



Energy Edge

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMPHIS LIGHT, GAS AND WATER DIVISION GENERAL POWER CUSTOMERS
APRIL 2015

Energy incentives remain for commercial projects; deadline looms for industrial applications

TVA’s Energy Right Solutions for Business program is rolling along with steady application submittals, while the Energy Right Solutions for Industry program has had a lower response rate. As a result, **TVA has implemented a 4/30/2015 deadline for industrial project applications.** Any uncommitted industrial funds after that day will be reallocated to other programs.

TVA offers incentives for installing higher-efficiency HVAC, lighting, food service, water heating and miscellaneous products. There is also a “custom rebate” option for projects with other eligible energy-saving measures. Incentive amounts vary by technology; see the online application for amounts. Locations must qualify for at least \$500 in incentives in order to apply. These incentives shorten project payback periods, while also delivering monthly utility bill savings and postponing the need to build new power generation plants.

Industrial Highlights

- Applications for industrial projects—defined as facilities with manufacturing operations, under NAICS Codes 21, 23, 31, 32, and 33—must be received by 11:59pm on 4/30/2015.
- Industrial projects must be completed by 7/31/2015 in order to get processed and paid from TVA’s current fiscal year, which ends 9/30/2015.
- If you are contemplating an eligible project and can move quickly, we encourage you to submit an application while 2015 funds are available.

For details, visit <http://energyright.com/> Select “For your business” or “For industry,” then “How to get started” to access the online application.

Small business lighting retrofit effort receives \$1.5 million funding boost

Reactions to Main Street Efficiency, a small business lighting pilot, have been so positive that TVA has injected another \$1.5 million into the budget. Facilities with electric demand no greater than 50 kW are eligible for a free lighting assessment and up to \$1,500 in lighting upgrades at no cost.

MLGW Rates

MLGW’s current and historic electric, natural gas and water rates are published at www.mlgw.com, along with updated Purchased Gas Adjustment and Fuel Cost Adjustment rates.

Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA)

MLGW Rate	Consumption	Demand
G-1 residential	\$0.048	na
G-7	\$0.039	na
G-8 / G-9	(\$0.053)	\$0.476
G-10 / G-12	(\$0.043)	na

Monthly adjustment in \$/Ccf to published natural gas rates for meters read on or after 4/1/2015.

Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA)

TVA Rate Class	MLGW Rate Code	FCA Amount
GSA, Part 1	E-2	\$0.02613
GSA, Part 2	E-2	\$0.02615
GSA, Part 3	E-2	\$0.02589
Residential	E-1	\$0.02634
Outdoor Lighting	E-3	\$0.02516

Monthly adjustment in \$/kWh to all firm kWh, beginning with meters read on or after 4/1/2015.



Important Contact Information

Commercial Resource Center:

Monday-Friday

7:30am-5:00pm Central

Phone: 901-528-4270

Fax: 901-528-4547

E-mail: crc@mlgw.org

Emergency: 901-528-4465

Outage: 901-544-6500

Maintenance,
Trouble and Gas

Pilot Safety: 901-820-7878

VIEW YOUR BILL ONLINE AT www.mlgw.com

Lighting improvements depend on existing equipment and could include replacement of existing fluorescent fixtures with higher efficiency lamps and ballasts; changing incandescent bulbs to compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) or Light Emitting Diode (LEDs) lights; and upgrading exit signs to LED technology. Upgrades to more energy efficient lighting deliver better lighting quality, reduce electricity use and demand, and lower operating costs, month after month.

Main Street Efficiency is marketed through letters from MLGW mailed to eligible customers in specific ZIP Codes each month, as well as sales visits and referrals from past participants. In the last six months, 723 assessments have been completed and 667 projects have been installed, with total energy savings projections of 5.5 million kWh annually. (That more than \$500,000 in electricity cost savings each year.) Last year, nearly 3,000 businesses received assessments and 2,700 received lighting upgrades.

Eligible customers are encouraged to contact TVA's program administrator, **EnerPath, at 855-494-8159 to request a lighting assessment** as soon as possible. Based on current workflow, there is a two-week lag between signing the agreement and having new lighting installed. EnerPath staff carry photo identification and documents to confirm their program affiliation.

This first-come, first-served pilot currently is scheduled to conclude for MLGW customers at the end of TVA's fiscal year, 9/30/2015. If your facility has an electric demand of 50 kW or less, we encourage you to participate. Find details at www.mlgw.com/mainstreet

Call before digging saves time, trouble and costly repairs

Years ago early in his construction career, Joe L. Williams and another worker dug a hole while planting a 10-foot oak tree in a new Germantown subdivision.

"We thought we were being careful but we cut into a gas line with a shovel," Williams said. "It hissed like a snake. The other guy I was with knew what to do. He reached in like John Wayne with a pair of pliers and crimped the line. This was before cell phones so I ran back to the office and called MLGW."

Williams, who runs Joe Williams Construction in Memphis, said the moment taught him a lesson: "I don't care if it's a flower bed or something minor, I always call before I dig."

While the consequences for Williams luckily weren't life-threatening, it can be.

MLGW is calling attention to the problem as a part of April's celebration highlighting National Safe Digging Month.

Last year, 233 gas lines in Shelby County ruptured from damage caused by digging. Another 82 gas meters were struck above ground with lawnmowers and other equipment. Such digs – either by folks not calling to find where their utility and cable lines are buried or from contractors who called but hit lines anyway – resulted in rotten egg-like fumes spewing into neighborhoods, business districts and rural areas.

Each year hundreds of homeowners, contractors and developers fail to call before they dig resulting in thousands of dollars in damages to busted gas lines.

Nationally, the Common Ground Alliance's 2013 Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) pinpointed that one in four incidents resulted from someone failing to notify local authorities before digging. Homeowners or



contractors using the wrong tools like a backhoe instead of a shovel caused about half of the reported DIRT cases.

“We have 181 miles of gas transmission lines and 4,800 miles of smaller distribution lines going to homes and businesses. The problem with this kind of leak is, it’s preventable,” said Clift Phillips, MLGW lead gas system integrity engineer.

While it rarely happens, a single spark from a lit cigarette, a backhoe hitting concrete or pavement or even the buildup of static electricity at the rupture point could set off a deadly explosion.

Phillips explained why: “Gas lines can have up to 250 pounds of pressure. A car tire has 30 to 40 pounds of pressure.”

When installed, gas lines are required to be at least a foot underground. But over time with erosion and landscaping, the lines could be closer to the surface.

Last year, MLGW general foreman for facilities location Vic Sawyer and 15 of his workers spray-painted almost 64,000 areas where gas and other utility lines were buried to assist homeowners and contractors who called 811 before digging. The program, which has been in existence since 1983, provides the location. Unfortunately locaters are unable to ascertain the specific depth the lines are buried.

So far, Sawyer and his crew have answered 7,318 calls this year for the free utility location service. “If you are piercing the earth, it’s time to call,” Sawyer urged. “If you are putting in a new flower bed, an irrigation system, a basketball goal or repairing your fence, you need to call us.”

Even when it is marked, diggers still run into trouble at times. “We were putting in a driveway on Shady Hall just off Mendenhall and hit a gas line,” said contractor James Shepherd. “It cost us \$1,500 to fix it.”

While Shepherd thinks the 811 program is good, even if an area is marked, he added, “They don’t know how deep it is.”

For Williams’ part, he can’t understand why more contractors and homeowners fail to use the free service. “I’ve driven by other construction sites when they have hit stuff and you just shake your head,” said Williams. “Why didn’t you call?”

Who ya gonna call?

- Call 811 at least three business days before you or a contractor start digging so that underground lines can be marked for free
- Call 911 or MLGW's emergency line (901-528-4465) if you smell rotten egg-like fumes, hear a hissing sound or see dirt blowing from a recently dug hole
- Leave the area on foot before using cell phones, flashlights or other electric or battery-operated devices
- Learn more at www.tenn811.com

Energy Edge is published by the Commercial & Industrial Customer Care department of Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division. Comments and distribution list changes may be e-mailed to: CRC@mlgw.org