

# The Spotlight

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January 2021



## NEW HEADQUARTERS AND AMI UPDATE

Construction work on the new PIE&G headquarters facility is in full swing and site development will continue through the first half of 2021. PIE&G hopes to begin moving operations into the building next July or August.

The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project will provide members with the most advanced, cost-effective, safe, secure, and reliable technology available. The Co-op just completed setting its first 100-foot communications tower and the suitability of additional sites in the service territory are being evaluated. Larger scale deployment of the new AMI meters is expected to begin in early 2021.

Both projects will allow PIE&G to provide enhanced services to the membership. The new building and AMI projects are expected to add efficiencies to daily operations and AMI will help improve both reliability and power quality, while helping to hold down costs over the long run.

## NEW METERS TO HELP US SERVE YOU BETTER

PIE&G will be installing new, automated meters in the new year to increase the efficiency and reliability of our electric distribution system. Improving the efficiency of both operations and electricity delivery can help us keep costs down for members.

The biggest change? PIE&G will be able to read meters remotely from the co-op's headquarters. Remote meter readings will save us time, labor and money. The meters will provide hourly information about use, which will help members understand how and when they are using electricity. Armed with this information, PIE&G Member Service Representatives will be in a better position to help members address billing inquiries. Your first bill following the AMI installation will show two readings: one from the old meter and one from the new meter.

In addition to reducing operational costs, the new meters, which can receive and send meter and outage information to computers at the co-op headquarters, will help improve the reliability of our system. The new technology allows us to detect problems more quickly and to locate outages more precisely. In some cases, we will be able to fix the problem before members know their power has been out.

The new technology can also help us monitor the status of the electric system in almost real-time. We can use this information to make the process of delivering power much more efficient.

Stay tuned for more updates about our AMI project and visit our website at [www.pieg.com/electric/meterinformation](http://www.pieg.com/electric/meterinformation). At Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op, taking advantage of new technologies is one more way that we are looking out for our members.

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## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GRADUATING SENIORS

*Applications due March 1, 2021*

The PIE&G Communities First Fund has been awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors since 1999. The scholarship program includes all accredited colleges or universities located in Michigan. The award is \$1,000 and payable upon successful completion of the first semester. The A. Barkley Travis Memorial scholarship (\$500) is also available.

Eligibility requirements and applications are available on-line at [pieg.com](http://pieg.com) or by contacting PIE&G at 1-800-423-6634 and select extension 1011. Completed applications with all supporting documentation must be received at PIE&G by close of business on Monday, March 1, 2021. Scholarships will be awarded by June 1st.

## PIPELINE AWARENESS

*To promote safety around our natural gas lines, members should be aware of the following information.*

### GAS LEAK EMERGENCY SERVICE

PIE&G's special gas leak hot line is **800.655.8565**. This number is designated for gas leak reporting only. Operators cannot take or transfer calls regarding other requests. PIE&G has emergency service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You must call 911 to report broken or open lines when there is a release of gas.

### NATURAL GAS PIPELINE MARKERS

Buried natural gas pipelines are marked at intervals with yellow markers. However, the pipeline markers may not always show the exact location of underground lines or the direction they follow. Before any digging, please call 811 (MISS DIG). This is a free service. Utilities will be marked within 3 business days. Damaging or removing pipeline markers is against the law – punishable by fines and/or jail time.

### PIPELINE INTEGRITY

To protect the integrity of our natural gas pipeline system, PIE&G routinely inspects and performs maintenance, such as corrosion-control and leak surveys, and pipeline replacement when necessary. For your safety, our employees are trained to monitor and inspect our pipeline system and respond quickly to any natural gas emergency.

Please take a minute to become familiar with these notices, even if you don't have natural gas service with PIE&G.



## 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 1-800-655-8565**

*We will gladly accept your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. No additional charge for using your credit card.*

