

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the matter of the application of)	
MICHIGAN GAS UTILITIES CORPORATION)	
for a waiver of Rule 460.2351 and adoption of)	Case No. U-21114
Rule 460.2351a(3) for testing diaphragm)	
meters and related relief.)	
_____)	

At the November 18, 2021 meeting of the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing,
Michigan.

PRESENT: Hon. Daniel C. Scripps, Chair
Hon. Tremaine L. Phillips, Commissioner
Hon. Katherine L. Peretick, Commissioner

ORDER

On July 27, 2021, Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation (MGUC) filed an application to waive the meter testing requirements for diaphragm meters in Mich Admin Code, R 460.2351 (Rule 51) of the Commission's Technical Standards for Gas Service, and adopt the requirements of Mich Admin Code, R 460.2351a(3) (Rule 51a(3)) for statistical sampling and quality control of its in-service diaphragm meters.

In its application, MGUC requests Commission approval pursuant to Rule 51a(3) to use an alternative program to the meter testing requirements in Rule 51. Specifically, MGUC seeks to implement the Natural Gas Diaphragm Meter Testing (NGDMT) procedures used by the American National Standards Institute/American Society for Quality Control ANSI/ASQC Z1.4 2008, as it has done so pursuant to the approval granted in Case No. U-20517. Under the NGDMT

procedures, MGUC utilizes defined meter lots by grouping meters according to specific characteristics including: (1) manufacturer, (2) meter capacity, and (3) installation time of the meter set.

MGUC further provides that rejection of a meter lot will only occur with meter lot tests exceeding 102% of meter testing accuracy (i.e., “fast” meters). Meter lot tests resulting in meter accuracy below 98% (i.e., “slow” meters) do not automatically trigger rejection of a meter lot under the requested proposal. Consistent with the approval granted in Case No. U-20517, MGUC represents that it has used a double sampling methodology where, if a meter lot fails the first statistical test, a second sample will be taken to determine if a meter lot is to be rejected, and that the utilization of its current meter testing procedures saves time and expense and allows it to efficiently test meters while maintaining the testing accuracy and to identify poorer performing lots of meters for the purpose of removing those meters from service.

MGUC requests that the Commission authorize the requested relief effective January 1, 2021 and through its next general rate case wherein MGUC will either request: (1) a continuation of this relief or (2) recovery of increased expenses associated with the additional inspections and testing requirements of Rule 51. Finally, MGUC represents that approval will not increase rates or charges for any customer, and requests approval on an *ex parte* basis without the time and expense of a public hearing.

The Commission has reviewed the application and finds that the application should be approved. The Commission further finds that *ex parte* review and approval are appropriate because approval of the alternative meter testing requirements for MGUC’s natural gas in-service diaphragm meters as set forth in the application will not affect rates or rate schedules resulting in an increase in the cost of service to customers. *See*, MCL 460.6a(3).

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

A. Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation's request to waive testing requirements in Rule 51 of the Commission's Technical Standards for Gas Service, Mich Admin Code, R 460.2351, is approved effective January 1, 2021 and shall continue until a final decision is reached in its next general rate case.

B. Effective January 1, 2021 and until a final decision is reached in its next general rate case, Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation is authorized to use Mich Admin Code, R 460.2351a(3) for statistical sampling and apply the Natural Gas Diaphragm Meter Testing Procedures used by the American National Standards Institute/American Society for Quality Control ANSI/ASQC Z1.4 2008.

C. Within 30 days of this order, Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation shall file tariff sheets substantially similar to Attachment B to the application in this case.

The Commission reserves jurisdiction and may issue further orders as necessary.

Any party desiring to appeal this order must do so in the appropriate court within 30 days after issuance and notice of this order, pursuant to MCL 462.26. To comply with the Michigan Rules of Court's requirement to notify the Commission of an appeal, appellants shall send required notices to both the Commission's Executive Secretary and to the Commission's Legal Counsel.

Electronic notifications should be sent to the Executive Secretary at mpscedockets@michigan.gov and to the Michigan Department of the Attorney General – Public Service Division at pungpl@michigan.gov. In lieu of electronic submissions, paper copies of such notifications may be sent to the Executive Secretary and the Attorney General – Public Service Division at 7109 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917.

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Daniel C. Scripps, Chair

Tremaine L. Phillips, Commissioner

Katherine L. Peretick, Commissioner

By its action of November 18, 2021.

Lisa Felice, Executive Secretary


PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

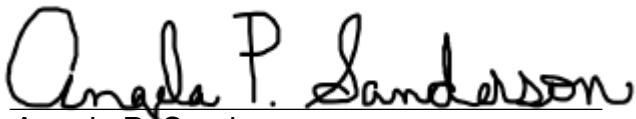
Case No. U-21114

County of Ingham)

Brianna Brown being duly sworn, deposes and says that on November 18, 2021 A.D. she electronically notified the attached list of this **Commission Order via e-mail transmission**, to the persons as shown on the attached service list (Listserv Distribution List).


Brianna Brown

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 18th day of November 2021.



Angela P. Sanderson
Notary Public, Shiawassee County, Michigan
As acting in Eaton County
My Commission Expires: May 21, 2024

Service List for Case: U-21114

Name

Email Address

Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation
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