

Cloverland Electric Cooperative

September/October 2015

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

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THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

**Plus!**

Member Regulation  
Makes Sense

Seasonal Billing  
Changes

International Company  
in Manistique



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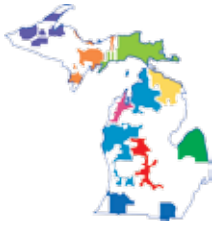
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Michigan's Electric Cooperatives  
[countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com)

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Association officers are **Robert Schallip**, Cloverland Electric Cooperative, chairman; **Mark Kappler**, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, vice chairman; and **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power Cooperative, secretary-treasurer. **Craig Borr** is president and CEO.

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**The appearance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.**

**Change of Address:**  
Please notify your electric cooperative.  
See page 4 for contact information.

# IN THIS ISSUE

## ON THE COVER\*

The 4,300-square-mile Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, located on Lake Huron in Alpena, protects one of America's best-preserved and nationally-significant collections of shipwrecks.

*\*Some co-op editions have a different cover.*

Photo courtesy of NOAA Thunder Bay NMS

## IN YOUR WORDS

Our new question of the month section of *Michigan Country Lines*. Let us know your answer and it may appear in the next month's issue or on your electric co-op's social media site. Please answer the question in your own words at <http://bit.ly/1Mg17W5>.

Now the question:

What in your life are you most thankful for?

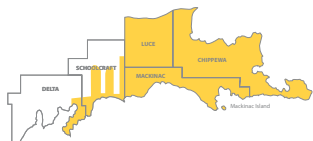
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## Member Service Centers

Monday–Friday • 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
906-635-6800 • 1-800-562-4953

**2916 W. M-28**  
**Dafer, MI 49724**

**836 M-134**  
**DeTour Village, MI 49725**

**6214 County Rd. 403**  
**Newberry, MI 49868**

**2972 W. 8th St.**  
**Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

## Board Of Directors

Email: [board@cloverland.com](mailto:board@cloverland.com)

**Robert Schallip, Chairperson**  
District B – Neebish Island  
(906) 635-0941

**Dale Carlson, Vice Chairperson**  
District A – Stalwart  
(906) 647-8246

**Richard Newland, Secretary/Treasurer**  
District A – DeTour Village  
(906) 297-5681

**Gerald Nettleton, Director**  
District A – DeTour Village  
(906) 430-0910

**Charles Litzner, Director**  
District B – Sault Ste. Marie  
(906) 635-5958

**John Sawruk, Director**  
District B – Sault Ste. Marie  
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**Ronald Provo, Director**  
District C – Manistique  
(906) 341-5300

**Peter Legault, Director**  
District C – Engadine  
(906) 477-6878

**Virgil Monroe, Director**  
District C – Manistique  
(906) 341-8808

**President & CEO – Daniel Dasho**

**Local Editor – Todd Chapman**

[cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com)

Cloverland Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Member Regulation Makes Sense



**Daniel Dasho**  
President & Chief  
Executive Officer

Cloverland Electric is a member-owned, not-for-profit, electric cooperative established in 1938 by local residents in the EUP, which for the first 30 years had its rates and tariffs regulated by the board of directors. That changed in the 1960s and since then, we've been regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), a governmental agency with commissioners appointed by the governor.

Your co-op's board of directors consists of members whom you elect to set the policies that guide our operations. At present, decisions on rates and billing charges are not controlled by your elected board, but by the MPSC in Lansing.

Member regulation would allow your board to set rates, tariffs and billing rules for Cloverland. In June, your board decided to move towards becoming member-regulated. Cloverland would join seven of the nine Michigan electric co-ops as well as a majority of the electric cooperatives across the country, who are member-regulated. Member regulation is not total deregulation. The MPSC would continue regulating business matters related to safety, interconnection, codes of conduct, territorial issues, distribution performance standards, and quality of service.

## Why does this make more sense?

One reason is that being member-regulated allows your democratically elected board to be your direct contact for our rates and service rules. Directors have the knowledge and experience to make decisions with the perspective and concern that only a local co-op member can bring, and no motivation to generate profits for stockholders. You should not have to use attorneys with associated legal fees to get your message heard regarding rates and tariffs.

By being member-regulated, we would save close to \$140,000 per year in assessments and other fees that we currently pay to the MPSC. A typical rate case before the MPSC easily costs us \$50,000 in legal fees.

It also allows us to be more flexible in establishing fair and appropriate rates quickly. A request to the MPSC can take six to eight months, depending on the MPSC's schedule.

## Member regulation does not affect the basis for rate-making.

Our rates will continue to meet the following guidelines:

1. Rates and charges shall reasonably reflect the cost of providing service.
2. Rates shall be uniform within the classes of service provided by the cooperative.

*Continued on page 9*

# Your Co-op Board In Action

The board of directors met on May 21 and June 19. All directors were in attendance.

## May

- Reviewed a donation request and received comments from a member during the public comment section of the agenda.
- Expressed members' comments concerning member regulation. The co-op will have member meetings to present the issue and answer questions.
- Reviewed the financial report and approved a motion to accept estate retirements in the amount of \$1,777.68 for April.
- Approved event sponsorship and donation requests to the Chippewa County Stalwart Fair; the Paradise Chamber of Commerce; the Sault Area Sportsman Club; the Tahquamenon Area School; Habitat for Humanity/Hiawathaland and the Curt Knierim Memorial Run.
- Approved the draft agenda for the annual meeting.
- Received updated legal report on a variety of issues.

## June

- Expressed several comments on behalf of members.
- Approved a resolution to prepay the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) loans.
- Approved event sponsorship and donation requests to the Schoolcraft County Chamber of Commerce; the War Memorial Hospital Foundation; the Mackinac Straits Health Foundation and the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.
- Received a motion to begin the process of member regulation. ■

## Public Act 295: The Clean Renewable and Efficient Energy Act

### 2014 Annual Energy Optimization Report, Cloverland Electric Cooperative Electric Association, MPSC Case Number U-17364

Cloverland Electric contracted with the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) to administer its Energy Optimization efforts in order to comply with PA-295. MECA filed a 4-year Energy Optimization plan with the MPSC on Aug. 1, 2011, as required by PA 295. This EO plan was approved by the MPSC on Nov. 10, 2011, and we began implementing the plan Jan. 1, 2012. The Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (WECC) was selected to implement all Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Programs, and the Energy Optimization website michigan-energy.org. WECC has subcontracted with JACO, Michigan Energy Options, Franklin Energy, Morgan Marketing Partners, and Honeywell to assist with the implementation of the EO Programs. MECA contracted with KEMA as the independent 3rd party evaluation contractor for the certification of kWh savings.

In 2014, Cloverland Electric collected \$1,246,360 through the Energy Optimization Surcharge and spent \$1,080,115 resulting in an over-collection of \$166,245 which will be applied towards the 2015 EO Program delivery. For every dollar spent on energy efficiency programs, customers will save \$3.61 in avoided energy costs. Cloverland Electric achieved 8,337 MWh of energy savings in 2014. The full report can be obtained at michigan-energy.org or <http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile>.

## Fuel Mix Report

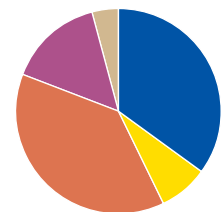
The fuel mix characteristics of Cloverland Electric Cooperative as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 6-month period ended 6/30/15.

### COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

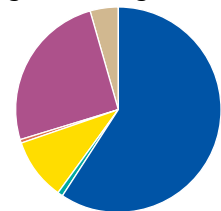
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	31.0%	60.4%
Oil	0.0%	0.7%
Gas	9.0%	8.9%
Hydroelectric	43.0%	0.5%
Nuclear	15.0%	24.6%
Renewable Fuels	2.0%	4.9%
Biofuel	0.0%	0.7%
Biomass	0.0%	0.4%
Solar	0.0%	0.1%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.0%	0.0%
Wind	2.0%	3.2%
Wood	0.0%	0.5%

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas.

Your Co-op's Fuel Mix



Regional Average Fuel Mix



### EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON

TYPE OF EMISSION/WASTE	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	0.67	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,480	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	0.64	2.0
High-level Nuclear Waste	0	0.0083

\*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the twelve-month period ending 12/31/14.

# PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS



**Always read the Owner's Manual and instructions for your generator. Do NOT cut corners when it comes to safety.**

These tips are merely supplemental and are not intended to substitute reading of the Owner's Manual.

## Carbon Monoxide and Ventilation

- Using a generator indoors CAN KILL YOU IN MINUTES. Exhaust contains carbon monoxide, a deadly poison gas you cannot see or smell.
- NEVER run a generator indoors or in partly enclosed areas, such as garages.
- ONLY use outdoors and far from windows, doors, vents, crawl spaces and in an area where adequate ventilation is available and will not accumulate deadly exhaust gas.
- Using a fan or opening doors and windows will not provide sufficient ventilation.
- It is recommended that you install battery operated carbon monoxide alarms/detectors indoors according to manufacturer's instructions/recommendations.

## Gasoline, Fueling and Burn Safety

- If tank is over-filled, fuel can overflow onto a hot engine and cause fire or explosion.
- Do not overfill the fuel tank. Always allow room for fuel expansion.
- Never add fuel while unit is running or hot. Allow generator and engine to cool entirely before adding fuel.
- Never store a generator with fuel in the tank where gasoline vapors might reach an open flame, spark or pilot light.
- Many generator parts are hot enough to burn you during operation and while the generator is cooling after turning off. Avoid coming into contact with a hot generator.

## Electrocution Hazard and Electrical Shock Hazards

- Connecting a portable electric generator directly to your household wiring can be deadly to you and others. A generator that is directly connected to your home's wiring can "back feed" onto the power lines connected to your home and injure neighbors or utility workers.
- Do not connect your generator directly to your home's wiring or into a regular household outlet.
- Always start or stop the generator only when no electrical loads are connected.
- Overloading your generator can seriously damage your valuable appliances and electronics. Do not overload the generator. Do not operate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the generator. Prioritize your needs. A portable electric generator should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment.
- Use the proper power cords. Plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage. Do not use extension cords with exposed wires or worn shielding.
- Do not operate the generator in wet conditions such as rain or snow.
- The generator must be properly grounded. If the generator is not grounded, you run the risk of electrocution. Check and adhere to all applicable federal, state and local regulations relating to grounding.

## Generator Placement and Operation

- Allow at least five feet of clearance on all sides of the generator when operating.
- Generators can be used during a wide variety of weather temperatures, but should be protected from the elements when not in use to prevent shorting and rusting.
- Operate the generator only on level surfaces and where it will not be exposed to excessive moisture, dirt, dust or corrosive vapors.
- Inspect the generator regularly.
- Always disconnect the spark plug wire and place the wire where it cannot contact the spark plug to prevent accidental starting when setting up, transporting, adjusting or making repairs to the generator.

Source: American Red Cross with technical advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Fire Protection Association (publisher of the National Electric Code®) and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. ■



# Maintain Your Home's Heating System Efficiency

By James Dulle

**W**ith the heating season soon upon us, make sure your heating system is running at its maximum efficiency. Doing a simple heating system tune-up yourself improves its efficiency, resulting in significant annual cost savings.

However, don't skip your regular professional maintenance calls just because you have done your own heating system mini-tune-up. There are many areas within a heating system that only a qualified technician can evaluate and adjust properly.

The first items to check are for safety. With a gas or propane furnace, put several drops of soapy water on any gas-line fittings you find. If the water bubbles at all, there are leaks. Leave your house *immediately* and call your gas company to have it repaired. With a heat pump, check to make sure the insulation on all of the external wiring looks correct. You can inspect potential 'bad spots'—damaged or frayed areas—more carefully once you turn the circuit breaker off.

Turn off the electric power to the heating unit at the circuit breaker panel. Remove its side cover to gain access to the blower. Using a vacuum cleaner brush attachment, clean any dust deposits off the blower. You may find bearing oil cups on the blower motor of older systems. Put a drop of oil in each cup.

Find the fan control switch and adjust the temperature setting lower. Common settings are on at 135 degrees and off at 100 degrees. Try using 110 and 90 degrees. This starts the blower sooner and

keeps it running longer as the heat exchanger heats up and then cools down.

Replace the cover and make sure all the cabinet screws are tight. Also, check the tightness of any cabinet screws you can find. Having the cabinet well-sealed improves efficiency by maintaining the proper air flow through the coils or over the heat exchanger surfaces. With a heat pump, also check the cabinet screws on the outdoor condenser unit.

Set up the thermostat so the furnace starts. Hold a stick of lighted incense near all the joints in the ductwork, both return and supply air ducts, to check for air leaks. If you find leaks, wipe dust off the surfaces and use mastic (a gooey, non-hardening material) around the leaking joints.

This is a good time to change your furnace filter or clean a central air cleaner element. Consider installing a more effective filter element than the low-cost fiberglass ones that many systems use. This may not help indoor air quality much, but it can keep the air-flow paths cleaner for more efficient heat transfer.

Check the accuracy of the wall thermostat. You may actually be keeping your house warmer than you realize. Tape a bulb thermometer on the wall next to your furnace. Check the thermometer reading when the furnace shuts off and note the difference between it and the thermostat setting. Now you will know where to set the thermostat to get the indoor temperature you desire. If it is inaccurate, replace it with a new electronic setback model. ■

# SEAFOOD FAVORITES

Flavorful seafood recipes you will love!

## Crab Casserole

Virginia Rubingh, Ellsworth

- ½ lb. fresh/frozen crab meat
- ½ c. sour cream
- 1 T. lemon juice
- pinch garlic salt
- 1¼ c. cheddar cheese, divided
- 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 2 T. Hellman's® mayonnaise
- 1¼ t. Worcestershire® sauce
- 1 T. milk

Mix all ingredients together in a casserole dish. Sprinkle half of the cheddar cheese on top. Bake at 325° for 25–30 minutes.

## Seafood Pasta Salad

Betty Poradek, Stephenson

- 8-oz. pkg. imitation crab meat, cut up
- 8-oz. bag frozen mini shrimp, thawed (optional)
- ½ cup chopped celery
- 1–2 T. chopped green onion (including some tops)
- 1 can water chestnuts, chopped
- 8-oz. frozen peas, thawed
- 1 lb. bag rotini noodles, cooked
- dash dill weed
- 1½ c. Miracle Whip®
- 8-oz. sour cream

Mix all pasta together and chill for several hours. Keeps up to three days in fridge.

## SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Easy Chicken" recipes by **Sept. 10**, "Chili" recipes by **Nov. 1** and "Gluten Free" recipes by **Dec. 1**.

Enter your recipe online at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) or send to (handprinted or typed on one side, please): *Country Lines Recipes*, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Please note the co-op from which you receive your electric service.

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2015 will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner's January 2016 electric bill (up to \$200)!

## Dill Shrimp Salad (pictured)

Mary Babcock, Port Austin

- 4 c. cooked small shells or penne pasta
- 1 lb. cooked fresh shrimp, diced
- 1 c. frozen peas
- 1 c. small diced celery
- ½ c. chopped green onions, including tops
- ¼ c. minced fresh parsley
- 10 oz. plain Greek yogurt
- 1 c. mayonnaise
- ¼ c. fresh lemon juice
- 2 T. snipped fresh dill
- ½ t. salt
- ¼ t. white pepper

In a large bowl combine pasta, tuna, celery, onions, peas and parsley. In a small bowl combine yogurt, mayonnaise, lemon juice, dill, salt and pepper. Pour sauce over pasta, toss gently. Cover and refrigerate at least two hours. Serves 10.





# Member Regulation Makes Sense

Continued from page 4

3. Members will be notified before any rate or rule changes take effect.
4. Members will be notified and allowed to address the board about any rate increase or rule change.

## What is the next step?

Cloverland will be holding public meetings in your area to fully explain this proposal. Members will be given time to express comments and ask questions. Following those meetings, your board of directors will meet Oct. 15 to consider a proposal (see notice below) that would make Cloverland Electric the eighth member-regulated electric cooperative, effective Jan. 2016. The meeting will be open to all members wishing to provide input about member regulation. If the board approves member regulation by the required two-thirds vote, the next step would be to notify the MPSC.

## How do I provide my comments?

We would like to hear your comments and are providing many ways for you to do so.

1. By sending an email. A special email address has been set up to receive your comments at [memberreg@cloverland.com](mailto:memberreg@cloverland.com). Our staff will

receive these comments that will be forwarded to the board.

2. By postal mail. Send to 725 E. Portage Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, attn: Member Regulation.
3. By telephone. Call 906-635-6808 to leave a message that will be shared with the board. Or, please feel free to call your director at the phone number listed on page 4.
4. In person. We have scheduled six Community Outreach events throughout our service area for late Sept. and early Oct. The schedule is listed on the back cover of this magazine.
5. At the special open meeting on Thursday, Oct. 15, set for 9 a.m. at the Dafter Town Hall.

Any comments made through these opportunities will be provided for your board of directors to review before considering the proposal to become member-regulated.

This is a positive step forward in bringing decisions to the local board table rather than a hearing room in Lansing. It's part of the cooperative difference and we hope to hear from you as member-owners of Cloverland Electric Cooperative. ■

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF CLOVERLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Cloverland Electric Cooperative board will take action on the proposal to become member-regulated in accordance with P.A. 167 of 2008 at its meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2015, to be held at the Dafter Town Hall, 2926 W. 10 Mile Road, Dafter, MI 49724. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. Members will have an opportunity to address the board on the proposal prior to board action.

The following is the proposal to be considered:

### **Proposal to Become a Member-Regulated Cooperative in Accordance with Public Act 167 of 2008.**

On June 26, 2008, Public Act of 2008 (P.A. 167) became law.

P.A. 167 states that an electric cooperative, owned by the members it serves, is regulated by its members acting through its democratically elected board of directors.

P.A. 167 further states that member regulation by a cooperative in the areas of rates, charges, accounting standards, billing practices, and terms and conditions of service may be more efficient and cost-effective than regulation by the Michigan Public Service Commission.

P.A. 167 allows the board of directors of an electric cooperative to adopt member-regulation for rates, charges, accounting standards, billing practices, and terms and conditions of service by following the process set forth in the act.

That process requires the following:

1. A proposal by a director of the cooperative to become member-regulated, when such proposal is made at a properly convened board meeting.
2. Action on the proposal taken no earlier than 90 days from the date the proposal was made.
3. Action on the proposal taken at a meeting of the board for which written notice is given and the meeting is open to all members of the cooperative.
4. At the meeting, members of the cooperative shall have reasonable time to address the board prior to its acting upon the proposal.
5. Following member comments, a roll call vote of the board of directors shall be taken.
6. For the proposal to be adopted, 2/3 of the members of the board must vote in favor of becoming member-regulated.

This proposal seeks that Cloverland Electric Cooperative become member-regulated in accordance with P.A. 167. Notice of the October 15 board meeting shall be sent to all members, as required by P.A. 167, by publication in Michigan Country Lines.

**PARTICIPATION:** Any interested member may attend and participate. The location of the board meeting site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact Cloverland Electric Cooperative at 800-562-4953 a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

# Talented Members Share “All About Michigan” Photos



Cloverland members whose photos we print in *Country Lines* will be entered in a drawing and one lucky member will win a credit (up to \$200) on their December 2015 energy bill. Submit photos now through **Sept. 21** for our **“Kids at Play”** topic. Upcoming topics for 2016 include **“Best of Selfies,”** due **Nov. 15** and **“Cute Pets,”** due **Dec. 15**. Details and instructions for photo submission—including contest rules, topic list, publication date, and submission deadlines—can be found online at <http://bit.ly/1JX5Afh>. We look forward to seeing your best shot!



1. Overlooking St. Mary's River, when the beach lupines were in bloom.  
By Jill Scraver, Sault Ste. Marie
2. Water temp was about 47 degrees... can't stop kids from enjoying 4 mile beach.  
By Patty Ordiway, Sault Ste. Marie
3. Strongs, MI, with “Mr. Buck.”  
By Carrie ODell, Hulbert

Your photo could be a winner!



## Rake in the Savings!

Did you know that heating and cooling accounts for more than half of the energy use in a typical U.S. home, making it the largest energy expense for most homes? **Rake in the savings** with these helpful energy savings tips this fall.

- **Install a programmable thermostat**  
Through proper use of the pre-programmed settings, a programmable thermostat can save you up to 10 percent on your heating and cooling costs.
- **Clean / Change the air filter**  
Lower your heating and cooling energy consumption by up to 15 percent by cleaning or replacing furnace filters.
- **Schedule a tune-up before you need one**  
Schedule a tune-up with your heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) contractor. To find a qualified contractor nearest you, visit our website or call.

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

PHONE: 877.296.4319



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

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE CUSTOMERS**  
**OF CLOVERLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**  
**CASE NO. U-17810**

- Cloverland Electric Cooperative requests Michigan Public Service Commission approval to reconcile its Renewable Energy Plan (REP) costs associated with the plan approved in Case No. U-17308, for the period ended December 31, 2014.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may contact Cloverland Electric Cooperative's attorney, Mr. Shaun M. Johnson, Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933, 517.374.9100, for a free copy of the application. Any person may also contact Cloverland Electric Cooperative, 2916 West M-28, P.O. Box 97, Dafter, Michigan 49724, (800) 562-4953 or (906) 635-6800, for a free copy of its application.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

**DATE/TIME: October 8, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.**

This hearing will be a prehearing conference to set future hearing dates and decide other procedural matters.

**BEFORE:** Administrative Law Judge Martin D. Snider

**LOCATION:** 7109 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan

**PARTICIPATION:** Any interested person may attend and participate. The hearing site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 284-8090 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider Cloverland Electric Cooperative's (Cloverland) July 27, 2015 application for Commission approval to reconcile its renewable energy plan (REP) costs for the period ended December 31, 2014. Cloverland represents that its REP filings included no request for a renewable energy surcharge, no surcharge was approved and none was charged to its member-customers in 2014. Cloverland further represents that there are neither revenues nor expenditures to reconcile.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets). Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov). If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov).

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by October 1, 2015. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Cloverland's attorney, Shaun M. Johnson, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of his or her wish to make a statement of position. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private.

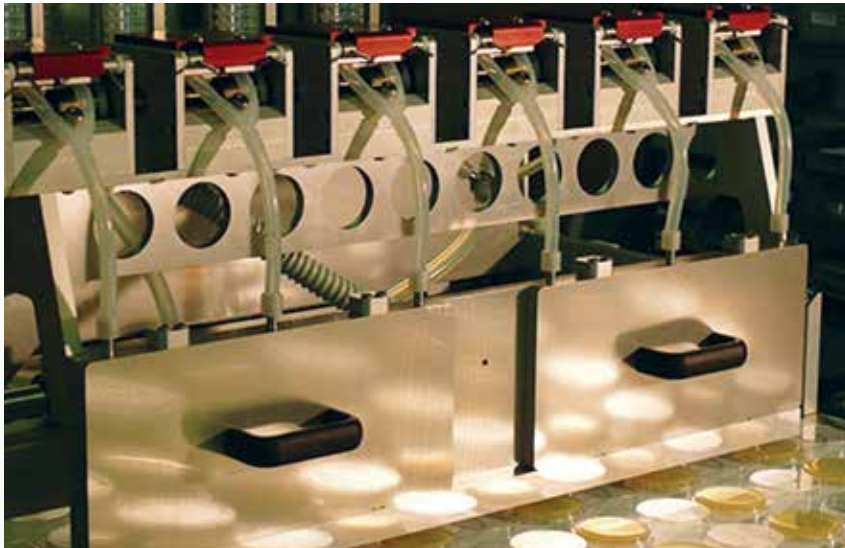
Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure R 460.17315 and R 460.17335. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

A copy of Cloverland's request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets), and at the office of Dykema Gossett PLLC, or at the office of Cloverland Electric Cooperative. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6j et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001 et seq.; and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1999 AC, R 460.17101 et seq.

# The Positive Impact of a Global Company on a Small Town

By Yvonne Whitman



A contact plate pouring machine, MultiLANE™ Model 606.

Intrigued by what they saw while flying over the picturesque Lake Michigan shoreline of Manistique, Jim and Marilyn Gardner of Bloomington, IN, couldn't resist landing their plane at nearby Schoolcraft Airport for a much closer look. This decision would change not only their own lives, but enhance the lives of a number of residents, as well.

Considered by many visitors to be 'a peaceful place where no one rushes and no one rushes you,' the Gardeners were instantly drawn to the serenity of the area. "We were impressed with the quality of life and natural beauty that Manistique has to offer. We had always dreamed of retiring to a lakeshore town and Manistique seemed to fit the bill perfectly for us," according to Marilyn. In fact, rather than wait for retirement, the Gardeners soon decided to move both their lives and their business to the sleepy lakeside community.

The Gardeners relocated ONLINE Engineering from Bloomington to Manistique in 2004. The company manufactures production equipment for commercial producers of prepared culture media. Their product line includes, but is not limited to filling machines for petri dishes, test tubes, bottles and vials. The company's global sales territory is vast, reaching into 34 countries as far away as

Russia, South Africa, India and New Zealand.

The company today employs 22 Manistique and surrounding area residents. One of the first employees hired was Donald Harrison Schoffer. Born and raised in Manistique, Schoffer had moved away from the area, only to return to his idyllic hometown despite a dearth of employment opportunities. He was working as a sanitation worker when ONLINE Engineering came to town. A machinist by trade, Schoffer said, "I had pretty much given up on ever being able to fall back into my trade and find a

job locally...but then this came along. It's the best company I've ever worked for!"

The skills of a trained machinist like Schoffer are highly valued inside the 11,000-square-foot building which houses engineering, administration, assembly and testing facilities. The company's high-speed machinery is capable of processing up to 12,000 petri dishes per hour. And, each of the filling machines manufactured in Manistique is then taken apart at the plant, crated, shipped and reassembled at its final destination—all under



Left: Machinist Dave Dibbe operates a CNC machining center used to fabricate detailed parts with high precision. Right: ONLINE employee Rob Quick-Drossart prepares to assemble a section of the machine.

“Hopefully we will become a major employer not only in Manistique, but throughout the Upper Peninsula.”

the watchful, trained eye of an ONLINE service technician who actually travels with the machine.

ONLINE Engineering is a local story, to be sure, but the company's growth plan includes increased opportunity and professional growth for its local employees. "We are currently changing gears to grow the business," according to business manager, Renae Kennedy. "Hopefully we will become a major employer, not only in Manistique but throughout the Upper Peninsula, and we are putting the resources in place to do just that. We are looking for career-oriented people who are ready to become part of a team that will take ONLINE Engineering to the next level." The company is currently seeking engineers and skilled trades people. Visit [online-engineering.com](http://online-engineering.com) to learn more about ONLINE Engineering.

And the Gardners? The entrepreneurial couple that started it all? Having sold the company in 2010, they are happily living out the quiet lakeside retirement part of their plan. ■



A MultiDISH™ machine, Model 963. This is the part in the process where the media is curing, or drying, in the dish.

## Seasonal Accounts Billed Monthly

Beginning in September 2015, seasonal accounts will receive a bill on or near the 25th of each month instead of annually. With this change, seasonal account members will be able to better track their energy use, address any energy-use situations sooner and take full advantage of SmartHub®, our free online account management tool available at [cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com).

- Pay Your Bill from your PC, Smartphone or tablet
- Setup Recurring Payments
- Go Paperless
- Report Outages
- Track Payments and Access Past Billing Statements
- Access Hourly and Daily Usage
- Get Text and/or Email Account Notices
- View Co-op's Social Media Posts and News Feeds

We also offer more payment options now, too.

Enroll in Auto Pay and have your monthly payment automatically deducted from your savings or checking account, or charged to your credit or debit card on the due date. Sign-up is easy through SmartHub!

You can also make a payment 24/7 using our new, free automated Pay-By-Phone service at 1-844-843-6837 or 1-800-562-4953, Option 3. You will need your account number and payment method ready when you call. If you're paying by check, you will need to follow the prompts and create a PIN number first.



# SUNKEN TREASURE

## THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

By Emily Haines

The eerie romance of a shipwreck is something that seems saved for epic adventure novels or blockbuster Hollywood movies. But just off the coast of Lake Huron, near unassuming Alpena, MI—is one of the most treacherous stretches of water in the Great Lakes—a place called Thunder Bay.

If the name itself sounds ominous, it's because Thunder Bay offers up unpredictable shifts in weather, alarming gales, fog banks and notoriously rocky shoals that play ghostly host to an area fittingly called—Shipwreck Alley. There lies the remains of over 200 ships, only about 100 that have been physically discovered. While it's difficult to imagine the friendly beaches of the Great Lakes as anything but welcoming, these deep and traitorous waters were once bustling byways for both recreational and business mariners, not all that ended at their intended destination.

"It's easy to stay motivated and excited in your work when you're dealing with such a robust historical landscape," said Stephanie Gandulla, maritime archeologist and media coordinator for Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. "There are so many stories lying just below the surface of the Great Lakes."

Those stories just increased substantially as the marine sanctuary has grown from 448 square miles to a remarkable 4,300 miles as of last September. This means expanding both research and educational programs as well as a multi-year plan to "characterize" every known shipwreck in the sanctuary. Characterizing can mean a variety of informational components including having a site map, photography, data and sonar images, or even knowing the name and vessel information.

"It's no wonder our student programs appeal to our younger visitors," said Gandulla. "You don't have to be able to scuba dive 300 feet to have an interaction with maritime history. We provide and encourage hands-on experiences both in and on the water."

The experiences are anything from a class trip to the sanctuary's impressive Visitor's Center, with over 10,000 feet of exhibits, participating in a program on shipwreck archeology, or building underwater robotics. There are also glass bottom boat tours that allow visitors to view shipwrecks without ever getting their feet wet. Gandulla says it's not uncommon for students who have had a field trip in elementary or high school or invested themselves in a Shipwreck Alley class to later become a volunteer as an adult.



*Twisted hull of the German freighter Nordmeer (1954-1966).*



The bow of the schooner E.B. Allen (1864–1871).



The Florida (1889–1897) still sits upright with its package freight still inside.

While all of this is available in our state's backyard, people from around the world come to marvel at these maritime catacombs, as well.

"Beyond the rich and special maritime history of this area, it's also a remarkable place to vacation," said Gandulla. "We have world class recreational opportunities available to us in Michigan and we feel very strongly about sharing them with people from around the globe." ■



The Monohansett, lies only 18 feet below the water's surface.

## Visit

If you're interested in a trip to the Visitor's Center, visit [thunderbay.noaa.gov/visit](http://thunderbay.noaa.gov/visit). Or, to book a glass bottom boat tour go to [alpenashipwrecktours.com/](http://alpenashipwrecktours.com/). For more information call 989-356-8805.

## Project Shiphunt

On July 13, 2011, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) announced the discovery of two Great Lakes shipwrecks. The discoveries were part of Project Shiphunt, an exciting archaeological expedition, sponsored by Sony and the Intel Corp, that included five high school students from Saginaw. For more on the project, visit [thunderbay.noaa.gov/shiphunt.html](http://thunderbay.noaa.gov/shiphunt.html)

## Monohansett Site

For a sneak peek at the kind of discoveries you can expect, take a look at the Monohansett, a ship wrecked in 1907 that lies in three sections just 18 feet below water. [thunderbay.noaa.gov/shipwrecks/monohansett.html](http://thunderbay.noaa.gov/shipwrecks/monohansett.html)

Photo below: With the hull broken just forward of the boiler house and the ship listing hard to port, the wreck of the Norman, which claimed the lives of three sailors, is an intense dive experience.

Photos by NOAA, Thunder Bay NMS

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF CLOVERLAND ELECTRIC**  
**COOPERATIVE MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE AND**  
**THUMB ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**  
**CASE NUMBERS U-17838, U-17839, and U-17840**

- Cloverland Electric Cooperative, Midwest Energy Cooperative and Thumb Electric Cooperative (the Cooperatives) request Michigan Public Service Commission approval to reconcile their individual Energy Optimization (EO) plan expenditures and revenues collected for the period ended December 31, 2014.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write the Cooperatives' attorney, Mr. Shaun Johnson, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933, 517.374.9100 for a free copy of the application. Any person may review the application at Dykema's offices or at the respective offices of the Cloverland Electric, 2916 W. M-28, P.O. Box 97, Dafer, MI 49724, Midwest Energy Cooperative, 901 E. State St., P.O. Box 127, Cassopolis, MI 49031, and Thumb Electric Cooperative, 2231 Main St., P.O. Box 157, Ubly, MI 48475-0157.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

**DATE/TIME:** October 6, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.

This hearing will be a prehearing conference to set future hearing dates and decide other procedural matters.

**BEFORE:** Administrative Law Judge Mark D. Eyster

**LOCATION:** 7109 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan

**PARTICIPATION:** Any interested person may attend and participate. The hearing site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 284-8090 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider the Cooperatives June 29, 2015 joint application for Commission approval to reconcile their individual EO plans for the period ended December 31, 2014. The Cooperatives are requesting authorization to reconcile their EO plan expenditures and revenues collected for the period ended December 31, 2014.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets). Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov). If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov).

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by September 29, 2015. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon attorney, Shaun M. Johnson, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of his or her wish to make a statement of position. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information: available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure R 460.17315 and R 460.17335. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130

A copy of the Cooperatives' request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets), and at the office of Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan; or at the respective Cooperatives' offices. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6j et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 2008 PA 295,

MCL 460.1001 et seq., and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1999 AC, R 460.17101 et seq.



**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF CLOVERLAND ELECTRIC**  
**COOPERATIVE, MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE, AND**  
**THUMB ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**  
**CASE NUMBERS U-17781, U-17783 and U-17786**

- Cloverland Electric Cooperative, Midwest Energy Cooperative and Thumb Electric Cooperative (the Cooperatives) request Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) approval to implement their Energy Optimization Plans in compliance with Public Act 295 of 2008 and the November 24, 2014 Commission Order in Cases Numbers U-17781, U-17783 and U-17786.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write the Cooperatives' attorney, Mr. Shaun M. Johnson, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933, 517.374.9100 for a free copy of the application. Any person may review the application at Dykema's offices or at the respective offices of the Cooperatives, Cloverland Electric Cooperative, 2916 W. M-28, P.O. Box 97, Dafer, MI 49724, Midwest Energy Cooperative, 901 E. State St., P.O. Box 127, Cassopolis, MI 49031, and Thumb Electric Cooperative, 2231 Main St., P.O. Box 157, Ubyly, MI 48475-0157.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

**DATE/TIME: Wednesday, September 30, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.**

This hearing will be a prehearing conference to set future hearing dates and decide other procedural matters.

**BEFORE:** Administrative Law Judge **Mark E. Cummins**

**LOCATION:** Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan

**PARTICIPATION:** Any interested person may attend and participate. The hearing site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 284-8090 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider the Cooperatives' August 3, 2015 joint application for approval of their Energy Optimization Plans, in accordance with Public Act 295 of 2008, and the November 24, 2014 Commission Order in Cases Numbers U-17781, U-17783 and U-17786 for Cloverland Electric, Midwest Energy, and Thumb Electric, respectively.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets). Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov). If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov).

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by September 23, 2015. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon the Cooperatives' attorney, Shaun M. Johnson, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of his or her wish to make a statement of position. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Michigan Administrative Hearing System's Administrative Hearing Rules R 792.10422 and R 792.10432. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

A copy of the Cooperatives' request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets), and at the office of Dykema Gossett PLLC or at the respective Cooperatives' offices. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended; MCL 460.6j et seq.; 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001 et seq., and the Michigan Administrative Hearing System's Administrative Hearing Rules, 2015 AC, R 792.10401 et seq.

August 13, 2015

# Communicating in the Age of the Emoji

By Jack O'Malley

A few years ago my son stood before a display of old rotary phones in an antique store, puzzled by the seemingly ancient devices. "How did people text with those?" he asked. I chuckled before the thought occurred to me. An entire generation now exists who've never known life without mobile phones, text messages, Google or social media.

In today's world of technology a new digital language based on acronyms and emojis has emerged, allowing people to communicate instantly with little more than a few letters and characters. In the old days, we huddled around the handset during a long-distance call, everyone listening and talking at the same time because the calls were too expensive for everyone to have a separate turn talking. I guess I'm officially an old fogie! LOL

Mobile phones have become such an essential part of our lives, we have a hard time functioning without one. Like an extra appendage, we rely on a cell's convenience, intelligence and sheer ability to do almost anything. Want to play Scrabble? Download the app. Want to enhance a photo? Download an app. Want to check Facebook? Download the app. Want to shop? Download an app. There are apps (short for "applications," programs designed specifically for use on portable devices) for everything. Just ask my wife. She'll tell you. SMH (that's **s**haking **m**y **h**ead for all you rookies out there.)

Our reliance on digital technology can only be ascertained when we forget our cell. Ever reached for your phone to make a quick call or send a text



only to realize you left your cell on the charger at home? Panic ensues. I've actually broken into a sweat and driven an hour round trip just to have my phone on hand! :)



Jack O'Malley

Times have sure changed since I was a lad. These kids might run circles around me when it comes to their smart phones, but I had something they didn't. The most popular rotary phone ever made, an original Fisher-Price Chatter Telephone toy. And let me tell you, it was GR8! ■



## «« Where in Michigan is This?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **Oct. 10** will be entered in a drawing to win a \$50 electricity credit from their electric co-op.

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) or send by mail to: *Country Lines Mystery Photo*, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number, and name of your co-op.

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**Cloverland**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

[cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com)

# Cloverland Electric Cooperative Community Presentations



Cloverland's Board of Directors is moving to become a member-regulated co-op. Before the decision is made, members are invited to attend any of the following presentations to hear the facts and ask questions. All presentations begin at 7 p.m.

Comments can be emailed to [memberreg@cloverland.com](mailto:memberreg@cloverland.com) or phoned to 906-635-6808.

September 22

Raber Township Hall

September 23

Sault Area H. S., Strahl Theatre

September 24

Newberry Area H. S., Bystrom Auditorium

October 1

Manistique Comfort Inn

October 5

St. Ignace, Little Bear East Arena

October 8

Kinross Township Hall



**Cloverland**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

800.562.4953

[cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com)