ventilation is available and will not accumulate deadly exhaust gas.
- Using a fan or opening doors and windows will not provide sufficient ventilation.
- It is recommended that you install battery operated carbon monoxide alarms/detectors indoors according to manufacturer's instructions/recommendations.

Gasoline, Fueling and Burn Safety

- If tank is over-filled, fuel can overflow onto a hot engine and cause fire or explosion.
- Do not overfill the fuel tank. Always allow room for fuel expansion.
- Never add fuel while unit is running or hot. Allow generator and engine to cool entirely before adding fuel.
- Never store a generator with fuel in the tank where gasoline vapors might reach an open flame, spark or pilot light.
- Many generator parts are hot enough to burn you during operation and while the generator is cooling after turning off. Avoid coming into contact with a hot generator.

Electrocution Hazard and Electrical Shock Hazards

- Connecting a portable electric generator directly to your household wiring can be deadly to you and others. A generator that is directly connected to your home's wiring can "back feed" onto the power lines connected to your home and injure neighbors or utility workers.
- Do not connect your generator directly to your home's wiring or into a regular household outlet.
- Always start or stop the generator only when no electrical loads are connected.
- Overloading your generator can seriously damage your valuable appliances and electronics. Do not overload the generator. Do not operate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the generator. Prioritize your needs. A portable electric generator should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment.
- Use the proper power cords. Plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage. Do not use extension cords with exposed wires or worn shielding.
- Do not operate the generator in wet conditions such as rain or snow.
- The generator must be properly grounded. If the generator is not grounded, you run the risk of electrocution. Check and adhere to all applicable federal, state and local regulations relating to grounding.

Generator Placement and Operation

- Allow at least five feet of clearance on all sides of the generator when operating.
- Generators can be used during a wide variety of weather temperatures, but should be protected from the elements when not in use to prevent shorting and rusting.
- Operate the generator only on level surfaces and where it will not be exposed to excessive moisture, dirt, dust or corrosive vapors.
- Inspect the generator regularly.
- Always disconnect the spark plug wire and place the wire where it cannot contact the spark plug to prevent accidental starting when setting up, transporting, adjusting or making repairs to the generator.

Source: American Red Cross with technical advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Fire Protection Association (publisher of the National Electric Code®) and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. ■



Maintain Your Home's Heating System Efficiency

By James Dulle

With the heating season soon upon us, make sure your heating system is running at its maximum efficiency. Doing a simple heating system tune-up yourself improves its efficiency, resulting in significant annual cost savings.

However, don't skip your regular professional maintenance calls just because you have done your own heating system mini-tune-up. There are many areas within a heating system that only a qualified technician can evaluate and adjust properly.

The first items to check are for safety. With a gas or propane furnace, put several drops of soapy water on any gas-line fittings you find. If the water bubbles at all, there are leaks. Leave your house *immediately* and call your gas company to have it repaired. With a heat pump, check to make sure the insulation on all of the external wiring looks correct. You can inspect potential 'bad spots'—damaged or frayed areas—more carefully once you turn the circuit breaker off.

Turn off the electric power to the heating unit at the circuit breaker panel. Remove its side cover to gain access to the blower. Using a vacuum cleaner brush attachment, clean any dust deposits off the blower. You may find bearing oil cups on the blower motor of older systems. Put a drop of oil in each cup.

Find the fan control switch and adjust the temperature setting lower. Common settings are on at 135 degrees and off at 100 degrees. Try using 110 and 90 degrees. This starts the blower sooner and

keeps it running longer as the heat exchanger heats up and then cools down.

Replace the cover and make sure all the cabinet screws are tight. Also, check the tightness of any cabinet screws you can find. Having the cabinet well-sealed improves efficiency by maintaining the proper air flow through the coils or over the heat exchanger surfaces. With a heat pump, also check the cabinet screws on the outdoor condenser unit.

Set up the thermostat so the furnace starts. Hold a stick of lighted incense near all the joints in the ductwork, both return and supply air ducts, to check for air leaks. If you find leaks, wipe dust off the surfaces and use mastic (a gooey, non-hardening material) around the leaking joints.

This is a good time to change your furnace filter or clean a central air cleaner element. Consider installing a more effective filter element than the low-cost fiberglass ones that many systems use. This may not help indoor air quality much, but it can keep the air-flow paths cleaner for more efficient heat transfer.

Check the accuracy of the wall thermostat. You may actually be keeping your house warmer than you realize. Tape a bulb thermometer on the wall next to your furnace. Check the thermometer reading when the furnace shuts off and note the difference between it and the thermostat setting. Now you will know where to set the thermostat to get the indoor temperature you desire. If it is inaccurate, replace it with a new electronic setback model. ■

SEAFOOD FAVORITES

Flavorful seafood recipes you will love!

Crab Casserole

Virginia Rubingh, Ellsworth

- ½ lb. fresh/frozen crab meat
- ½ c. sour cream
- 1 T. lemon juice
- pinch garlic salt
- 1¼ c. cheddar cheese, divided
- 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 2 T. Hellman's® mayonnaise
- 1¼ t. Worcestershire® sauce
- 1 T. milk

Mix all ingredients together in a casserole dish. Sprinkle half of the cheddar cheese on top. Bake at 325° for 25–30 minutes.

Seafood Pasta Salad

Betty Poradek, Stephenson

- 8-oz. pkg. imitation crab meat, cut up
- 8-oz. bag frozen mini shrimp, thawed (optional)
- ½ cup chopped celery
- 1–2 T. chopped green onion (including some tops)
- 1 can water chestnuts, chopped
- 8-oz. frozen peas, thawed
- 1 lb. bag rotini noodles, cooked
- dash dill weed
- 1½ c. Miracle Whip®
- 8-oz. sour cream

Mix all pasta together and chill for several hours. Keeps up to three days in fridge.

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Easy Chicken" recipes by **Sept. 10**, "Chili" recipes by **Nov. 1** and "Gluten Free" recipes by **Dec. 1**.

Enter your recipe online at countrylines.com or send to (handprinted or typed on one side, please): *Country Lines Recipes*, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Please note the co-op from which you receive your electric service.

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)!

Dill Shrimp Salad (pictured)

Mary Babcock, Port Austin

- 4 c. cooked small shells or penne pasta
- 1 lb. cooked fresh shrimp, diced
- 1 c. frozen peas
- 1 c. small diced celery
- ½ c. chopped green onions, including tops
- ¼ c. minced fresh parsley
- 10 oz. plain Greek yogurt
- 1 c. mayonnaise
- ¼ c. fresh lemon juice
- 2 T. snipped fresh dill
- ½ t. salt
- ¼ t. white pepper

In a large bowl combine pasta, tuna, celery, onions, peas and parsley. In a small bowl combine yogurt, mayonnaise, lemon juice, dill, salt and pepper. Pour sauce over pasta, toss gently. Cover and refrigerate at least two hours. Serves 10.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Case No. U-17778

In the matter on the Commission's own motion, regarding the regulatory reviews, revisions, Case No. U-17785 determinations, and/or approvals necessary for Presque Isle Electric and Gas Co-op to fully comply with Public Act 295 of 2008.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

On November 24, 2014, in Case No. U-17770 et al, the Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) ordered Presque Isle Electric and Gas Co-op to file an Energy Optimization (EO) Plan on or before August 1, 2015 to comply with the "Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act" (2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001, et seq.). Because August 1, 2015 fell on a Saturday, the Presque Isle Electric and Gas Co-op was allowed to extend the filing deadline to August 3, 2015. On August 3, 2015, Presque Isle Electric and Gas Co-op filed its Energy Optimization Plan with the Commission.

Any interested person may review the filed Energy Optimization Plan on the MPSC website under Case No. U-17785 at: www.michigan.gov/mpscdockets, or at the office of the Commission's Executive Secretary, 7109 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or at the offices of Presque Isle Electric and Gas Co-op, 19831 M-68 Highway, Onaway, Michigan.

Written and electronic comments may be filed with the Commission and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 5, 2015. 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 Presque Isle Electric and Gas Co-op, 19831 M-68 Highway, Onaway, Michigan 49765. Electronic comments may be e-mailed to: mpscdockets@michigan.gov. All comments should reference Case No. U-17785. Comments received in this matter 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 within 60 days of the filing of the application indicating any revisions that should be made. If the Commission suggests revisions, the Cooperative will file a revised EO plan no later than 75 days after the filing of the application. A Commission order will be issued on or before the 90th day following the filing of the application.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC & GAS CO-OP

A special Board Meeting is set for September 29 at 9 a.m. at the cooperative's Onaway office

The board of directors will consider changes to the cooperative's rates and tariffs at its meeting on September 29, 2015, to be held at 19831 M68 Highway, Onaway, Michigan. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and is open to all members of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op.

The session will begin with an opportunity for members to provide direct input to the board of directors. Time constraints on each member's comments will be at the discretion of the board chairman, but members are asked to keep comments to less than five minutes.

The following will be considered:

1. Establish the 2016 Power Supply Cost Recovery Factor, to be applied to the cooperative's retail member-consumers' kilowatt-hour use. The Power Supply Cost Recovery Factor represents the power supply costs as established by the cooperative in conjunction with Wolverine Power Cooperative. The factor is established annually and reviewed monthly.

Notices of changes or additions to the cooperative's rates or service rules shall be sent to all members, as required by P.A. 167, by first class mail or by publication in Michigan Country Lines at least 30 days prior to their effective date.

Participation: Any interested member may attend and participate. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op at 800-423-6634 a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Comments may also be made before the meeting date by calling CEO Brian Burns at 800-423-6634, or by email at bburns@pieg.com.

Stay Warm & Cozy This Winter

Is your furnace or boiler ready for another winter? Do you dread the thought of high energy costs? The Energy Optimization programs brought to you by Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op can help make sure your heating system saves energy and keeps the winter chill at bay.

Schedule an HVAC tune-up.

Before the snow starts falling and temperatures take a plunge, schedule a tune-up with your heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) contractor. To find a qualified contractor nearest you, visit Michigan-energy.org or call 877.296.4319.

Time for a new furnace? Get one with a variable speed motor.

If your HVAC contractor says your furnace is working too hard to heat your home or the time has come for a replacement, ask for a furnace with an electronically commutated motor (ECM). An ECM adjusts operating speeds, ensures optimal airflow and uses less electricity—saving you up to \$800 over 10 years.

Use heating rebates.

The following Energy Optimization rebates are now available.

2015 Residential HVAC Rebates	
Measure	Rebate Per Unit
ECM Furnace (new furnace with ECM blowermotor)	\$150
ECM Blower Motor (replace motor in existing furnace)	\$150
Pipe Wrap Insulation (installed on electric water heater outlet)	\$0.80/ft (\$8 max)
Programmable Thermostat	\$20

Come out ahead.

From rebates to helpful tools and friendly advice, you'll gain more control over your energy use and feel more comfortable all year long. ■



Rake in the Savings!

Did you know that heating and cooling accounts for more than half of the energy use in a typical U.S. home, making it the largest energy expense for most homes? **Rake in the savings** with these helpful energy savings tips this fall.

- **Install a programmable thermostat**
Through proper use of the pre-programmed settings, a programmable thermostat can save you up to 10 percent on your heating and cooling costs.
- **Clean / Change the air filter**
Lower your heating and cooling energy consumption by up to 15 percent by cleaning or replacing furnace filters.
- **Schedule a tune-up before you need one**
Schedule a tune-up with your heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) contractor. To find a qualified contractor nearest you, visit our website or call.

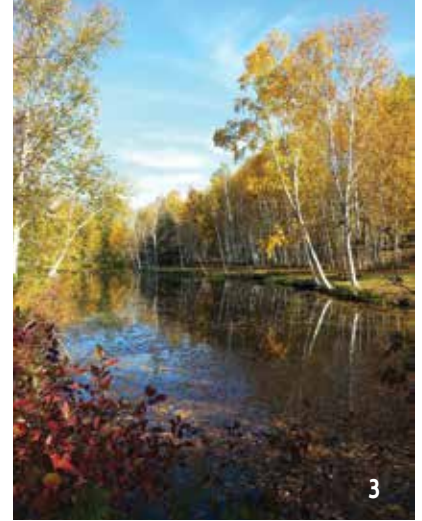
ONLINE: michigan-energy.org

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.

All About Michigan



Here are some creative photos from PIE&G members

1. Kayaking at the Presque Isle lighthouse. By Sandy Blumenthal, Presque Isle.
2. Alpena quarry and LaFarge cement plant in winter. By Sawyer Boyd, Spruce
3. Birch reflections in NE Michigan. By Daniel McCormick, Atlanta
4. Clockwise: Natural copper from Keewenaw Peninsula. Baby robin near Rapid River. Kitchiti-Kipi—Michigan's largest natural spring—near Manistique. By Lisa Mleczewski, Cheboygan

Presque Isle Gas & Electric Co-op members are invited to submit photos now through **Sept. 21** of **"Kids at Play"** for the Nov./Dec. issue. Upcoming topics for 2016 include **"Best of Selfies,"** due **Nov. 15** and **"Cute Pets,"** due **Dec. 15**.

Details and instructions for photo submission—including contest rules, topic list, publication date, and submission deadlines—can be found online at <http://bit.ly/1JX5AfH>.

**We look forward
to seeing your
best shot!**

Your Co-op's 2014 Annual Report



Brian Burns and John Brown



To Our Member-Owners:

We are pleased to report that 2014 was a very favorable year for your cooperative. There were no major weather events (storms) and temperatures were colder than normal. This kept maintenance expenses down and had a positive effect on energy sales, resulting in record level net operating margins.

In keeping with our mission, we continued to invest in and rehabilitate the infrastructure that delivers energy to you. In 2014, total utility plant investments were just under \$3 million.

Natural gas has become an important part of your cooperative's success. Our objective remains the same today as it was 20 years ago when we began delivering it to members: expand gas service in a financially responsible manner to benefit as many members as we can.

Our employees' hard work was reflected in the results of our 2014 American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey. Members gave us a score of 85. This rating exceeds that of such notable companies as Apple (84), Southwest Airlines (78), and Nike (78). We thank our employees for their efforts to earn this score.

In 2014, the board of directors continued its commitment to the cooperative business model by authorizing \$1,882,100 in capital credit retirements. To date, the board has authorized the return of more than \$9 million in capital to members.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to be your trusted energy and community partner.

Respectfully,

John Brown
Chairman of the Board

Brian J. Burns
President & Chief Executive Officer

Where Your Energy Dollar Goes:



2014 Statistical Summary:

	ELECTRIC	NATURAL GAS
Active Meters	33,049	8,950
Energy Sold	244,248,074 kWh	7,989,884 CCF
New Services	164	209
Miles of Line	3,852 (overhead) 1,011 (underground)	584

Treasurer's Report



Daryl Peterson

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op's Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet for the years ending December 31, 2014 and 2013 are included in this annual report. As indicated by these financial reports, the cooperative has completed another successful year. Our electric and natural gas operations continue to provide competitive energy alternatives for you.

Our independent auditor, Harris Group, has confirmed that the financial statements and records presented to them accurately reflect the financial position of the cooperative. The reports of the results of our operations are in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

It has been my distinguished pleasure to serve as treasurer for the past year.

Daryl Peterson, Treasurer

Statement of Operations

	2013	2014
OPERATING REVENUES	\$ 43,939,243	\$ 46,156,932
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Cost of Purchased Power	24,899,061	26,634,255
Operations & Maintenance Expense	8,780,950	8,899,910
Depreciation	3,434,323	3,512,749
Interest	2,931,289	2,643,203
Taxes	1,054,259	1,126,459
Total Operating Expenses	41,099,882	42,816,576
Member Capital Contribution	2,839,361	3,340,356
NON-OPERATING MARGINS		
Capital Credits—G&T and Other	2,147,473	1,681,344
Non-Operating Margins - Other	(128,309)	(279,645)
NET MARGINS	4,858,525	4,742,055

Balance Sheet

ASSETS		
Total Utility Plant	128,094,751	130,989,659
Accumulated Depreciation	(51,744,886)	(54,738,554)
Net Utility Plant	76,349,865	76,251,105
Investments in Associated Organizations	23,651,084	23,960,796
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1,647,495	2,311,764
Accounts Receivable	4,542,215	5,016,658
Materials & Supplies	1,277,856	1,455,279
Other Assets	360,230	397,577
Deferred Debits	317,964	284,987
Total Assets	108,146,709	109,678,166
EQUITIES & LIABILITIES		
Margins & Equities		
Patronage Capital	42,793,997	48,585,300
Other Equities	(1,123,264)	(1,319,079)
Total Margins & Equities	41,670,733	47,266,221
Liabilities		
Long Term Debt	50,387,301	48,131,300
Notes Payable	5,200,000	4,750,000
Accounts Payable	10,805,948	9,518,540
Other Current & Accrued Liabilities	82,727	12,106
Total Liabilities	66,475,976	62,411,946
TOTAL EQUITIES & LIABILITIES	108,146,709	109,678,166

SUNKEN TREASURE

THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

By Emily Haines

The eerie romance of a shipwreck is something that seems saved for epic adventure novels or blockbuster Hollywood movies. But just off the coast of Lake Huron, near unassuming Alpena, MI—is one of the most treacherous stretches of water in the Great Lakes—a place called Thunder Bay.

If the name itself sounds ominous, it's because Thunder Bay offers up unpredictable shifts in weather, alarming gales, fog banks and notoriously rocky shoals that play ghostly host to an area fittingly called—Shipwreck Alley. There lies the remains of over 200 ships, only about 100 that have been physically discovered. While it's difficult to imagine the friendly beaches of the Great Lakes as anything but welcoming, these deep and traitorous waters were once bustling byways for both recreational and business mariners, not all that ended at their intended destination.

"It's easy to stay motivated and excited in your work when you're dealing with such a robust historical landscape," said Stephanie Gandulla, maritime archeologist and media coordinator for Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. "There are so many stories lying just below the surface of the Great Lakes."

Those stories just increased substantially as the marine sanctuary has grown from 448 square miles to a remarkable 4,300 miles as of last September. This means expanding both research and educational programs as well as a multi-year plan to "characterize" every known shipwreck in the sanctuary. Characterizing can mean a variety of informational components including having a site map, photography, data and sonar images, or even knowing the name and vessel information.

"It's no wonder our student programs appeal to our younger visitors," said Gandulla. "You don't have to be able to scuba dive 300 feet to have an interaction with maritime history. We provide and encourage hands-on experiences both in and on the water."

The experiences are anything from a class trip to the sanctuary's impressive Visitor's Center, with over 10,000 feet of exhibits, participating in a program on shipwreck archeology, or building underwater robotics. There are also glass bottom boat tours that allow visitors to view shipwrecks without ever getting their feet wet. Gandulla says it's not uncommon for students who have had a field trip in elementary or high school or invested themselves in a Shipwreck Alley class to later become a volunteer as an adult.



Twisted hull of the German freighter Nordmeer (1954–1966).



The bow of the schooner *E.B. Allen* (1864–1871).



The *Florida* (1889–1897) still sits upright with its package freight still inside.

While all of this is available in our state's backyard, people from around the world come to marvel at these maritime catacombs, as well.

"Beyond the rich and special maritime history of this area, it's also a remarkable place to vacation," said Gandulla. "We have world class recreational opportunities available to us in Michigan and we feel very strongly about sharing them with people from around the globe." ■



The Monohansett, lies only 18 feet below the water's surface.

Visit

If you're interested in a trip to the Visitor's Center, visit thunderbay.noaa.gov/visit. Or, to book a glass bottom boat tour go to alpenashipwrecktours.com/. For more information call 989-356-8805.

Project Shiphunt

On July 13, 2011, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) announced the discovery of two Great Lakes shipwrecks. The discoveries were part of Project Shiphunt, an exciting archaeological expedition, sponsored by Sony and the Intel Corp, that included five high school students from Saginaw. For more on the project, visit thunderbay.noaa.gov/shiphunt.html

Monohansett Site

For a sneak peek at the kind of discoveries you can expect, take a look at the Monohansett, a ship wrecked in 1907 that lies in three sections just 18 feet below water. thunderbay.noaa.gov/shipwrecks/monohansett.html

Photo below: With the hull broken just forward of the boiler house and the ship listing hard to port, the wreck of the Norman, which claimed the lives of three sailors, is an intense dive experience.

Photos by NOAA, Thunder Bay NMS

STATE OF MICHIGAN

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

- Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-Op (Presque Isle) requests Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) approval to reconcile its gas cost recovery (GCR) costs and revenues for the 12-month period ended March 31, 2015 for its Regulated Gas Division. The reported undercollection is \$421,486. Presque Isle is currently collecting the undercollection of \$421,486 through the GCR Plan authorized by the Commission on June 3, 2015, in Case No. U-17695.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-Op, 19831 M-68 Highway, P.O. Box 308, Onaway, Michigan 49765, (800) 423-6634 for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the application at the offices of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

DATE/TIME: Thursday, October 1, 2015, 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: Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Highway, 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) 284-8090 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Commission will hold a public hearing to consider Presque Isle's June 16, 2015 application to reconcile its 2014/2015 GCR costs and revenues for the 12-month period ended March 31, 2015 for its regulated natural gas division. Presque Isle represents that the Company experienced an undercollection (gas costs exceeded gas revenues) of \$421,486. Presque Isle states that it is currently collecting the undercollection through its GCR plan, authorized by the Commission in Case No. U-17695.

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) 284-8090 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 September 24, 2015. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Presque Isle's attorney, Shaun M. Johnson, Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of his or her wish to make a statement of position. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus 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 Michigan Administrative Hearing System's Administrative Hearing Rules R 792.10422 and R 792.10432. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

A copy of the Presque Isle's request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: michigan.gov/mpscdockets, and at the office of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-Op. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 300, as amended, MCL 462.2 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6h et seq.; and the Michigan Administrative Hearing System's Administrative Hearing Rules, 2015 AC, R 792.10401 et seq.

August 18, 2015

Natural Gas Rates Returning To Previous Level

From April to September, 2015, PIE&G temporarily reduced the Gas Cost Recovery (GCR) from \$0.5417/ccf to \$0.4829/ccf. However, increases in transportation costs in the region have resulted in higher natural gas costs to the cooperative.

Effective with bills rendered in October, natural gas rates will be as indicated below. Note that only the GCR is changing, by returning back to the previous level of \$0.5417/ccf.

	Residential	Gen. Service	Industrial
	October 2015	October 2015	October 2015
Monthly	\$12	\$17	\$188
Distribution	\$0.4544/ccf	\$0.3203/ccf	\$0.2336/ccf
GCR	\$0.5417/ccf	\$0.5417/ccf	\$0.5417/ccf
Total, \$/ccf	\$0.9961/ccf	\$0.8620/ccf	\$0.7753/ccf

Public Act 295: The Clean Renewable and Efficient Energy Act

2014 Annual Energy Optimization Report, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op Electric Association, MPSC Case Number U-17372

Presque Isle Electric & Gas (PIE&G) contracted with the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) to administer the Energy Optimization efforts in order to comply with PA-295. MECA filed a 4- year Energy Optimization plan with the MPSC on Aug. 1, 2011, as required by PA 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 3rd party evaluation contractor for the certification of kWh savings.

In 2014, PIE&G collected \$525,947 through the Energy Optimization Surcharge and spent \$346,051 resulting in an over-collection of \$179,896 which will be applied towards the 2015 EO Program delivery expenses and goal achievement. Presque Isle achieved 2,251 MWh of energy savings in 2014. For every dollar spent on energy efficiency programs, customers will save \$3.61 in avoided energy costs. The full report can be obtained at michigan-energy.org or <http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile>.

Fuel Mix Report

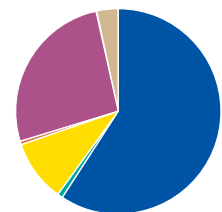
The fuel mix characteristics of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 6/30/15.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

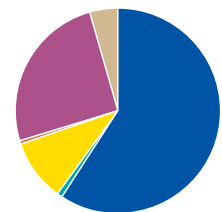
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	58.4%	60.4%
Oil	0.6%	0.7%
Gas	10.3%	8.9%
Hydroelectric	1.4%	0.5%
Nuclear	20.9%	24.6%
Renewable Fuels	8.4%	4.9%
Biofuel	0.9%	0.7%
Biomass	0.3%	0.4%
Solar	0.1%	0.1%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.0%	0.0%
Wind	6.7%	3.2%
Wood	0.4%	0.5%

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

Your Co-op's Fuel Mix



Regional Average Fuel Mix



EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON

TYPE OF EMISSION/WASTE	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	5.1	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,559	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	1.7	2.0
High-level Nuclear Waste	0.0072	0.0083

*Regional average information was obtained from the MPSC website and is for the twelve-month period ending 8/31/2014.

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

Communicating in the Age of the Emoji

By Jack O'Malley

A few years ago my son stood before a display of old rotary phones in an antique store, puzzled by the seemingly ancient devices. "How did people text with those?" he asked. I chuckled before the thought occurred to me. An entire generation now exists who've never known life without mobile phones, text messages, Google or social media.

In today's world of technology a new digital language based on acronyms and emojis has emerged, allowing people to communicate instantly with little more than a few letters and characters. In the old days, we huddled around the handset during a long-distance call, everyone listening and talking at the same time because the calls were too expensive for everyone to have a separate turn talking. I guess I'm officially an old fogie! LOL

Mobile phones have become such an essential part of our lives, we have a hard time functioning without one. Like an extra appendage, we rely on a cell's convenience, intelligence and sheer ability to do almost anything. Want to play Scrabble? Download the app. Want to enhance a photo? Download an app. Want to check Facebook? Download the app. Want to shop? Download an app. There are apps (short for "applications," programs designed specifically for use on portable devices) for everything. Just ask my wife. She'll tell you. SMH (that's **s**haking **m**y **h**ead for all you rookies out there.)

Our reliance on digital technology can only be ascertained when we forget our cell. Ever reached for your phone to make a quick call or send a text



only to realize you left your cell on the charger at home? Panic ensues. I've actually broken into a sweat and driven an hour round trip just to have my phone on hand! :)



Jack O'Malley

Times have sure changed since I was a lad. These kids might run circles around me when it comes to their smart phones, but I had something they didn't. The most popular rotary phone ever made, an original Fisher-Price Chatter Telephone toy. And let me tell you, it was GR8! ■



«« Where in Michigan is This?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **Oct. 10** will be entered in a drawing to win a \$50 electricity credit 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*, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number, and name of your co-op.

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