

The Spotlight



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

What's Inside

- Natural Gas Safety
- Capital Credit Allocation
- Sales Tax Refund
- Call MISS DIG BEFORE You Dig

July 2015

3 R'S OF NATURAL GAS SAFETY

Knowing how to recognize a natural gas emergency will help you react quickly.

RECOGNIZE

Signs of a natural gas leak may include:

- "Rotten egg" smell
- Blowing or hissing sound
- Dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area
- Bubbling in wet or flooded areas
- Direct or dust blowing from a hole in the ground
- Flames, if a leak has ignited



REACT

Leave the area immediately, being careful not to ignite the gas by following these warnings:

- Do not use an open flame, matches or lighters
- Do not start vehicles
- Do not use any electrical device, such as light switches or telephones (including cell phones), or appliances such as garage door openers. They could cause a spark and ignite the gas
- Do not try to shut off any natural gas valves or gas appliances
- Do not re-enter the building or return to the area until our employee or a qualified utility representative says it is safe to do so
- Do not try to put out the flames if natural gas ignites. Burning gas will not explode
- Do not try to locate the source of the gas leak



REPORT

Once in a safe location, call PIE&G toll-free at **1-800-655-8565**, anytime 24/7. Please report any unusual activity near a natural gas pipeline or facility.



Call MISS DIG BEFORE YOU DIG!



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

The MISS DIG System, Inc. is a statewide one-call excavation safety and utility damage-prevention company. Its mission is to safeguard the public, environment, property, and utility infrastructures.

Call the Miss Dig system at **1-800-482-7171** or simply dial **811**. You must call at least three (3) full working days in advance of any work. There is no cost for this service.

PIE&G will work with you through the MISS DIG system to locate and mark the approximate location of underground utility lines and pipes.

If our electric or natural gas lines are damaged, you must contact us immediately at **1-800-423-6634**. You may be held responsible for damages.

CO-OPS OBTAIN STATE TAX REFUND FOR MEMBERS

\$125,000 FOR SALES TAX ON MARGINS RETURNED

A few years ago, PIE&G, together with other Michigan electric co-ops, sought relief from the State of Michigan for certain sales tax. The cooperatives were successful. The State of Michigan now returns sales tax assessed on positive operating margins.

For 2014, PIE&G generated positive margins for both electric and natural gas operations. Thus, sales tax refunds of approximately \$75,000 will be given back to electric members and nearly \$50,000 will be refunded to natural gas members. The tax refunds will be reflected as a credit beginning with bills mailed in June 2015. Although the individual refund may be small, it reflects PIE&G's commitment to keeping members' services affordable.

July 2015



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

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

PIE&G DIRECTORS TO RETURN \$1.876 MILLION TO MEMBERS



CAPITAL CREDITS FROM THE 1980'S AND 2004 TO BE RETIRED

At their regular meeting in April, PIE&G's board of directors took action to retire capital credits in the amount of approximately \$1.876 million. Members who received electric service in 1983-86 and 2004 will receive an amount of the above in proportion to their energy use. Checks will be mailed in the fall of 2015.

PIE&G is a member-owned, not-for-profit organization. When revenues exceed expenses, the co-op generates "capital" that is "credited" to individual members on a pro rata basis depending on their "patronage" or purchase of electricity or gas.

These capital credits are used to build the facilities needed to serve the co-op's members. Capital credits are retired and refunded whenever the board of directors determines that the co-op's financial condition will not be impaired. Since its inception, the co-op has retired and refunded approximately \$9 million in capital credits back to members.

PAY ANYTIME ONLINE OR BY PHONE



Want to save time and stamps? If so, you can pay by credit card or check, report meter readings and check account balances 24/7! Create an account online by logging in to **pieg.com** ('Manage My Account') or try our

free pay by phone option. Either option is no fee, easy, fast and available anytime!

TO PAY BY PHONE:

- Call 1-866-999-4571
- Have your account number ready.
- Follow the prompts for options-
 - Option 1: Get your balance
 - Option 2: Make a payment
 - Option 3: Provide a meter reading
 - Option 4: Create or change your PIN
 - Option 5: Change your phone number.
- If you choose to pay from your checking or savings account, you'll be prompted to create a 4-digit PIN (personal identification number). Please contact our Member Service Reps to set your PIN for the first time.
- Wait until you receive your payment confirmation number which tells you your payment was completed.

YOU'LL BE ATTRACTED TO THE SAVINGS ON EXEDE TOO

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FREE INSTALLATION AND NO ACTIVATION FEE

*FCC, 2013 Measuring Broadband America

Promotional price of \$10 off for 12 months applies to the 10 GB service package through the first 12 months of service. After that, it reverts back to the regular monthly price of \$49.99/month. If you choose a higher-level package, the price of that package will be discounted \$10/month through the first 12 months of service. Service not available in all areas. Minimum 24-month commitment term. Actual speeds will vary. Use of Exede service is subject to data transmission limits measured on a monthly basis. Exede is a service mark of ViaSat, Inc.

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

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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.



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