

The Spotlight

PIE&G
PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC AND GAS CO-OP



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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March 2014

PSCR Factor Adjustment



In last November's *Spotlight*, members were notified of an adjustment to the Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) factor beginning with February bills. The new factor of \$0.00106 per kilowatt hour is a decrease from the prior \$0.00319 per kilowatt hour. The PIE&G board approved the new factor on October 1, 2013 in anticipation of decreased wholesale energy costs. The decreased PSCR factor will be reflected on bills rendered on or after February 1, 2014.

The purpose of the PSCR factor is to allow the utility to collect only what is needed each year to cover our 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 the member's electric bill. Periodic adjustments to the PSCR factor are necessary to help PIE&G keep any over- or under- collections of energy related revenue to a minimum.

As a member regulated cooperative, PIE&G's board of directors approved the PSCR adjustment to allow the co-op to stabilize fluctuating power supply costs throughout the year.

Most other electric utilities in Michigan have a PSCR factor on their electric bills.

Home Heating Credits

PIE&G accepts 'Energy Drafts' issued to members eligible for a Home Heating Credit if used to pay a *home heating bill* and the name on the energy draft matches the name on the account. Both parties must sign to endorse payment if the draft is issued in two names.

Visit www.michigan.gov/heatingassistance and click on Home Heating Credit for more information.

SPRING FORWARD WITH FASTER INTERNET

Exede High Speed Internet lets you surf the web, check e-mails, shop online and download your favorite movies, shows and songs the way you want – super-fast! It's the Internet service that delivers 140% of its advertised speed!*

PIE&G members enjoy these bonus offers:

FREE ACTIVATION \$150 fee waived!

MONTHLY DISCOUNTS \$5.00 off every month as long as you're a subscriber!

Call 888-256-8348 or visit www.localexede.com



*FCC, 2013 Measuring Broadband America



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A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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

Be Prepared for Spring Storms



Lightning from thunderstorms kills more people each year than tornadoes or hurricanes, according to the American Red Cross. As spring arrives, make sure you're prepared to handle storms that come

with the changing season. Follow these tips from the Red Cross to stay safe.

Stay away from downed power lines. Electricity could still be flowing through them. **Report downed power lines immediately to PIE&G at (800) 423-6634.**

Hear thunder? Head inside. If you can hear it, you could be in danger from lightning. The National Weather Service recommends you stay indoors at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder. If you're outside and can't seek shelter indoors, avoid high ground, water, tall isolated trees, and metal objects like bleachers or fences.

Unplug your electronics. Avoid using electrical items and telephones, which can carry power surges. Keep a battery-powered TV or radio on hand for weather updates.

Delay outdoor activities. If conditions are right for a thunderstorm, postpone the baseball game and stay inside – it doesn't have to be raining for lightning to strike.

Assemble an emergency preparedness kit with:

- Water – one gallon per person, per day
- Non-perishable food
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (preferably NOAA weather radio) and extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Seven-day medicine supply
- Copies of personal documents
- Cell phone with chargers
- Emergency contact information
- Cash

Source: American Red Cross

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

The deadline for the PIE&G Communities First Fund scholarships is **March 31, 2014.**



Looking Forward to Spring!

PORTABLE GENERATORS

Please Do Not Put Someone's Life in Danger!

Take special care with portable electric generators, which can provide a good source of power, but if improperly installed or operated, can become deadly. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including line workers making repairs. A qualified, licensed electrician should install your generator to ensure that it meets local electrical codes.

Other tips include:

- Make sure your generator is properly grounded.
- Keep the generator dry.
- Make sure extension cords used with generators are rated for the load, and are free of cuts, worn insulation, and have three-pronged plugs.
- Do not overload the generator.
- Do not operate the generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. Generators can produce high levels of carbon monoxide very quickly, which can be deadly.
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.

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

GAS EMERGENCY ONLY 1-800-655-8565

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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.