

Home Heating Safety Tips



Space Heaters

When buying and installing a portable space heater, follow these safety guidelines:



- Only purchase newer models that carry the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label.
- Ensure your model has a tip-over switch that automatically shuts the heater off if it falls over.
- Look for one that includes a protective grille made of metal or ceramic to prevent anyone from touching the heating elements.

Electric Blankets

When using an electric blanket follow these safety guidelines:

Inspect electric blankets before using each year. Replace any electric blanket that is worn or torn, has a frayed cord, or has a damaged temperature control. Consider replacing electric blankets that are more than 10 years old. Avoid folding, creasing, and sitting or lying on top of an electric blanket as this can damage the internal coils.



WGHN Family, Health & Home Show

Saturday, February 22, 2020
9:00am - 5:00pm

Grand Haven Community Center
421 Columbus Avenue
Grand Haven

Stop by our booth for FREE
giveaways and
Energy Smart information.



Your Board of Directors:

Jack Smart, Chairperson

Gerald Witherell, Vice Chairperson

Todd Crum, Director

Larry Kieft, Director

John Naser, Director

Grand Haven Board of Light & Power
1700 Eaton Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417
616.846.6250 | ghblp.org

If you need to
report a power
outage, visit our
Outage Center at
ghblp.org or call
616-846-6250.



PLUGGED IN

News and Information from your Community-Owned Electric Utility
Grand Haven Board of Light & Power



**January &
February 2020**

Decommissioning, Demolition & Site Remediation Plan

At its December 2019 meeting, the Board of Light and Power awarded the demolition of the soon to be retired J.B. Sims Generating Station to Bierlein Companies, Inc. Demolition activities will begin in June 2020 with estimated completion by Fall 2021. The demolition contractor was selected using a competitive bidding process from companies that had previous experience with demolishing power plants of similar or larger size to Sims. Bierlein has experience with multiple comparable projects including the current demolition of the Consumers Energy B.C. Cobb power plant located in Muskegon. Bierlein's approximately \$5 million bid was the lowest received and was accepted by the Board based on the contractor's established record of successfully completing similar projects. Additionally, the accepted bid was below the engineer's initial estimate for the project.

Before Sims is retired and demolished, the on-site coal inventory will be consumed by remaining plant operations over the next several months. Production staff will then remove any equipment or materials not included in the demolition contract. Other 2020 activities are also being planned for the Sims site. The distribution substation on the property will be consolidated and rebuilt at an estimated cost of approximately \$3.3 million, a new interim heat source for the downtown snowmelt system will be installed to ensure continued operation of the system until a longer-term solution can be constructed, and a portion of the necessary site environmental remediation and mitigation activities are anticipated, primarily focused on the coal ash storage ponds on the north side of the plant and potentially some work within the current coal storage yard.

The BLP's 24-hour system control room and operations center, currently located at the Sims power plant, will be relocated in the spring of 2020 to BLP facilities on Eaton Drive until more permanent facilities can be reconstructed on Harbor Island. Current power

plant operators are now completing in-depth training on distribution and transmission systems operations and power purchasing practices, so they are better equipped to perform their evolving duties, which will be more focused on the local distribution of power purchased from the regional grid and less on power production. This retraining is being partially funded by a workforce training grant from the State of Michigan. While the BLP's total workforce will be reduced from 72 to less than 50 during the transition period, no employees will be laid off. All employee reductions will be accomplished through retirement attrition.

Finally, the BLP is continuing its evaluation and analysis of more flexible generation options on the Sims site after Sims demolition and site remediation activities are completed. The size and configuration of any potential replacement generation facilities on-site will not substantially change the BLP's workforce transition plan nor its need to rebuild these non-generation facilities on the current Sims site (electrical distribution substation & high-voltage transmission system interconnections, long-term snowmelt heat source, system operations & control center and technical services facilities). The Sims site is also being evaluated and retained by the BLP as a future site for a small "community solar" project and a location to potentially install utility-scale batteries or other future energy storage or smaller distributed energy resource needs of the utility. More public information and details on this evaluation is expected by mid-year.

The BLP's mission is to meet our community's expectations for quality local electrical utility service that returns value to our customers and the community as a whole. Our current transition will allow us to continue with that mission, improving reliability in the process, and offering a path forward that maintains stable rates and the high-quality electric utility service the community has become accustomed to.

BLP Residential Customers Get Rebates on



Energy Efficient
Appliances & Products

Mini Split System (18 SEER or higher)
Rebate - \$300

Furnace with ECM
Rebate - \$150

Programmable Thermostat
Rebate - \$10

ENERGY STAR LED Lamps
Rebate - \$4

Learn more about all our energy
efficient appliance and product
rebates at: MIEnergySmart.com



Meet our new Board Director - Todd Crum

The Board of Light & Power's newest director, Todd Crum, participated in his first meeting as a Board Director after being sworn at the November meeting. Todd will serve a six-year term, November 2019 to November 2025.

