

# The Spotlight



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## What's Inside

- Benefits of Member Regulation
- Co-op Obtains Tax Refund for Members
- Prepare NOW for Outages
- EO Furnace Rebates Available

November 2014

## MEMBER REGULATION & WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

### *PSCR Factor Reduced for 2015*

In September 2012, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op became member regulated under Public Act 167 of 2008. Member regulation allows cooperative boards of directors to establish rates, charges, accounting standards, billing practices, and terms and conditions of service, while avoiding significant expense and delays of regulation by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC).

At a special open board meeting held September 29, 2014, the PIE&G board of directors adopted the following changes to the Cooperative's electric tariffs and rules, in accordance with P.A. 167:

- Reviewed the Power Supply Cost Recovery Factor (PSCR) and authorized the maximum factor to be set at negative \$0.00031/kWh, effective with bills rendered on or after February 1, 2015. The reduction is due to expected decreases in wholesale energy supply costs. For the average residential monthly electric account, **this represents approximately a 1% reduction per month.**
- Revised the Cooperative's residential and non-residential billing rules to remove references to Michigan Public Service Commission jurisdiction and to have the written rules more closely reflect actual practices as updated.

For specific details of any Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op tariffs, rules or fees, please call us at 1-800-423-6634 or visit our website at [www.pieg.com](http://www.pieg.com).

## CO-OPS OBTAIN STATE TAX REFUND FOR MEMBERS

### *\$106,600 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 a not-for-profit sales tax exemption on operating margins. The cooperatives in their joint effort successfully obtained a ruling that the State of Michigan would return sales tax associated with margin during years when PIE&G generates a positive operating margin.

For 2013, PIE&G generated a positive margin for both electric and natural gas operations. Thus, refunds will be given back to electric members of approximately \$76,000 and to natural gas members of nearly \$30,600. The tax refunds will be reflected as a credit beginning with bills mailed in November, 2014.

Although the individual refund may be small, it reflects PIE&G's commitment to keeping its members services affordable.



## A FEAST OF SAVINGS ON HIGH SPEED INTERNET

### MONTHLY DISCOUNTS AND FREE ACTIVATION

\$10 OFF EVERY BILL FOR 12 MONTHS AND \$150 ACTIVATION FEE WAIVED!

#### SUPER FAST

Speeds up to 12 Mbps

#### PROMPT & PROFESSIONAL

Installation

#### RELIABLE

Customer Support 24/7

#### AFFORDABLE

Service for about \$2 a day

Exede High Speed Internet lets you enjoy your favorite websites, keep in touch with family and friends, 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!\*

Call 888-256-8348 for member discount



\*FCC, 2013 Measuring Broadband America





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

### The Power is Out and You're on Oxygen – What Now?

## BE PREPARED WITH A BACK UP PLAN

PIE&G's goal is to keep your power on without interruptions but necessary repairs and inclement weather affect our ability to do so. When the power goes off and you're on oxygen or have other medical needs that require electricity, what should you do?



Given the unpredictability of Mother Nature and unforeseen events, no utility can guarantee continuous electric service at all times. During power outages, utilities generally restore circuits affecting the largest number of members first before moving on to repair individual services on smaller circuits. Thus, the order in which repairs can be safely completed depends on various factors, including cause and extent of damage or problems, weather conditions, varying repair times, availability of crews and equipment, number of services affected, and where a service is physically located on the distribution system.

**If you have a serious medical condition that requires electric powered equipment, we recommend that before the power goes out, you consult with your physician to insure that you have an emergency plan in place to be prepared at all times.** Alternatives include having battery packs or a gas or diesel powered generator available. You may need to temporarily relocate to a friend's or family member's home that has electricity, or contact the Red Cross or 911 in an emergency.

If you require electricity for medical equipment, be prepared in advance with a backup plan **BEFORE** the power goes out.

## DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

Due to our printing schedule, the Annual Meeting election results will be included in the December issue of *Spotlight* or by visiting our website at [www.pieg.com](http://www.pieg.com) under the Board of Directors tab.

## CAPITAL CREDIT REFUNDS

Capital credit refund checks were mailed in October for those members who took service from PIE&G in 1983-84.



### Did you wear out your furnace last winter?

With another winter just around the corner, don't wait until the last minute. Purchase a furnace with a high-efficiency motor and get **\$150 back from Presque Isle Electric and Gas Co-op**. Rebates available at [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org).

**ENERGY TIP: Don't wait until your furnace stops working—shop now, avoid a rushed decision and get a great rebate!**

ONLINE: [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) PHONE: 877.296.4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service territories only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org).

## HOLIDAY NOTICE

PIE&G offices will be closed November 27-28 for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be open for business on Monday, December 1st.



## 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.*