



Customer Connection

Marquette Energy Center

Update from Paul Kitti, Executive Director

I would like to share some of the exciting news and updates on our new generation project.

In November, 2015 the MBLP made its initial payment of \$2.4 million to Wartsila to begin designing and engineering three reciprocating internal combustion engines that will be installed at the new Marquette Energy Center (MEC). By this coming October, Wartsila is expected to deliver the three engines to the MBLP Dock at the Shiras Steam Plant where they will be loaded onto trailers and transported to the new facility site on Wright Street. Board Chair Tom Tourville stated that this was the first big step towards providing the community with a definitive energy solution by April, 2017.

In January the geotechnical services began drilling and sampling soil borings to determine soil conditions for the design and construction of the foundations for the MEC.

On January 13, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality approved the Air Permit submitted for the new MEC. This permit gives the MBLP the go-ahead to start construction/operation of the new MEC.

The MBLP is currently seeking revenue bonds to fund the new facility. Consultants at Ehlers & Associates have reviewed the bond proposals received and presented their recommendations to the MBLP Board at their regular meeting on Wednesday, January 27.

The MBLP has been in contact with Northern Natural Gas and SEMCO Energy for services to transport natural gas to the new MEC. HDR, Inc. was contracted to evaluate a detailed analysis of the natural gas supply line and whether it would be more cost effective for the MBLP to build and own the pipeline or to contract with SEMCO Energy for construction. HDR, Inc. gave a presentation at the January 12, 2016 Board Meeting with their findings and it was determined that the SEMCO option was the lower cost and lower risk option. At the meeting, the Board authorized staff to

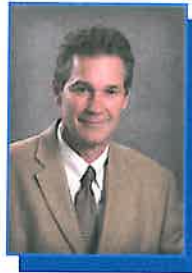


negotiate a contract with SEMCO Energy and Northern Natural Gas.

As the MBLP moves forward with this project, we will continue to reach out to the community to answer questions and keep you informed of our progress. Our staff has also been busy giving presentations about the project to local township boards and service clubs such as Rotary and Kiwanis meetings. If you or your group/club/organization would like to have us come and give a presentation, please call Noreen Collins, at 228-0343.

Community Solar Garden

David Lynch,
Assistant Director-Utility
Operations



The MBLP is in the process of planning a Community Solar Garden near our offices on Wright Street. This garden will be sized according to our customer's interest in the project and their purchase of the panels/shares.

By the end of 2016, the MBLP plans to have the solar garden up and operating, generating renewable energy for our customers who choose to participate.

Mr. Lynch stated that it's a great opportunity for our customers who want to have solar energy but do not have the room on their property to enable them to do so. Also, because this will be done on a larger scale, we can do it cheaper than they could on their own.

The MBLP wouldn't be providing any funds for the project other than the land itself and some operational support. Any MBLP customer (homeowner, renter and/or business owner) could purchase shares/panels in the solar garden, and then would receive a credit on their bill based on the amount of solar energy generated. Mr. Lynch reported that there has been a lot of interest in this project.

Currently, MBLP has had the land (directly west of our offices on north side of road) cleared to make room for the

solar garden. Mr. Lynch has been working with various contractors and consultants to be ready to roll the proposal out in the spring of 2016. Watch our website for community solar updates coming soon.

Storm Safety Tips

Be Prepared:

1. Build a House Emergency Kit with enough supplies for 72 hours: food, water, blankets, warm clothing, first aid kit, cell phone, flashlights, a portable radio, extra batteries and medications.
2. Don't use generators in enclosed areas (garages, breezeways) or near other air intakes for risk of CO poisoning.

During a storm:

1. Stay indoors for your safety and to let responders focus on addressing hazards and/or restoring power.
2. Stay at least 25 feet away from all downed wires and always assume they are "live." Don't touch anything a power line may be touching including trees, fences and puddles.
3. Never attempt to move a downed power line and always report by calling MBLP at 228-0300 or dialing 9-1-1.



After a storm:

1. When it is safe to leave your home, check on neighbors or family members who may have been affected by the storm.
2. Monitor your local radio and television stations for updates.

Check out the MBLP's web page for more information and updates at: www.mblp.org.

THE MARQUETTE BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER BUDGET PLAN

While you can't predict the weather here in the UP, you can count on the Marquette Board of Light and Power's Budget Plan to help keep your energy costs steady year-round.

The Budget Plan is a **FREE** service offered by the Marquette Board of Light and Power, and is available to all of our customers.

To be eligible for this service:

- Your account must have a zero balance by the due date on your June billing statement.
- You must have had electric service at your current address for at least 12 months.

How Does It Work?

- The Budget Plan begins with your July bill and reconciles the following June.
- We project your energy bills for the upcoming year based on your past 12 months of energy usage and the rates in effect for that year.
- In the 12th month (June), your bill will reflect the difference between your actual usage and your Budget Plan payments for the year. This difference may be a credit or an outstanding balance. In the event of a credit, a refund check will be mailed to you.
- We will also review your energy usage in January and make an adjustment, if needed, to help keep your energy bills affordable and predictable.

IT PAYS TO HAVE A PLAN

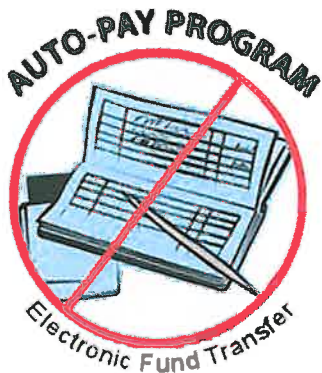


The Budget Plan keeps you smiling all year long.

Sign Up for the Marquette Board of Light and Power Budget Plan Today!

An enrollment form can be obtained from our website, at www.mblp.org, or by calling our billing office at 906-228-0311.

THE MARQUETTE BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC PAYMENT PLAN



Simplify your life! Save time and money!

The Automatic Electronic Payment Plan is a **FREE** service offered by the Marquette Board of Light and Power. Sign up for Automatic Electronic Payments and your monthly balance will automatically be deducted from your checking or savings account on your due date of each month.

An enrollment form can be obtained from our website, at www.mblp.org, or by calling our billing office at 906-228-0311.