



NEWS RELEASE

Consumers Energy Helping Builders Meet Growing Market for New Homes in Michigan

150 Percent increase over past 5 years

JACKSON, Mich., August 1, 2014 – New home construction in Michigan is expected to be 150 percent higher this year than in 2009. Consumers Energy has increased its workforce and taken other steps to keep pace with rising demand for new energy service connections.

“We’ve hired 250 new employees to support the new building sector, which can have a significant impact on the entire state’s economy,” said Mary Palkovich, Consumers Energy vice president of energy delivery. “We’ve shortened our turnaround time for new service orders and increased the amount of timely communicating we do with home builders.”

Consumers Energy is working closely with the Home Builders Association of Michigan to make improvements that benefit busy construction companies. Those companies are projected to build nearly 16,000 new Michigan homes in 2014, the most in eight years.

“The folks at Consumers Energy have worked hard to listen to our members and take action to meet new construction demand. Our mutual efforts will facilitate more construction activity and speed the time in which homeowners can move into their new homes,” said Bob Filka, Home Builders Association of Michigan chief executive officer. “By speeding utility service to the construction industry they are helping build up the overall economy.”

The HBA of Michigan, local associations and Consumers Energy held five summits this year across Michigan to let home builders know about new improvements.

Media toolkit

Number of Homes Built in Michigan

2014 (<i>Projected</i>)	15,900
2013	12,915
2012	10,234
2011	7,937
2010	7,755
2009	6,236
2008	8,984
2007	15,195
2006	24,782
2005	38,875
2004	45,881

Source:
Home Builders Association of Mich.

Consumers Energy has hired engineers to design new energy services, and job schedulers and field crews who install new gas and electric services. Higher volume builders are assigned a dedicated contact by the company. The HBA Michigan will also share data about projected home construction activity with Consumers Energy to help determine what resources are needed to support home builders in future years.

“I am extremely appreciative of the work HBA Michigan and Consumers Energy have done to speed the process to get the homes I build connected to utilities,” said Bob Schroeder owner of Mayberry Homes, in Lansing. “The quicker they make the process, the more homes I can build and the more people I can put to work.”

Consumers Energy, Michigan’s largest utility, is the principal subsidiary of CMS Energy (NYSE: CMS), providing natural gas and electricity to 6.5 million of the state’s 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties.

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For more information about Consumers Energy, go to www.ConsumersEnergy.com, join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ConsumersEnergyMichigan and follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/ConsumersEnergy.

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