

# The Spotlight

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



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## What's Inside

- Natural Gas Safety
- Call **MISS DIG BEFORE** You Dig
- Member Refunds Coming
- Pay Anytime

July 2017

## 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 (gas companies add an odorant to help you recognize the smell of a leak).
- Blowing or hissing sound.
- Dead or discolored vegetation where the gas pipe enters the house.
- Bubbling in wet or flooded areas, or dirt or dust blowing from a hole in the ground (possible underground pipe leak).
- 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 including matches, lighters or candles.
- 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 (the longer you stay in a dangerous situation, the greater the likelihood of injury).
- Do not re-enter the building or return to the area until a PIE&G 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. Leave it to the professionals at your utility.
- If you are outside digging a hole and believe you have damaged a gas line, leave the area immediately.



### REPORT



Once you are in a safe location, call PIE&G toll-free at **1-800-655-8565**, anytime 24/7. Trained employees will investigate at no charge. Please report any unusual activity near a natural gas pipeline or facility.



Know what's Below.  
Call before you dig.

## Call MISS DIG 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 and promote awareness of underground utilities.

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 PIE&G's 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

*\$48,000 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 2016, PIE&G generated positive margins for both electric and natural gas operations. Thus, sales tax refunds of approximately \$31,347 will be given back to electric members and over \$17,364 will be refunded to natural gas members. The tax refunds will be reflected as a credit beginning with bills mailed in June 2017. Although the individual refund may be small, it reflects PIE&G's commitment to keeping members' services affordable.

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

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## PAY ANYTIME ONLINE OR BY PHONE

Want to save time and stamps when paying your PIE&G electric and natural gas bill? Use SmartHub at pieg.com (or download the free app to your smart phone) to pay by credit card or check OR try our automated Pay-by-phone service. Both are free, 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: Check your account status
  - Option 2: Make a payment
  - Option 3: Enter your meter reading
  - Option 4: Create or change your PIN
  - Option 5: Update your phone number
- Choose credit card or check payment. For check payment, enter your four-digit PIN (personal identification number). First-time users must call PIE&G Member Services at 1-800-423-6634 for a PIN.
- Wait to hear payment confirmation number that your payment was completed.



## SUMMER'S HERE! GIVE YOURSELF A BREAK



\*FCC, 2013 Measuring Broadband America

### SUPER FAST

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to 12 Mbps

### PROMPT &

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Installation

### RELIABLE

Customer  
Support 24/7

### AFFORDABLE

Service for  
about \$2 a day

## PIE&G DIRECTORS RETURN \$2.623 MILLION TO MEMBERS

### Capital Credits from the 1980's, 1990-91 and 1999 to be Retired

At their April meeting, PIE&G's board of directors authorized approximately \$2,623,000 in capital credit retirements. Members who received electric service in the 1980's, 1990-91 and 1999 will receive an amount of the above in proportion to their energy use. **Checks for the capital credit refund will be mailed in the fall of 2017.**



As a member-owned, not-for-profit organization, when PIE&G revenues exceed expenses, "capital" is generated and "credited" to individual members on a pro rata basis, depending on their purchases of electricity or gas.

Capital credits are used to build the facilities needed to serve members or may be retired and refunded whenever the board of directors determines that the co-op's financial condition will not be impaired. Since its inception, PIE&G has refunded approximately \$12 million in capital credits back to its members.

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## 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.*