

# power talk

A SUPPLEMENT TO MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



## Reflecting on a year since the **ice storm**



**Shaun Lamp**  
President & Chief Executive Officer

As we approach the one-year anniversary of the historic ice storm that swept across northern Michigan in late March 2025, I find myself reflecting not only on the magnitude of the challenges we faced but also on the strength, resilience, and unity that carried us through a storm that caused damage unlike anything our cooperative had ever experienced.

The storm left thousands of downed lines, broken poles, impassable roads, and entire communities left in the dark. Yet in the middle of this unprecedented event, something powerful happened. People stepped up. Teams rallied. Neighbors helped neighbors. That shared “we’ve got this” spirit lit the way then and continues to energize me today. It exemplifies what we can accomplish when we pull together and gives me great optimism for the future we’re building.

I’ve never been prouder of the Great Lakes Energy team than I was during those intense weeks. When you, our members, needed us most, this team showed up with heart, grit, and an unwavering commitment to service. Around the clock, in conditions that would test anyone, they pushed forward. Many left their own families, some also without power, to restore service as quickly and safely as possible. They braved cold, ice, and fatigue, driven by devotion to our members. Their professionalism and teamwork were truly inspiring.

We were also energized by the support from cooperatives, contractors, vendors, and utilities from across the state and country who stepped up without hesitation, bringing expertise and determination to help us recover from the storm.

Our communities were another tremendous source of strength. Members greeted crews with warm meals, encouraging

signs, and countless acts of kindness. Local businesses and community leaders offered support for workers and neighbors alike. Crews who traveled from across the country told me they had rarely encountered communities as welcoming and supportive as the ones they found here. These gestures reminded us that we are far more than an electric and internet utility; we are part of a connected, caring community that rallies when it matters most. For that, we remain deeply grateful.

This anniversary is also a moment to reflect on what we’ve learned from the storm. Since completing restoration, we’ve taken a thoughtful look at what worked well and where we can strengthen our preparedness. These lessons are shaping our current and future work plans to make our infrastructure more resilient. They’ve also helped us improve our internal processes, enabling us to respond even more efficiently when challenges arise. Through all of this, our focus remains the same: delivering long-term reliability and the level of care you deserve.

This anniversary is a natural moment to reflect on the past year and the people who carried us through. I’m grateful for our employees, partners, members, and communities. Because of your strength, GLE is poised to continue growing stronger, smarter, and more resilient in the years ahead.



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# A year later: storm-tested and stronger

One year ago, the March 2025 ice storm brought unprecedented damage to the northern portions of our service area, coating trees and lines in ice, snapping poles, and leaving thousands without power and internet service.

**These images remind us of the scale of that challenge, but even more, they highlight the strength of the Great Lakes Energy team and the communities we serve.**

From the long hours our field crews spent restoring the system, to those working behind the scenes to support them, every member of our organization stepped up with determination and pride. We've emerged from the storm stronger and even better prepared for whatever comes next.

We are deeply grateful to the partners and mutual aid crews who answered the call, and to our members whose patience, encouragement, and resilience carried us through. This anniversary is not just a reflection on what we endured but an inspiring reminder of what we can overcome together.



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