

# The Spotlight

**PIE&G**  
PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC AND GAS CO-OP



1937 - 2012

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## What's Inside

- Members Regulations & Facts
- Safety In Numbers Saves Lives
- Residential Rate Comparison
- We Need Your Help ...
- 75th Anniversary Raffle Winners

June 2012

### SPECIAL PIE&G BOARD MEETING TO CONSIDER MEMBER REGULATION

(Refer to Page 5 of your May/June issue of Country Lines)

Open to the Membership June 25, 2012 • 7 p.m. • PIE&G Headquarters • 19831 M-68 Hwy., Onaway

## Member Regulation:

### Common Sense for Not-for-profit Businesses

In 2008, the Michigan Legislature unanimously passed and the governor signed into law the "Electric Cooperative Member-Regulation Act," or Public Act 167 (107 yeas to 0 nays in the House; 38 to 0 in the Senate). This noncontroversial, common-sense law allows not-for-profit, member-owned electric co-op members acting through their democratically elected boards of directors to establish their own rates, charges, accounting standards, billing practices, and terms and conditions of service, while the MPSC retains jurisdiction over safety, interconnection, code of conduct, customer choice, and distribution standards, among other matters.

The Act also declares that member regulation may be more efficient and cost-effective. The MPSC even reduces utility assessments of member-regulated co-ops by 50 percent (for 2012, PIE&G's utility assessment is more than \$70,000). It is estimated being member-regulated would save PIE&G up to \$100,000 per year in utility assessments, legal fees, interest and other expenses. Ultimately, member-regulation lowers the electric rate burden to members.



## Member Regulation Facts:

- Four of Michigan's 9 electric distribution co-ops are already member-regulated.
- Applies to electric operations (**not natural gas**).
- If member-regulated, PIE&G can save up to \$100,000/year (\$1 million over 10 years) in assessments, legal fees and other expenses.
- Reducing co-op expenses ultimately reduces the rate burden to all co-op members.
- Member-regulated co-ops are similar to the over 40 Michigan municipals whose electric rates aren't regulated by the MPSC.
- PIE&G was not regulated by the MPSC from 1937 to 1965.



## 75TH ANNIVERSARY RAFFLE WINNERS



**PEGGY L BRONSON-Lachine • MARK A TRUHN-Lewiston • WILLIAM A WITKOWSKI-Cheboygan**

Owned By Those We Serve ... Locally Controlled ... Committed to Community ... Not For Profit

## Residential Rate Comparison For MPSC-Regulated Electric Utilities\*

As of May 1, 2012

UTILITIES	1,000 kWh Monthly Bill
Consumers Energy/CMS	\$124.24
Thumb Electric Cooperative	\$125.48
Midwest Energy Cooperative	\$127.90
Alpena Power	\$129.32
Cloverland Electric Cooperative	\$129.86
<b>PIE&amp;G</b>	<b>\$131.82</b>
Detroit Edison/DTE	\$152.50
Ontonagon County REA Cooperative	\$199.44

\*This chart includes all regulated cooperatives in the State of Michigan and other Northeast Michigan utilities.

Source: Michigan Public Service Commission  
[www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/electric/download/rates2.pdf](http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/electric/download/rates2.pdf)

## WE NEED YOUR HELP ...

PIE&G would like to remind members to update their contact information, especially telephone numbers. It is important that we can reach you, if necessary, especially during storm restorations. You can update your information on the back of your billing statement or by calling our Member Services Department at (800) 423-6634.



**9-1-1 calls have faster response time, with easy readable street numbers.**

In an emergency, the firemen, policemen, EMS may have difficulty finding your house if your address numbers are not easy to see from the street. This delay may be the difference between life and death.

- Numbers should be of contrasting or reflective colors to their background and not less than 4 inches in height.
- The proper use and display of street addresses are assigned by your municipality. Check to be sure you are using the correct street numbers.
- In the absence of a mailbox, use a post placed adjacent to the driveway, with address numbers on both sides.

## Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

19831 M-68 Hwy • P.O. Box 308 • Onaway, MI 49765  
989-733-8515 • 800-423-6634 • [www.pieg.com](http://www.pieg.com)

**GAS EMERGENCY ONLY 1-800-655-8565**

*We will gladly accept your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. No additional charge for using your credit card.*



TWN, long distance phone service and natural gas service are not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission.

## CELEBRATE! INDEPENDENCE DAY

**Our offices will be closed on the**



**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY!**