

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Blue Angels
Fly on the Wings of Hard Work

Plus!

- 4 Green Projects and Other Happenings at Your Electric Co-op
- 5 Three Centennial Farms Honored
- 8 Tree Trimming Means Reliable Electric Service



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Association officers are Ken Swope, Midwest Energy, chairman; Robert Schallip, Cloverland, 1st vice chairman; Jon Zickert, Cherryland, 2nd vice chairman; Eric Baker, Wolverine Power, secretary-treasurer; and Tony Anderson, Cherryland, past chairman. Craig Borr is president and CEO.

Unsolicited letters, photos and manuscripts are welcome. Country Lines, however, will not be responsible for their safe keeping or return.

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.



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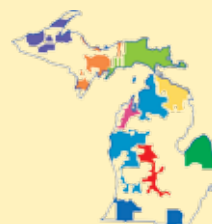
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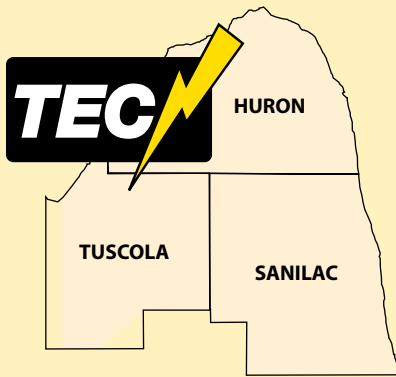
A.J. Harrell says it takes "endless practice" and hard work to become part of the Blue Angels team. He is the son of Alger Delta Electric Co-op CEO Tom Harrell, and performs flight demonstrations at the squadron's air shows.

Photos—U.S. Navy Blue Angels Public Affairs Staff

*Some co-op editions have a different cover.



Michigan's Electric
Cooperatives
countrylines.com



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'Green' Projects and Other Happenings at Your Cooperative

Ideas, drywall, dust and dirt have been flying for just over a year as we finish renovations to the Thumb Electric Cooperative (TEC) office in Ubly. Originally built in 1962, the remodeling project—both inside and out—brings a new look that is energy efficient and ready for business in the 21st century. If you are in town, try the new drive-through window for paying your bill.

Another unique project-in-progress is a 665-kilowatt solar array that is being constructed at your co-op's Caro location on east Dayton Road. Earlier this year, we signed a 20-year lease agreement with DTE Energy that allows them to own, build and maintain this solar unit on our property. This partnership is a win-win for both utilities and the community. The array will also include a separate portion designed specifically for educational tours, and an interactive kiosk to monitor the energy output and other data, which will be donated and placed at the Tuscola Intermediate School District.



A completed section of the solar array in Caro.

To save more energy, four of our pickup trucks have been converted to run on propane (autogas), but can also still use regular fuel. We used the professional services of Europe Gas of Marlette (formally AJ Automotive of Sandusky) to assist us in installing the conversion kits. There are many benefits associated with burning autogas, but a few major ones include lower maintenance costs, less dependence on foreign oil, and less pollution. We made this conversion for mostly economic reasons. Even though the MPG of the vehicle is reduced, the price difference between the two fuels allows for a payback of the investment in less than two years. In short, we are very pleased with the results, as our fuel expenses are reduced on the electric side of the business and the profit is increased for our subsidiary propane business. If you are interested, call Europe Gas at 888-353-4264 for all the details, crunch the numbers, and see if using propane for your vehicle makes sense.

Another vehicle project is progressing, and includes buying a new bucket truck to replace an older one in our fleet. There is no bucket truck "store," so the planning, design and specifications, purchase, and delivery of a truck is a long process. We anticipate delivery later this year.

Finally, an update on some line construction projects. We are constructing a new emergency back-up feed into our Owendale substation that will increase reliability for members served in that area. We are rebuilding five miles of distribution line along Maple Grove and Downington roads in Bridgehampton and Forester townships. We are also rebuilding six miles of distribution line along French Line, Loree, Walker, and Ridge roads of Washington and Lower Sanilac townships. We appreciate the cooperation of all members and property owners living near these projects. Your cooperation allows us to make the necessary capital improvements on our electric system that enable us to continue providing a reliable source of power to our members. ■

Visit Thumb Electric's website:
www.tecmi.coop

Thumb Electric Members Celebrate Milestones



Over the past year, we have had the privilege of presenting three Thumb Electric Cooperative members with recognition from the Historical Society of Michigan through their Centennial Farm Program.

Since 1948, the program has recognized over 6,000 farms for ownership in the same family for over 100 years. Farms can currently qualify in one of two categories: the noted Centennial Farm, and a Sesquicentennial Farm, which is over 150 years in the family.

Thumb Electric members that were recognized in the past year included:

- **Dennis Krantz**, Schock Road, Harbor Beach. 100 years. Established Oct. 9, 1911, by Peter and Bernard Krantz.
- **Le Nola Jean Willis**, Loree Road, Carsonville. 100 years. Established Oct. 21, 1913, by Richard Farley.
- **Elizabeth J. Lambert**, Shay Lake Road, Kingston. 100 years. Established Jan. 30, 1886, by Phillip and Anna Traubenkraut.

All of us here at Thumb Electric congratulate these family farms for their longevity and wish them many more years in the farm industry.

If you are interested in applying for farm certification, please contact us. Applications are available at our Ugly office, or from the Michigan Centennial Farm Program at 517-324-1828, or visit centennialfarms.org. ■

Important Seasonal Member Information

As required by the Michigan Public Service Commission, Thumb Electric Co-op recently has done or will do a meter reading for seasonal members who receive electric service under Rate Class 2 and have a \$16.50 monthly service charge.

Billing for most seasonal member consumption during the past 12 months will occur on Oct. 2.

Each month, nearly 200 seasonal members report their meter readings and the dates they are read. They make monthly payments for electricity consumed, in addition to the monthly service charge, to avoid receiving the annual bill.

Seasonal members are encouraged to read their meters and include the reading date whenever possible, to reduce the potential for electrical problems and billing concerns.

Seasonal members are also encouraged to sign up for our automatic bill payment plan. Rather than writing a monthly check, the money is withdrawn from your checking or savings account automatically on the day the bill is due.

Members also have the option to use TEC's online bill payment system, called E-Bill. By visiting tecni.coop and selecting the "Payments/Meter Readings" tab, a member can register their account, which allows them to make online payments by check or credit card, record meter readings, view billing and payment history, current and past bills, 13-month cost and usage graphs, etc. Paperless billing is also available.

Fuel Mix Report

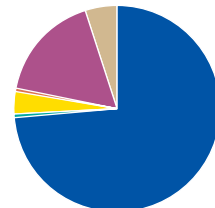
The fuel mix characteristics of Thumb Electric Cooperative as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 6/30/14.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

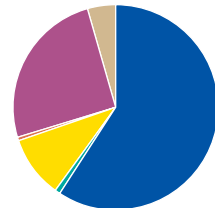
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	74.1%	59.4%
Oil	0.2%	0.6%
Gas	3.6%	9.8%
Hydroelectric	0.2%	0.6%
Nuclear	17.2%	25.4%
Renewable Fuels	4.8%	4.2%
<i>Biofuel</i>	0.1%	0.5%
<i>Biomass</i>	1.1%	0.5%
<i>Solar</i>	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Solid Waste Incineration</i>	0.3%	0.0%
<i>Wind</i>	3.2%	2.7%
<i>Wood</i>	0.1%	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	6.9	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	2,105	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	2.2	2.0
High-level Nuclear Waste	0.0056	0.0083

*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the twelve-month period ending 12/31/13.

Purchased electricity accounted for virtually 100% of the electricity sold by Thumb Electric during the period. Because the actual fuel mix characteristics of all purchased electricity could not be discerned, the fuel mix data presented by Thumb Electric is the same data offered by DTE Energy, which supplies nearly all of Thumb's purchased power.



SURVIVING A SNACK ATTACK

These recipes will satisfy just about every craving and can be enjoyed at home or on the go.

Toffee Butter Crunch

12 oz. box Crispix® or Corn Chex®
 1 c. butter
 ½ c. dark Karo® or other dark corn syrup
 2 c. pecan halves
 1 c. brown sugar
 ½ t. vanilla extract



Preheat oven to 250°. Coat 9"x13" pan (or a large cookie pan) with cooking spray. In a small saucepan, combine butter, brown sugar and corn syrup. Cook until boiling. Add vanilla. Empty cereal into pan and coat with syrup mixture. Sprinkle with pecans

and toss until evenly coated. Bake for 1 hour, tossing every 15 minutes. Toss until cool. You can store these in jars.

Kathryn Southerland, Hillman

Baked Crab Rangoon

12 oz. flaked crab meat
 8 oz. cream cheese
 ½ c. thinly sliced green onions
 ½ c. mayonnaise
 24 won ton wrappers

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix crab meat, cream cheese, onions and mayonnaise. Spray 24 medium muffin cups with cooking spray. Gently place one won ton wrapper in each cup, allowing edges of wrapper to extend above sides of cups. Fill evenly with crab meat mixture. Bake on lowest rack of oven for 18 to 20 minutes, or until edges are golden brown and filling is heated through. Serve warm. Garnish with chopped green onions, if desired. 24 servings.

Janice Harvey, Charlevoix

Birdseed Bars

2 c. rolled oats
 1 c. sunflower seeds
 1 c. pumpkin seeds
 1 c. sesame seeds
 1 c. dried fruit (I use a combination of dried cherries, dried cranberries, and golden raisins)
 4.25 oz. unsalted butter
 6 T. honey or light corn syrup
 8 T. raw sugar
 ½ c. peanut butter (creamy or crunchy)

Place oats and all seeds on an ungreased 9"x13" cookie sheet. Toast in oven at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. In medium saucepan, combine honey, sugar, butter and peanut butter. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly, for 5 minutes. In large bowl, combine fruit, toasted ingredients and wet ingredients, ensuring all dry ingredients are well-covered by the wet. Press mixture into a greased 9"x13" cookie sheet, cover tightly, and store at room temperature. When ready to serve, cut into bars or squares. Leftovers may be refrigerated, but always serve at room temperature.

Debbie Williams, Rapid City

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Holiday" recipes by **Sept. 15** and your favorite "Ethnic" recipes by **Oct. 10**.

Mail (handwritten or typed on one side, please) to: *Country Lines Recipes*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email recipes@countrylines.com.

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2014 will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner's January 2015 electric bill (up to \$200)!

Find more of our readers' recipes at countrylines.com

'Smart' Products Make Saving Energy Easier

Energy savings can be easy with some savvy shopping for power strips, thermostats and residential lighting. These are the most common products you can use to reduce energy costs, and with a little research, choosing and using them correctly is easy, too, says Brian Sloboda, a program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network.

Programmable & 'Smart' Thermostats

There are plenty of programmable thermostat brands and types to choose from, but you won't find one that carries the EPA's Energy Star® seal, as it was dropped from these products in 2009. Why?

Programmable thermostats can save up to \$180 a year on heating and cooling, notes ENERGYSTAR.gov, but many customers miss out on savings by failing to install them correctly. "Most people failed to use the programmable capabilities. They didn't know how or didn't want to," Sloboda says. This led to poor EPA consumer surveys, so ratings dropped, and therefore the Energy Star seal for most of them.

Enter "smart" thermostats, which are intended as an easier alternative and come with motion sensors that detect and set a home's temperature. Nest® is one brand. "Sensors will start to turn the thermostat up or down, depending on the season," Sloboda says. In a few days, the unit will learn your schedule, automatically dialing the thermostat back when you're not home.

The addition of phone and iPad apps are other smart features that make temperature control easy. But, he adds, "A thermostat will only save you money if you allow it to program."

Interior Lighting

As of January 2014, a federal phase-out replaced incandescent lightbulbs with more energy efficient options.

Currently, there are only three bulb choices—halogen-incandescents, CFLs and LEDs.

The LEDs are the equivalent of the most widely used 60-watt incandescent, and are more long-lasting and energy-efficient, but Sloboda warns that the brand you buy matters. "There is a whole lot of junk out there. You can buy name-brand LEDs for about \$10 and more expensive



Nest® thermostat
Photos—Nest

ones from not-so-reputable companies." He recommends sticking with long-time brands such as GE® and Sylvania®, but says "don't overlook the lesser-known Cree® products." A 60-watt (800 lumens) Cree costs about \$10 at a big box store and is guaranteed to last 10 years or more.

Transitioning to LEDs is easy if you read the "lighting facts" on the box, which will help narrow your choice by temperature and color, which has nothing to do with wattage, and means you can choose bulbs with a "daylight" or "soft white" glow.

Smart devices are even now in the lightbulb aisle. Manufacturers like LG® and Philips® produce LEDs that can be controlled by your cell phone and change colors to suit your mood. "Today's lighting is really starting to become part of a home's entertainment system," Sloboda says. Many smart lighting units come with software that allows you to create different modes (party, romantic, reading or TV watching) with the flip of a switch.

With the new lightbulb standards, the Department of Energy estimates consumers will save between \$6 billion and \$10 billion a year.

Power Strips

Traditional power strips expand your number of outlets, but waste electricity by drawing power when they're not in use. Smart power strips are a better choice because they are bigger, color coded, and reduce energy use by shutting down power to products that go into standby mode.

Most feature three outlet colors, each with a unique task. Blue controls heavily-used devices, like a TV. Anything plugged into a red outlets stays on—electricity to these is never cut off—making them perfect for satellite boxes or units needing constant power. The remaining outlets, usually neutral or green, are sensitive to current flowing through the blue one, so turning off the TV or computer also cuts power to them. Some smart power strips (about \$20) even have occupancy sensors and timers that can determine when to cut power to various devices, and you can start to see a payback in about one year. ■



SmartThermostat iPhone

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-17611, U-17612 AND U-17613

- 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 2013.
- 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, 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 1, 2014, 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: Constitution Hall, 525 West Allegan, 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) 241-6160 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' July 1, 2014 joint application for Commission authority to reconcile the expenditures and revenues for their individual EO plans for 2013.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: 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. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 241-6180 or by email at: 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 24, 2014. (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: 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) 241-6060.

A copy of the Cooperatives' request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: 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) 241-6180.

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.

August 1, 2014

Tree Trimming Means Fewer Outages

Your electric co-op right-of-way clearing program will proceed as weather permits. Kappen Tree Service crews will be trimming trees soon in the following areas:

Freemont & Dayton Townships:

Lobdell, Hunt and Byington Road areas

Lexington & Lower Sanilac Townships:

Trimming work continues in Lexington and Lower Sanilac townships in Sanilac County, and in Watertown Township in Tuscola County.

Tree trimming is necessary because overgrown trees and other vegetation are causing a larger-than-normal number of outages to homes and businesses in these Thumb Electric Cooperative service areas.

Please call us at 989-658-8571 if you have any questions or concerns.



Public Act 295: The Clean Renewable and Efficient Energy Act

2013 Annual Energy Optimization Report Thumb Electric Cooperative MPSC Case Number U-17373

Thumb contracted with the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) to administer the Energy Optimization efforts in order to comply with PA-295. MECA filed a 4-year Energy Optimization plan with the MPSC on August 1, 2011, as required by PA 295. This EO plan was approved by the MPSC on November 10, 2011 and we began implementing the plan January 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 2013, Thumb Electric collected \$335,268 through the Energy Optimization Surcharge and spent \$254,229, resulting in an over-collection of \$81,039 which will be applied towards the 2014 EO Program delivery expenses and goal achievement. Thumb Electric achieved 1,784 MWh of energy savings in 2013. For every dollar spent on energy efficiency programs, customers will save \$3 in avoided energy costs. The full report can be obtained at michigan-energy.org or <http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile>.



Blue Angels

Fly on the Wings of Hard Work



AJ. Harrell decided early in life that he didn't want to sit behind a desk.

Strapped into the cockpit of a C-130 aircraft, he now works at executing maneuvers at 400 mph and fighting G-forces that double his bodyweight, which pretty much takes care of that aversion to desks.

But Blue Angels pilot Capt. Harrell sees a mission beyond the roaring engines. "The folks at our shows see that I'm just a guy in the cockpit. I'm from a small town (Frederick, Md.), I went to college in the middle of nowhere (Anderson, Ind.). I'm proof that a job like this is not outside the grasp of the average person."

The Blue Angels, the U.S. Navy's flight demonstration squadron, performed at the 88th National Cherry Festival Air Show in Traverse City, July 5–6. Capt. Harrell, the son of Tom Harrell, CEO of Alger Delta Electric Cooperative in the U.P. town of Gladstone, flew his Marine Corps C-130, known affectionately as "Fat Albert."

Just before heading to Traverse City, Capt. Harrell came down from the clouds to talk to *Country Lines* about the Blue Angels. Like Harrell's achievements, the breathtaking precision of their flight acrobatics is the result, he emphasizes,

of hard work. To air show spectators, it's 48 minutes of magic, but in reality, he notes, "We practice endlessly; talent is not enough."

While the primary mission of Harrell's C-130 is to give the squadron logistical support, the plane is also part of the show. Fat Albert starts the action with an 8½-minute flight demonstration that showcases its tactical capabilities.

Flying in tight formations, the squadron's six Boeing F/A-18 Hornets reach speeds of 700 mph. Fat Albert chugs along at 400 mph. Between shows, the Blue Angels—named after a 1950s New York night club frequented by pilots—don't stand still, either. From mid-March to mid-November they typically travel to 35 U.S. towns, doing 70 shows for 11 million spectators.

Based in Florida, Harrell regrets being away from his wife and children so much. "I'm on the road 300 days a year," he says, but adds that 10 years in the Marines has taught him to accept travel as part of the job.

The automatic spending cuts triggered by the federal budget sequestration in April 2013 grounded the Blue Angels. Harrell's reaction? "Our season got canceled, but we were more concerned about our friends and coworkers in Afghanistan. It's one thing to not have air shows; it's a completely different thing to not have people who, due to budget cuts, are not as prepared as they should be going into combat."

The squadron was flying again in 2014, after Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ruled that outreach is crucial to the military's mission.

Still on Harrell's bucket list: Landing a jet on an aircraft carrier. "I'm holding out hope," he says. ■

Opposite page: Capt. A.J. Harrell, 33, earned his wings in 2006, has flown in Afghanistan and on humanitarian missions, and applied to the Blue Angels in 2011. A Blue Angels pilot generally spends up to three years in the squadron before returning to regular duty.

Below: Capt. A.J. Harrell's C-130 is nicknamed "Fat Albert."

Photos—U.S. Navy Blue Angels Public Affairs Staff



Captain Harrell takes a selfie at Mach 3.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF THUMB ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CASE NO. U-17639

- Thumb Electric Cooperative requests Michigan Public Service Commission approval to reconcile its renewable energy plan costs associated with the plan approved in Case No. U-17310, for the period ended December 31, 2013.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may contact Thumb 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 Thumb Electric Cooperative, 2231 Main Street, P.O. Box 157, Ubly, Michigan 48475-0157, 800.327.0166, for a free copy of its application.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

DATE/TIME: October 9, 2014, 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: Constitution Hall, 525 West Allegan, 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) 241-6160 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider Thumb Electric Cooperative's (Thumb) July 31, 2014 application for Commission approval to reconcile its renewable energy plan (REP) costs for the period ended December 31, 2013. Thumb Electric 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 2013. Thumb Electric 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. 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. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 241-6180 or by email at: mpscedockets@michigan.gov.

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the cases shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by October 2, 2014. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Thumb Electric's attorney, Shaun M. Johnson, 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) 241-6060.

A copy of Thumb Electric Cooperative requests may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: michigan.gov/mpscedockets, and at the office of Dykema Gossett PLLC, or at the office of Thumb 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) 241-6080.

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.

August 7, 2014

How To Use A Generator Safely

Keep this page in your home's emergency kit or with your generator.



Photo—Daniel Cima/American Red Cross

1. Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet or your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment:
 - Stationary Generator:** An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.
 - Portable Generator:** Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.
2. Set up and run your generator in a dry, well-ventilated area *outside* your home, and away from the garage, doors, windows, and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is **DEADLY**—install a CO detector in your home and check the batteries regularly.
3. Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.
4. Start the generator **BEFORE** connecting appliances.
5. To avoid a fire, turn off and let the generator cool before refueling.

Source: SafeElectricity.org
 Developed jointly by the Energy Education Council
 & Rural Electricity Resource Council



Are You a Michiganiaan or a Michigander?

Based on the positive feedback on its debut, "Jack's Journal" looks to be a winner in the eyes of many *Country Lines* readers. So far, so good!

The first column (May 2014) hit a nerve, however, as readers sounded off on my use of the term "Michiganiaan" over "Michigander." I chose Michiganiaan because words written and spoken infrequently tend to garner a bit more attention than "the usual." Little did I know just how much debate my choice of words would cause!

"I chose Michiganiaan because words written and spoken infrequently tend to garner a bit more attention than the usual."

Needless to say, Michiganiaan fans were overjoyed as a serious blow was struck against the villainous Michiganders. To any newcomers, let me explain the apparent identity crisis. A battle of sorts has raged for years about the proper way of referencing folks from here. I remember Michiganiaans debating Michiganders when I was a kid growing up in Detroit. So, what are we? Michiganiaans or Michiganders?

While surveys show Michigander to be the people's choice, research uncovered some interesting facts. Abraham Lincoln coined the phrase in 1848 while making

a speech as a member of Congress. Abe took a shot at Michigan Gov. Lewis Cass, who was running for president against Lincoln's Whig Party candidate. In his speech, Lincoln called the governor a "Michigander" in an effort to make the state's top man appear foolish, like a "goose." The term seems to have stuck, and the original use seems lost on us...Michiganders.

Before Honest Abe was born, "Michiganiaan" was used as far back as 1805. The Michigan Historical Society has favored it since 1870, when the term first appeared in its publications. Turns out, most women prefer "Michiganiaan" too, saying "Michigander" is a sexist and discriminatory term that essentially leaves women out of the picture by referencing the male goose (gander) only.

I could further muddy the waters by adding to the debate another popular moniker, "Michiganite," but I'll save that for a future column. Whether you're a Yooper or a Troll, hail from the Motor City or somewhere on the Sunrise side or Gold Coast, it's safe to say we like our nicknames in the Wolverine State, regardless of the name's bearing.



Jack O'Malley

(Michigan hasn't seen a wolverine in a long time!)

Until next time, be kind and enjoy the Great Lakes State no matter what you call yourself!

Share a story idea with Jack by email to: jack@countrylines.com or write J. O'Malley, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. ■



«« Do You Know Where This Is?

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

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at countrylines.com or send by mail to: *Country Lines* Mystery Photo, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, 48864. Include your name, address, phone number, and the name of your co-op. Only those sending complete information will be entered in the drawing. The winner will be announced in the Nov/Dec issue.



Photo—Bill Savage

The July/Aug contest winner is Chris Rogers, a Great Lakes Energy Cooperative member from Grand Rapids, who correctly identified the photo as Au Train Falls.

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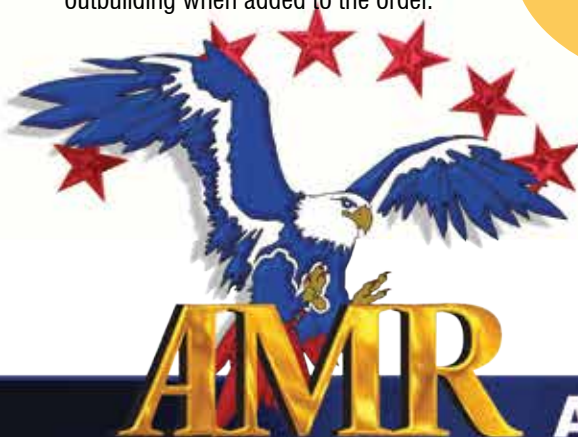
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