

power talk

A SUPPLEMENT TO MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



United by Purpose, Empowered by Community



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President &
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In moments of challenge, true character shines. The recent ice storm tested us all, but it also revealed something extraordinary: a community united by compassion, resilience, and determination.

From our lineworkers braving the cold to restore power, to employees across every department working behind the scenes, and members lending a helping hand to neighbors in need, what unfolded was a powerful reflection of who we are.



GLE has always been about more than electricity. We're a cooperative built on care for one another, our community, and the legacy we're shaping together.

The same spirit that first energized rural Michigan generations ago is alive and well today in every act of service, every moment of teamwork, every spark of hope.

As we move forward, our path includes important choices. With estimated costs of \$155 million, the financial toll of this storm is significant. To cover these costs, while still making critical investments in stronger, smarter infrastructure, a rate adjustment is necessary. But this isn't just about numbers. It's about ensuring that every member continues to receive safe, reliable service for decades to come.

Although the recent FEMA disaster declaration does not currently provide direct support for utilities, we remain

committed to exploring every possible avenue for reimbursement. There is still considerable uncertainty around what types of relief funding may be available and which specific expenses might qualify. Notably, costs such as interest on emergency loans are excluded from reimbursement and must be covered by GLE.

I want to assure you that we are actively working to find solutions that help offset the financial impact of the storm.

At GLE, we believe in the strength of community and that means standing together through every season, every storm, and every challenge. As a member-owned cooperative, each of us plays an important role in keeping our lights on and our future secure.

Whether the storm affected you significantly or your lights never even blinked, the impact on our cooperative is equally shared. Just as we invest together in infrastructure and reliability year after year, we also come together to recover from events that affect our system. That's what makes us different and strong.

The proposed rate changes, detailed on the next page, would affect both the fixed monthly charge and the per-kilowatt-hour rate. They are designed to help us meet current financial needs while remaining fair to all.

We know rate changes aren't easy, and we're doing everything we can to minimize the impact on our membership while still ensuring GLE can continue to serve every member with safe, dependable electricity for generations to come.

Thank you for your patience, your support, and your belief in what we do. We may face hard days, but we do so with the power of connection and shared responsibility. Together, we don't just power homes, we empower each other.



Great Lakes Energy Seeks Rate Increase

Great Lakes Energy incurred more than \$155 million in costs related to the ice storm that caused unprecedented damage to the northern portions of our service area earlier this year. To offset these costs, along with rising energy supply, infrastructure investment, and operational costs, Great Lakes Energy is proposing rate changes that would result in a net increase across all rate classes.

RESIDENTIAL/SEASONAL RATES

kWh	CURRENT				PROPOSED				Change
		300	800	2,000		300	800	2,000	
Monthly Charge**	\$43.17	\$43.17	\$43.17	\$43.17	\$50.05	\$50.05	\$50.05	\$50.05	\$6.88/mo.
Energy Usage**	0.13702	\$41.11	\$109.62	\$274.04	\$0.14742	\$44.23	\$117.94	\$294.84	\$0.01040/kWh
PSCR on Energy Use	0.00188	\$0.56	\$1.50	\$3.76	\$0.00188	\$0.56	\$1.50	\$3.76	
Energy Optimization Surcharge ¹	0.00198	\$0.59	\$1.58	\$3.96	\$0.00316	\$0.95	\$2.53	\$6.32	\$0.00118/kWh
Low Income Fund State Tax ²		\$0.87	\$0.87	\$0.87		\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$0.38/mo.
State Sales Tax (4.0%)*		\$3.42	\$6.23	\$13.00		\$3.83	\$6.88	\$14.20	
		\$89.72	\$162.97	\$338.80		\$100.87	\$180.15	\$370.42	

*Charges required/approved by the State of Michigan.

**If approved, rate to take effect for bills rendered in November 2025

¹ State mandated proposed to take effect for bills rendered in January 2026

² State mandated increase takes effect September 2025

Difference **\$11.15** **\$17.18** **\$31.62**

12.43% **10.54%** **9.33%**

Under the proposed rates, the kilowatt-hour (kWh) energy use rate for residential and seasonal members would increase by \$0.01040 per kWh, and the fixed monthly charge would increase by \$6.88. These changes equate to a \$17.18 monthly increase for the average residential member using 800 kWh per month, which includes state mandated changes to the Low Income Fund and the Energy Optimization Surcharge.

Unrelated to the ice storm, a separate increase of \$0.00118 per kWh is proposed for the Energy Optimization surcharge. The added revenue from this

change will help GLE meet the requirements of Michigan Public Act 229, which requires natural gas and electric utilities in Michigan to achieve annual energy savings of 1.5 percent (formerly 1%) of their sales annually beginning in 2026.

The co-op's board of directors will consider adopting the proposed rate changes at an open member meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 17*.

**In compliance with legal requirements, notice of this meeting was published in the September issue of Country Lines magazine. The notice is not required to appear in PowerTalk because this newsletter arrives with members' bills at various times throughout the month, potentially after the meeting takes place. Visit countrylines.com to see the latest issue.*



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