

The Spotlight

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September 2020

PIE&G ANNUAL MEETING TO BE VIRTUAL

In-person meeting canceled due to COVID restrictions



The traditional in-person PIE&G Annual membership meeting that was scheduled for October 23, 2020 in Posen, has been **canceled due to COVID-19 concerns** and related State of Michigan Executive Order restrictions on schools and large group meetings.

PIE&G plans to hold the meeting virtually instead with the business meeting being broadcast live at 10:00 am on Oct. 23, 2020. Look for detailed information on how to access the meeting online and by phone in the September-October *Country Lines*, the October *Spotlight*, on our website www.pieg.com, and our Facebook page.

We're asking members to provide us with any written questions by October 1 by placing them in our Drop Box or by mail to: PIE&G Q&A, PO Box 721, Onaway, MI 49765.

Selected questions will be addressed during the Q & A portion of the meeting. Please join us!



SIGN UP FOR OUR BUDGET PLAN!

You can't predict Michigan's weather, but you can count on PIE&G's Budget Plan to help keep your energy costs steady all year round. The Budget Plan lets you spread out your annual energy costs into equal monthly payments. It's a great way to help manage your household budget.

The Budget Plan* starts in October each year and runs through September. Your monthly budget bill is estimated for the coming year based on your previous 12 months of usage history. The annual total is averaged into 11 equal payments. For the 12th month (September), any differences from the budget are reconciled. The September bill will include catch-up charges if you used more energy than what you paid during the budget year, and if you used less energy than your budget billing and overpaid, you'll receive a credit.

If you are already enrolled in the Budget Plan and all paid up, there is no need to take any action. Your enrollment will continue. If you are enrolled in the Auto Pay Plan, please review your September bill to ensure sufficient funds are available to cover your reconciliation balance, which may be higher than your usual budget payment.

**Eligibility requirements apply. Members participating in assistance programs, such as the Winter Protection Plan, are not eligible for the Budget Plan.*

HOME HEATING CREDIT (HHC)

For help with winter heating costs, apply for a Home Heating Credit (HHC) if you have a low income, are receiving agency assistance, or are receiving unemployment compensation. Eligible members must meet guidelines based on household income, exemptions, and heating costs. The HHC may ONLY be used to pay for home heating costs (gas, propane, oil) and may not be used for your electric bill unless you use electric heat at your home.

The Michigan Department of Treasury determines eligibility and issues the payment vouchers (energy drafts). You do not need to file a state income tax return to receive the HHC. Forms are available at most public libraries, post offices, and Secretary of State offices. The forms can also be found online by searching for "2019 Michigan home heating credit claim" (MI-1040-CR7). You must file (postmark) your claim by September 30, 2020. For more information, search the web for "2019 Michigan home heating credit utility tips".

You may designate that your HHC is payable directly to PIE&G or to other registered heat providers. The name on the HHC must match the name on the account. Everyone named on the HHC must sign it to authorize payment.

September 2020



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

CARBON MONOXIDE CAN BE DEADLY

Protect Your Family

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but at high levels, it can kill in a matter of minutes. Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. If appliances that burn fuel are maintained and used properly, the amounts of CO produced are usually not



hazardous. However, hundreds of accidental CO poisonings are caused each year by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances. Even more die from CO produced by idling cars. Children, the elderly, and people with anemia or a history of heart or respiratory disease can be especially susceptible. Symptoms include dizziness, nausea, vomiting, headache, confusion or passing out.

Carbon monoxide detectors can alert you about high levels of CO in your home, which will give you more time to get outside for fresh air and to safety.



IF YOU SMELL GAS OR SUSPECT A GAS LEAK, CALL 1-800-655-8565 IMMEDIATELY



UTILITY FLAGS IN THE GROUND

When a homeowner or company contacts the Miss Dig system, all utility companies must mark their own underground facilities with flags within 3 days of the request. These flags mark the location of underground facilities so the homeowner, contractor or other utilities can avoid digging in those marked areas. **Each utility will remove its own flags when their work is completed.** Removing the flags before that time could result in damage to nearby property and may cause serious personal injury.

PIE&G appreciates your cooperation and help to keep everyone safe.



LIGHTENING THE LOAD

ENERGY ASSISTANCE. We can help lighten your load with FREE opportunities to save money and reduce electricity use. Families or individuals eligible for assistance based on income levels may receive:

- Energy-saving devices including LED light bulbs
- Free large appliance inspections with potential replacement
- Virtual or in-home consultations with COVID protocols

Contact us today for program eligibility information.

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org PHONE: 877.296.4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan electric service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.

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.

