

# The Spotlight

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January 2023

### PSCR FACTOR TO INCREASE FEB. 1, 2023



As published in the Nov-Dec issue of Country Lines, at a Special Open Meeting held September 27, 2022, the Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op Board of Directors approved the 2023 Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) factor at a maximum of \$0.01169/kWh for bills rendered on or after Feb. 1, 2023. This is up from \$0.00762/kWh in 2022 and represents an increase of around \$2.80 per month for the average monthly residential member using 661 kilowatt hours per month.

For the last six of seven years, the PSCR factor was a negative number, which effectively reduced members' bills during those years. The increase is primarily due to the increased costs of natural gas used for cleaner generation of electricity.

#### What is the PSCR Factor?

As an electric distribution cooperative, PIE&G purchases electricity from its wholesale supplier, Wolverine Power Cooperative. Wolverine, a generation and transmission cooperative, sells power to PIE&G, delivering it via transmission lines to PIE&G's substations. From the substations, PIE&G distributes electricity directly to its members.

Each year, electric utilities compare projected costs of electricity for the next 12 months with long term projected energy costs to determine the adjustment to customers on the monthly bill. This adjustment to the base energy charge is called the Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) factor. At the end of the year, utilities are required to reconcile the monies collected for energy with the actual cost of energy. That difference, along with the next year's forecasted costs is incorporated into the PSCR Factor calculation for the upcoming year.

The purpose of the PSCR process is to ensure that a utility only collects the costs that it incurred to purchase wholesale energy on behalf of its members or customers. This is a legal requirement for all electric utilities in Michigan.

Power supply or energy costs are a pass-through cost and do not contain any margins for PIE&G.

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

### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GRADUATING SENIORS

**Applications due March 1, 2023**

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.

Two other scholarships are available: The A. Barkley Travis Memorial scholarship (\$500) and the Peterson Vocational School Scholarship (\$500).

Eligibility requirements and applications are available online 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 Tuesday, March 1, 2023. Scholarships will be awarded by June 1st.



Jillian Pilarski, daughter of Jason and Amanda Pilarski of Alpena, received a \$1000 scholarship to attend the College for Creative Studies in Detroit.

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## 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.



## FIBER UPDATE

In December, over 450 members were subscribed to high-speed fiber internet service. In-home installations will continue throughout the

winter, except for underground or buried fiber cable due to frozen ground conditions.

For members who have underground electric service to their home, PIE&G Connect will hold their service orders for installation until Spring when the ground thaws. In early December, crews worked to finish the last of the pending work orders that included underground that were already partially completed.

Construction of the fiber network will continue through the winter, and crews are currently working in the Fingerboard and Mullett Lake areas.



## AMI UPDATE

Work continues with installation of AMI equipment on our 100-foot poles in Presque Isle, Cheboygan and Montmorency Counties. We are proceeding with agreements to install AMI equipment on several local radio towers early next year.

We are collaborating with Bois Blanc Township to find

a mutually beneficial solution to ensure that AMI service is available on the Island.

As of December, we have deployed 32,303 AMI meters, or 89% of the 36,202 active electric meters.

We are evaluating and testing our Encoder Receiver Transmitter (ERT) gas modules. The ERT module for natural gas meters is comparable to advanced metering technology for electric service.

**A friendly reminder to members to please continue to read and report your meter readings until the meter reading boxes on your billing stub have been removed.** You may submit meter readings several ways: on your billing stub and return to us with your payment (by mail or in our Drop Box), using Pay-By-Phone service (1-866-999-4571), or using SmartHub (online at pieg.com or with our free mobile app).

## 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.

