

# The Spotlight



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## What's Inside

- LIEAF Charge Reduced by MPSC
- \$1,876,000 to be Returned to Members
- PSCR Factor Adjustment
- Anytime Bill Payment

Summer 2015



## LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE FUND (LIEAF) CHARGE REDUCED

On July 10, 2013, Gov. Rick Snyder signed into law Public Act 95, creating the Low Income Energy Assistance Fund or "LIEAF" that authorizes the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) to raise up to \$50 million for low income energy assistance payments. The money would come from a surcharge of no more than \$0.09 per meter per month for all Michigan electric utilities participating in the LIEAF program.

On July 22, 2014, the MPSC reduced the monthly surcharge from 99 cents to 97 cents per meter. The surcharge is limited to electric bills only and to one electric residential meter per residential site. The decrease will be effective on PIE&G's electric bills generated on or after Oct. 1, 2014, for service rendered in September. Annual bills will be prorated accordingly.

## 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](http://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.

Summer 2015



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

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# WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COSTS DECREASE IN 2015

## PSCR FACTOR ADJUSTED

At a Special Open Meeting held September 30 2014 the PIE&G board of directors approved a new Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) factor of - \$0.00031 per kilowatt-hour, which is a decrease from the previous \$0.00106 per kilowatt-hour. The PIE&G board approved the new factor in anticipation of decreased wholesale energy costs (see official notice in the 2014 Nov.-Dec. Country Lines). The decrease will be reflected on bills rendered on or after February 1, 2015. The line item on seasonal residential electric bills (shown as "PSCR ADJ") is prorated for the year and reflects the decrease for months in the annual billing period beginning in January.

The purpose of the PSCR factor is to allow the utility to collect only what is needed each budget year to cover its power supply costs. PIE&G purchases its electricity from a wholesale power supplier whose generation and transmission costs may change frequently and unexpectedly throughout the year. Those costs are passed through to PIE&G members via the PSCR factor on each member's electric bill. Periodic adjustments to the PSCR factor are necessary to help PIE&G keep any over- or under- collections of PSCR-related revenue to a minimum.

The PSCR is a pass-through cost and does not contain margins for PIE&G. Most other electric utilities in Michigan have a PSCR factor on their electric bills.

## WHAT'S YOUR CURRENT PHONE NUMBER?

Do you have a new cell phone or have you moved or eliminated your land line? If so, PLEASE be sure to call us with your current daytime number or address change so we can reach you for important service updates or other emergencies such as power outages.



PIE&G will be closed Friday July 3 for Independence Day & Monday, September 7 for Labor Day. Payments may be made anytime at our drop box, online at [pieg.com](http://pieg.com) or using pay by phone 866-999-4517 and will be posted on the next open business day.

You may report an emergency anytime by calling 800-423-6634 or 989-733-8515.



# SAY GOODBYE

## Make the call and save

If you have a refrigerator or freezer that is 10, 20 or even 30 years old, **now** is the time to recycle it. Use Presque Isle Electric and Gas Cooperative's Appliance Recycling program, a service that hauls away your appliance for FREE. PLUS you get a \$50 rebate for participating!

**ENERGY TIP: After making the call for your free pick-up, purchase a new ENERGY STAR refrigerator or chest freezer and receive a \$25 rebate for your smart decision.**



ONLINE: [michigan-energy.org](http://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](http://michigan-energy.org).

## 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 800-655-85650**

*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.*