

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Casting A Line

With Kevin VanDam

Plus!

Capital Retirements For Estates

PIE&G Reduces Natural Gas Rates

Director Nominations Due June 15

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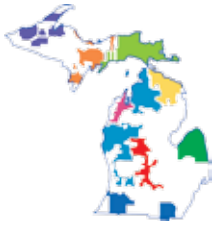
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POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

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

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Change of Address:

Please notify your electric cooperative.
See page 4 for contact information.

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IN YOUR WORDS

Last month, we asked electric co-op members a question:

If you had to be trapped in a TV show for a month, which would you choose?

Thank you for all the responses. Here are some of your answers...

Hands down 'Andy of Mayberry' HAPPY, SAD, FUNNY, LOVE, just a lot of good old life lessons in this good old TV show.

The original 'Batman' series with Adam West. He never loses a fight, has an awesome car, and the ultimate man cave.

The 'Waltons' TV show.

Our new Question of the Month is:

If you could ask your future self one question, what would it be?

Please submit answers to countrylines.com by June 1.

ON THE COVER*

Kevin VanDam, often called simply, "KVD," is a professional bass fisherman from Kalamazoo, MI. In the world of professional bass fishing, KVD is at the pinnacle, and arguably the best in the world.

**Some co-op editions have a different cover. Photo-Seigo Saito, Seven Seas Creation, Inc.*



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Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

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Onaway, 49765

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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 

Capital Credit Refunds Now Available To Estates



Brian J. Burns
President & CEO

As you know, members who receive service from a cooperative own the co-op. The end-of-year margins or capital (not "profits" as we are not-for-profit) are assigned to each member's capital credit account. We use this capital donated by members to build the infrastructure needed to deliver the energy that our members use.

We eventually return (or "retire") members' capital. Each year the board of directors considers whether retiring capital credits is prudent, and if so, by how much. For obvious reasons, the co-op cannot retire all capital credits. The board considers many factors and whether the co-op's financial condition would be impaired before retiring capital credits. Fortunately, the board has decided to do so for the last five years.

In its commitment to the cooperative business model, your board of directors has adopted a new policy that permits estate retirements. Rather than receiving a relatively small refund check each year, the personal representative (PR) of an estate may request that PIE&G retire all of the deceased member's capital credits as a lump sum refund on a discounted basis. This allows the PR to promptly settle this interest in the estate in a more timely and efficient manner.

The not-for-profit cooperative business model has integrity, accountability and transparency. It is an effective way of delivering services (in our case, electricity and natural gas) when other business models cannot. Estate retirements are one example of that accountability and integrity. ■

Your Board In Action

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

- Publicly acknowledged the efforts of Mike Meyers and Elizabeth Comoford for their efforts and six years of dedicated service to members as directors on the PIE&G Communities First Fund board.
- At its special open board meeting, accepted the Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) factor reconciliation analysis that indicated an overcollection of \$131,244.23 for the 12-month period ending Dec. 31, 2015 (incorporated in the 2016 PSCR factor) and accepted the 2015 electric TIER analysis that indicated an adjusted TIER of 1.6.
- Appointed Brentt Lucas as a director to fill the Alpena District vacancy after Robert Wegmeyer's passing. Director Lucas, one of six candidates expressing interest, will serve until the membership meeting in October.
- Updated its discount factor to 6.28 percent to be applied to the early retirement of capital credits when requested by decedent estates.
- Accepted the 2015 audit report of the Harris Group.
- Appointed Barbara Hall, Diane Lewis, Naomi Dio, and Daryl Barton to three-year terms on the board of the PIE&G Communities First Fund, beginning May 1.
- Listened to a presentation by Rick Kieliszewski, information systems manager, regarding cyber security.
- Listened to an update on power supply issues by Eric Baker, president and CEO of Wolverine Power Supply.
- Established the gas cost recovery factor of \$0.4941 for Home Rule communities.
- Resolved to announce specific Home Rule gas rates under the 2006 Agreement.

Annual Meter Readings Begin In May

Over the next three months, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op meter readers will begin reading electric and/or natural gas meters for our annual verification. Personnel will carry a PIE&G identification badge.

To help make this annual process easier, we ask that you:

- Please have animals leashed and away from the meter location.
- Make sure the meter is clear from obstructions and is easily accessible for our meter readers.

Thank you for your cooperation!

PIE&G Meter Reading Schedule By County:

MAY Cheboygan, Emmet, Mackinac

JUNE Alpena, Alcona, Presque Isle

JULY Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego

Have a safe and happy
Memorial Day weekend!

Presque Isle Electric & Gas
will be closed for Memorial
Day on Monday, May 30.
Payments may be
made at the drop box,
online at pieg.com
or by calling
1-866-999-4571.

**In case of emergencies,
call 1-800-423-6634**

Natural Gas Rates Reduced, Effective April 1

Effective April 1, 2016, natural gas rates have changed. The Gas Cost Recovery Factor (GCR) has **decreased** 4.76 cents, from \$0.5417/ccf to \$0.4941/ccf. The monthly and distribution rates have not changed. Please refer to the table below for a review of charges.

	Residential	General Service	Industrial
Monthly Charge	\$12	\$17	\$188
Distribution \$/ccf	\$0.4544	\$0.3203	\$0.2336
GCR \$/ccf	\$0.4941	\$0.4941	\$0.4941
Total, \$/ccf	\$0.9485	\$0.8144	\$0.7277

Clean Power Plan Update



Craig Borr, CEO
Michigan Electric
Cooperative
Association

As a result of a Feb. 9 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court, the State of Michigan has stopped efforts on its development of a plan to meet the demands of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan (CPP). The CPP is a federal regulatory action that requires states to reduce carbon emissions from power plants by approximately 30 percent by 2030.

What Does This Mean?

The Supreme Court's "stay" of the CPP means that it has no legal effect while the courts are reviewing the carbon reduction rules to determine whether they are lawful. During this time, the EPA cannot enforce any of the CPP deadlines or requirements. While the granting of a "stay" does not guarantee victory for opponents of the plan, it greatly increases the odds of the courts ultimately determining that the CPP is unlawful.

For the past several months, Michigan's electric cooperatives were engaged with the State of Michigan in developing an implementation plan that would have, prior to the Supreme Court ruling, had Michigan on a trajectory of submitting an initial carbon reduction plan to the EPA this fall. Those development efforts have now been suspended.

The Court's ruling means that "certainty" for our state and its electric utilities may not be forthcoming until sometime in 2018—a rather ominous sign, given the fact that several of Michigan's old and dirty coal-fired power plants will be retired in the next three to five years by companies like Detroit Edison, the Michigan South Central Power Agency, and the Lansing

Board of Water & Light. At present, just two cleaner, natural gas-fired power plants are under construction in our state—one in Holland by the City of Holland and one near Gaylord by Wolverine Power Cooperative.

This recent court action is a keen reminder of the statement uttered by former U.S. Rep. John Dingell, the architect of the current U.S. Clean Air Act, when commenting about the EPA's regulation of carbon via rulemaking rather than legislation enacted by Congress. Dingell said that the EPA's regulation of carbon would be "a glorious mess." Sadly, I believe Mr. Dingell was right. It's the job of the U.S. Congress to regulate carbon emissions, not a federal regulatory agency led by political appointees.

Michigan Co-ops Well Positioned With Renewable Energy

The other ironic twist is that Michigan's electric cooperatives, as a group, are very well positioned to potentially benefit from new carbon rules. As our state's unquestioned leaders in renewable energy, the State of Michigan and the cooperatives could be "economic winners" from implementation of the current CPP.

This is due to the fact that by 2017 Michigan's electric co-ops will serve nearly 1,000 megawatts of electrical load and have nearly 400 megawatts of renewable energy in our power supply basket to serve that load. My math says that puts Michigan's electric cooperatives, as a group, at nearly 40 percent renewables, with the state standard currently at 10 percent.

That's called leadership. ■



For Safe Digging, Call Miss DIG

MISS DIG has been the first step in utility damage prevention and excavation safety in Michigan for over 45 years. MISS DIG is a nonprofit organization funded by utility owners and municipalities, and serves as a single point of contact for those performing excavation anywhere in the state.

MISS DIG is available around the clock, 365 days a year, so whether it's the excavation of a new housing development, or something as simple as installing a new mailbox, contacting MISS DIG is a fast and free way to start your project.

Contact MISS DIG by dialing 811, or online via missdig.org, three business days prior to beginning work. You will be asked questions regarding your project such as, location, date, work being performed, and more. That information will be passed on to utility owners in the area who will locate and mark the underground lines on your work site or yard. They will also provide information



on how they've handled your request through MISS DIG's Positive Response program. After three days have passed and the marks are laid, you are free to begin with your project, provided you respect the marks and work carefully around them. If a question about your request or the marks comes up, MISS DIG is ready to assist.

So be smart, be safe, and know what's below. Contact MISS DIG before you dig.

For more information about MISS DIG or utility damage prevention, please visit missdig.org. ■

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

For your safety and for the protection of underground utility lines, always follow these steps before starting any digging project.

1. Contact MISS DIG at 811 or missdig.org
2. Wait 3 days for utility owners to mark their lines
3. Respect the marks
4. Dig with care



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**
visit missdig.org for more information

Stay Cool And Save Energy This Summer

Gorgeous summer days filled with swimming, popsicles and picnics are all within reach! But along with all the wonderful things summer brings comes the costly effort of keeping our homes cool and comfortable. Prepare your home for the summer heat and save energy while earning cash incentives from the Energy Optimization (EO) program.

1. A/C tune-up: Ensure your central A/C runs as efficiently as possible by scheduling a tune-up. A tune-up can help reduce energy usage, prevent costly breakdowns, and allow you and your family to enjoy cleaner, healthier indoor air. **EO program cash incentive: \$50**

2. New central A/C or air-source heat pump system: If your central A/C system is more than 20 years old, it's time to upgrade. Install a new ENERGY STAR® central A/C system and save up to 20 percent in cooling costs annually, or opt for an air-source heat pump system to save even more. **EO program cash incentive: \$250-\$500**

3. New thermostat: Stop wasting energy by running the A/C excessively while you're sleeping or away.

Standard programmable, Wi-Fi enabled and smart thermostats allow for the customization of daily schedules with varying temperature settings. Wi-Fi enabled and smart thermostats allow users to remotely program and adjust temperatures, while smart thermostats can program themselves after "learning" your behaviors. **EO program cash incentive:** \$20 for standard programmable; \$100 for Wi-Fi enabled and smart thermostats

Combo Cash Incentives Now Available!

Save even more when you purchase a combination of qualifying energy-saving equipment:

Cash Incentive	Equipment	Bonus Incentive	Maximum Total Incentive
HVAC Combo Bonus	New furnace + central A/C unit	\$100	\$800
Smart HVAC Combo Bonus	New furnace + central A/C unit + Wi-Fi enabled or smart thermostat	\$150	\$950

Visit michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319 for additional energy-saving information and rebates. ■



Get your ducks in a row.

Summer is almost here, which means it's time to prepare your home for the cooling season! Schedule a tune-up for your central A/C today in order to:

- Save energy
- Prevent costly breakdowns
- Enjoy cleaner, healthier indoor air

ENERGY TIP: Act now to receive a \$50 cash incentive toward a central A/C tune-up!

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.

Saluting Our Armed Forces Photo Gallery



1



2



3



4



5

Photo Fun

Presque Isle Gas & Electric Co-op invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*.

Upcoming topics and deadlines are: **"All About Michigan,"** due **May 25** for the July/August issue and **"Sports/Outdoor Fun"** due **July 25** for the September issue. Details and instructions for photo submission—including rules, topic list, publication date, and submission deadlines—can be found at <http://bit.ly/1JX5Afh>. We look forward to seeing your best photos!

Remember <http://bit.ly/1JX5Afh> to submit photos!

1. We taught our son, Conner, from an early age that you place your hand on your heart when you hear the National Anthem or say the Pledge of Allegiance. When he was handed this flag on Independence Day, he knew exactly what to do.
Photo by Elsa Green
2. A big "Thank You" to the men and women of The United States Armed Forces! *Photo by Ted Neuner*
3. This patriotic little one is waiting for daddy.
Photo by Wendy West
4. Father and son marched in a Veteran's Day parade. James received his Eagle Scout and had the privilege of marching with his dad, Glenn, who is a physician in the IN Air National Guard. *Photo by Theresa Mandeville*
5. "Footsteps." *Photo by Nicole Bartlett, Hillman*

SNACKS & APPETIZERS

Party-worthy recipes for your next gathering.

Bacon Wrapped Water Chestnuts

Connie Bowman, Manistee

- 1 c. ketchup
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 lb. bacon, cut into thirds
- 2 small cans whole water chestnuts

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix together ketchup and brown sugar. Wrap ½ piece of bacon around each chestnut. Place in a 9x13 pan. Pour ketchup mixture over wrapped bacon/chestnuts. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.

Photos—831 Creative

Jalapeno Popper Boats (Pictured)

Ted Herrst, Mancelona

- 25 medium, fresh jalapeño peppers*
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 pkg. bacon bits
- 3 c. finely shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 t. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 T. olive oil
- ¼ c. cornmeal

Preheat oven to 400°. Spread olive oil evenly over a cookie sheet. Sprinkle cornmeal evenly over cookie sheet. Cut jalapeño peppers in half lengthwise; remove all seeds and membranes. In a small bowl, beat cream cheese, bacon, Worcestershire sauce, and 2 cups cheddar cheese until smooth. Spoon 2 teaspoons of mixture into each jalapeño half, and place on the oiled cookie sheet, then roll each jalapeño lightly in cornmeal. Top with remaining cheese. Bake for 5–10 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve warm. Optional: For milder peppers, after cutting, boil peppers in water for 2–5 minutes. Drain, rinse and allow to cool.

**Wear plastic gloves while working with jalapeño peppers; DO NOT touch face, especially eyes.*



Buffalo Chicken Dip

Patsy Dalrymple, Lake Isabella

- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 10 oz. can chicken breast, drained
- ¼ c. hot sauce
- ½ bottle blue cheese dressing
- 8 oz. pkg. sharp cheddar cheese, crumbled

Mix all ingredients together and place in microwave. Cook 1 minute at a time until all cheese is melted (you can also use a mini crock pot). Serve warm on crackers.



MI
co-op
KITCHEN

Gather Round The Co-op Kitchen Table

A **NEW** and **EXCLUSIVE** online cooking community for our electric co-op members.

MI CO-OP KITCHEN is a place to share your recipes and food ideas with lots of other like-minded members. You will also get a chance to win awesome prizes.

In every *Country Lines* issue, members can submit recipes online for a chance to win a **\$50** electric bill credit. While that's pretty cool by itself, there's more! We will print the winning recipe in *Country Lines* (complete with a professional photo of the dish), and create an instructional "how to" video for micoopkitchen.com.

Ready to pull up a seat?

GREAT! Go to **MICOOPKITCHEN.COM** and register.

Please submit your favorite "Dessert" recipes by July 1.

Enter your recipe online at micoopkitchen.com or send to (handprint or type 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.

micoopkitchen.com



Co-op News

PIE&G Welcomes New Employees

Brandon Vizina—Associate Accountant
Charley Badgero—Groundman
Chelsea Styes—Receptionist
Deanna DeMaestri—Executive Assistant
Wesley Repke—Systems Engineer
Errol Jones—Groundman
Nathan Lenard—Groundman
Ken Wirgau—Equipment Operator/Fuser

Congratulations To Our Recent Employee Retirements!

Jim Taylor—Lineman
Sharon Krzywiecki—Executive Assistant



Best wishes to our friend and co-worker, Sharon Krzywiecki, who retired in January after more than 17 years of service to Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op.

Alpena District Vacancy Filled On PIE&G Board

At their February meeting, the PIE&G board of directors appointed Brentt Lucas to fill the vacancy for the Alpena District. Brentt has three children with his wife, Michelle. He operates a small hog business and is a partner in the family business, Lucas Dairy LLC in Wellington Township. Brentt graduated from Alpena High School and Michigan State University Dairy Tech Program.



Brentt Lucas—PIE&G Director, Alpena District



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Any qualified member can be elected to serve. The term of office is three years.

Get Involved In Your Co-op

It's time to nominate potential directors.

Electric co-ops are governed by seven principles. One is "Democratic Member Control," which means that co-ops are self-governing organizations controlled by their members who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. It also means men and women serving as elected representatives on a cooperative board of directors are accountable to all of its members. Since Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op (PIE&G) is a democracy, it works best when you participate in the organization.

Any qualified PIE&G member-owner can be elected to serve on the cooperative's board of directors, and the term of office is three years. In 2016, two directors from the Alpena district and one director from the Presque Isle district will be elected.

Potential nominees must meet the qualifications for the office of director as outlined in Article III, Section 2 of the PIE&G bylaws (available on our website, pieg.com). Any member interested in becoming a candidate is invited to visit the cooperative's office and learn about the duties performed by the directors. Board of directors meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

To be considered for nomination, submit a letter of interest by June 15, 2016, to **Nominating Committee, PIE&G, P.O. Box 308, Onaway, MI 49765**. All letters are given to the nominating committee for review and nominations will be made in July. Watch *Country Lines* for further information about the annual meeting to be held Friday, Oct. 28 in Onaway. ■



"That's the beauty of Michigan—pretty much everywhere you look there's a lake, river or stream with something willing to bite."

Casting A Line

With Kevin VanDam

By Emily Haines Lloyd



When you're talking to Kevin VanDam you don't get the feeling you're speaking with an internationally recognized angler and arguably the best bass fisherman in the past 20 years. You just feel like you're talking to "Kevin"—the Kalamazoo guy who grew up on the lakes, streams and rivers of southwest Michigan. He sounds like a guy you went to school with, who just happens to travel 250 days a year to compete in bass tournaments and promote the sport he loves.

"Fishing has always been a part of my life. I have a memory of going ice fishing with my dad and I was maybe three years old," VanDam recalls. "So, even when I started competing at the professional level, it took me a long time to think of this as my career. It was just always something I did."

It could be this single-minded and humble mindset that made VanDam the multiple championship winner in professional bass fishing. If you know the sport—you know VanDam. If you thought anglers worked with protractors—let's catch you up. The Bassmaster Classic is the most coveted bass fishing title. In his 263 Bassmaster Classic events—VanDam has won 20, finished second 13 times and landed in the top 10 a remarkable 100 times. He was also the very first Outdoorsman of the Year ESPY award winner, at the ESPN awards in 2002. Not that you can get him to muse on his accolades. VanDam is more likely to brag on his home state when asked why he still lives in the area where he grew up.

"Michigan is home," VanDam says. "I love the four seasons, and my family loves being outdoors. In the summer, you'll find us on the lake boating or fishing. In the winter, I love taking my sons hunting. There's so much diversity in the landscape. Michigan has so much to offer. I can't imagine living anywhere else."

When asked to give up some of his favorite fishing spots in Michigan, VanDam chuckles.

"That's the beauty of Michigan—pretty much everywhere you look there's a lake, river or stream with something willing to bite," he answers. "But I really think the best fishing anywhere is Lake St. Clair on the east side of the state. It's my favorite



tournament location. Having said that—there's nothing like heading up to Traverse City and casting a line."

As VanDam continues his 2016 season of tournaments, sports shows, promotions and product design meetings—you get the feeling his thoughts are always in Michigan—secretly thinking about that next day on the lake with his wife and sons, lazily casting a line without the pressure of a championship title, just a guy named "Kevin" hanging out and having fun. ■

Photos-Seigo Saito, Seven Seas Creation, Inc.



STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOTICE OF HEARING
FOR THE REGULATED GAS DIVISION CUSTOMERS OF
PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC & GAS CO-OP
CASE NO. U-18059

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op requests Michigan Public Service Commission approval of its report relative to its Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER) Ratemaking Mechanism for the 12-month period ended Dec. 31, 2015, and the Company's requested Regulatory Cost Monthly Charge Adder (RCMCA) for a 12-month period for its Regulated Gas Division customers. If the request is granted, Regulated Gas Division customers will be assessed a RCMCA monthly charge of \$0.89 per month, per account, beginning the first billing month following the issuance of a Commission Order in this docket.

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 office of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op.

The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

- DATE/TIME:** Wednesday, May 25, 2016, at 11 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 Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op's (Presque Isle) March 28, 2016, application for a TIER ratemaking mechanism review for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2015, for its Regulated Gas Division. Presque Isle proposes to reduce rates in the amount of \$573,965. Presque Isle also requests approval of an RCMCA of \$0.89 per month, per account, beginning the first billing month following the issuance of a Commission Order in this docket for its Regulated Gas Division customers. 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 May 18, 2016. (Petitions to intervene may also be filed using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Presque Isle's attorney, Richard J. Aaron, at 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 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.

I'M A CO-OP VOTER

Visit the Co-ops Vote website at VOTE.COOP, and take the pledge to BECOME A CO-OP VOTER to support your community and electric cooperative when casting your vote in 2016.

Don't forget to vote in the state primary election on August 2 and the general election on November 8.



A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
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Notice to Members of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

Electric Tariff Changes

The Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op Board of Directors adopted the following changes to the cooperative's electric rates and tariffs at a Special Open Meeting held on March 22, 2016, in accordance with P.A. 167:

- Reconciled the 2015 Power Supply Cost Recovery Factor collections and ordered the continuation of the refund of the net overcollection of \$131,244.23 for the remainder of 2016.
- Accepted the 2015 Electric Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER) analysis.

For specific details of any Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op tariffs or fees, please call 1-800-423-6634 or visit pieg.com.

Hug A Lineman

By Jack O'Malley

The lights flicker once, twice. You wait for it. Boom! A crack of lightning illuminates the night sky as thunder simultaneously rolls over your neighborhood, taking the power with it. Most of us start scrambling for flashlights, candles and the battery operated radio. But across town, a lineman grabs his gear in preparation for what could be a long night of restoring electricity.

I recently visited with a line crew from Cherryland Electric Cooperative. Dustin Ockert, a journeyman lineman, talked about those days and nights when the power goes out. "Leaving my family at home with no power can be stressful. They're home in the dark without me and I'm out working to get the lights back on." However, it's work that Dustin finds enjoyable, despite its risks.

Every day, Dustin and his crew face a number of occupational hazards, including high-voltage contact, confined spaces, and challenging weather conditions, often while working at great heights. Deceptively simple-looking, power lines are connected by a complex arrangement of small parts that crews learn to manipulate while wearing heavy protective gloves. Handling up to 7,200 volts of electricity at any given moment, losing concentration for even a second could result in serious injury. When asked what wind speed would prevent him from taking the bucket up, Dustin confidently replied, "That hasn't happened yet!"

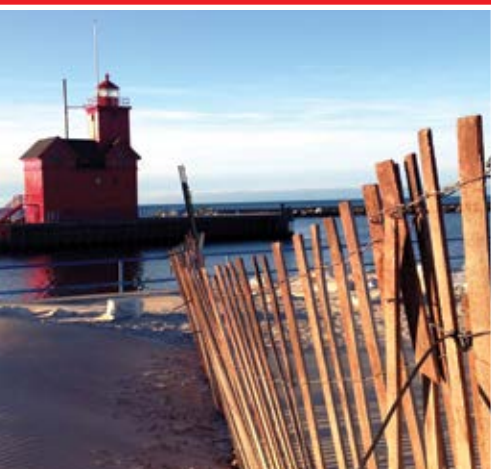


Fortunately for Dustin and his crew, most days are quiet and filled with routine maintenance work and installations. Safety remains the crew's first priority, even on normal days. But all concerns for family and safety aside, Dustin loves his job. During an outage, "The world is dark when we get where we're going and by the time we leave, the lights are back on. That's the glory of our job."

If you're like me you take your power for granted, forgetting the men and women who work in the dark, rain, wind and snow, ensuring that we can turn the lights on each morning. So take a minute, thank your local linemen, and do as Dustin suggests the next time you see his crew pulling up, "Stand back and watch what happens!" ■



Jack O'Malley



«« Where In Michigan Is This?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **June 18** will be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 bill 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.



March Photo

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the March 2016 issue is Norman Schultz, a Great Lakes Energy co-op member who correctly identified the photo as the Back Forty Ranch at the Double JJ Resort in Rothbury, MI.



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2016 Community Calendar

MAY

- Apr. 24-June 4 **Sturgeon Guarding**—Black River, Cheboygan, sturgeonfortomorrow.org
 21 **Blessing of the Bikes**—Hillman, hillmanmichigan.org
 27 **Presque Isle Lighthouses (Old & New)**—
 Open Memorial Day thru Labor Day, alpenacvb.com
 28-29 **40 Mile Point Lighthouse Arts & Crafts Weekend**—
 Near Rogers City, 40milepointlighthouse.org
 27-29 **Bridge Race, Parade, Historical Reenactments, Fireworks**—
 Mackinaw City, mackinawinformation.com

JUNE

- 3-12 **67th Annual Lilac Festival**—Mackinaw Island, mackinawinformation.com
 11-12 **DNR Free Fishing Weekend**
 17-18 **24th Annual Presque Isle Harbor Wooden Boat Show**—
presqueisleharborwoodenboatshow.com
 24-26 **41st Annual St. Ignace Car Show Weekend**—mackinawinformation.com
 24-26 **35th Annual Lumberjack Festival**—Wolverine, wolverinelumberjackfest.com

JULY

- 2-3 **Mill River Days**—Craft show, Fireworks—Hillman hillmanmichigan.org
4th of July Celebrations:
Alpena—Parade @ 11 a.m., Fireworks & Maritime Festival—alpenacvb.com
Atlanta—Parade, Fireworks at High School—atlantamichiganchamber.com;
Cheboygan—Parade @ 10 a.m., Fireworks @ County Fairgrounds—cheboygan.com;
Lewiston—Parade @ 11 a.m. lewistonchamber.com
Indian River—Parade @ 11 a.m., Fireworks irchamber.com
Mackinaw City—Fireworks & Waterfront Events, mackinawinformation.com;
Onaway—Parade @ Noon, Arts & Crafts, VFW Chicken Dinner,
 Fireworks, onawaychamber.org
 7-10 **Waterways Festival**—Cheboygan, waterwaysfestival.com
 15-24 **42nd Annual Michigan Brown Trout Festival**—Alpena, alpenacvb.com
 20-23 **35th Annual Summer Fest**—Indian River, irchamber.com
 26-30 **Montmorency County Fair**—Fairgrounds, Atlanta
 30 **Mackinaw Area Historical Festival**—Mackinaw City, mackinawinformation.com
 July 30-Aug. 7 **142nd Alpena County Fair**—Alpena, alpenacvb.com

AUGUST

- 2-7 **Nautical Festival**—Rogers City, nauticalfestival.org
 5-7 **26th Annual Timberfest**—Lewiston, lewistonchamber.com
 6-13 **Cheboygan County Fair**—Cheboygan, cheboyganfair.com
 13 **V-J Day Celebration**—Hillman, hillmanmichigan.org
 20 **PIE&G Charity Golf Classic**—Stoney Links, Onaway

SEPTEMBER

- 5 **58th Annual Labor Day Mackinaw Bridge Walk**—mackinawinformation.com
 9-11 **65th Annual Posen Potato Festival**—Posen, posenchamber.com
 23-25 **32nd Annual Elk Festival**—Atlanta, atlantamichiganchamber.com