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Even with Ample Propane Supplies, Now is the Time to Lock in Prices Ahead of the Heating Season

July 14, 2015 – With propane supplies significantly above the five-year average, now is the time for Michigan’s propane customers to lock in prices ahead of the heating season, says the Michigan Agency for Energy (MAE).

“It may still be summer time, but signing propane contracts now – instead of waiting for the heating season – can result in significantly cheaper propane for customers,” noted Valerie Brader, MAE executive director. “To help propane customers, the Michigan Agency for Energy has useful tips on selecting a propane provider. The [consumer tips sheet](#) covers pricing agreements, delivery arrangements, fees and other charges, the pros and cons of renting and owning a propane tank, contracts, and a list of helpful questions to ask before signing a contract.”

Propane prices in Michigan and in 30 other states spiked during the 2013-2014 heating season after cold temperatures and other factors led to tight supplies.

While propane prices are not regulated, MAE does monitor supplies and makes available weekly, statewide average residential prices on its [website](#) during the heating season. Additional information is available on the Michigan.gov/propane website.

Energy assistance is expected to be available in October for low-income propane customers, who are encouraged to call 2-1-1 at that time to be directed to an agency near them for help.

With almost 9 percent of Michigan households using propane as their primary heating fuel, Michigan leads the nation in the number of residential propane customers.

The U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports that Midwest propane supplies are about 13 percent higher than the five-year average.

For more information about MAE, please visit www.michigan.gov/energy.

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