

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the matter of the application of	)	
ALPENA POWER COMPANY	)	
for approval of a temporary waiver	)	Case No. U-21419
of Rule 460.732(r) for the reporting	)	
of momentary interruptions.	)	
_____	)	

At the February 11, 2025 meeting of the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing,
Michigan.

PRESENT: Hon. Daniel C. Scripps, Chair
Hon. Katherine L. Peretick, Commissioner
Hon. Alessandra R. Carreon, Commissioner

ORDER

On March 24, 2023, the Commission issued an order in Case No. U-20629 that amended the rules governing the Service Quality and Reliability Standards for Electric Distribution Systems (amended SQRS), Mich Admin Code, R 460.701 *et seq.* The amended SQRS were filed with the Office of the Great Seal and became effective on April 10, 2023. The first annual report required under the amended SQRS was due April 29, 2024, and required, among other information, reporting on the number of non-residential customers experiencing momentary interruptions.¹ See, Mich Admin Code, R 460.731, and Mich Admin Code, R 460.732(r) (Rule 32(r)).

¹ Mich Admin Code, R 460.702(o), defines momentary interruptions as “the full or partial loss of service to 1 or more customers for less than or equal to 5 minutes, including all reclosing operations that occur within 5 minutes of the first interruption.”

On August 30, 2023, the Commission issued an order in Case No. U-21419 (August 30 order), which, among other things, approved a request by Alpena Power Company (Alpena) “for a temporary waiver of the momentary interruptions reporting requirement pursuant to [Rule 32(r)] of the Commission’s [amended SQRS] . . . until December 31, 2024.”² August 30 order, p. 3. The August 30 order also acknowledged that:

Alpena’s first distribution investment and maintenance plan (distribution plan) is due on September 30, 2024, and, in the interim from the date of issuance of this order and September 30, 2024, the company should be developing its distribution plan. In the course of developing the distribution plan, Alpena’s timeline for installing AMI [advanced metering infrastructure] may change or become more definitive. As the AMI installation timeline becomes more definitive, Alpena may file a new waiver request application that reflects the timelines in the September 30, 2024 distribution plan.

Id., pp. 2-3 (footnote omitted).

On December 23, 2024, Alpena filed an application for *ex parte* approval requesting in the instant case (December 23 application) to extend the temporary waiver of the momentary interruptions reporting requirements of Rule 32(r) “until December 31, 2026[,] in order to provide . . . Alpena with adequate time to apply for an additional temporary waiver that will reflect what Alpena has learned from its distribution investment and maintenance plan regarding the requirements and timeline for installing an AMI system.” December 23 application, p. 4. Alpena represents in its December 23 application that:

Alpena operates an Automated Meter Reading (AMR) system that does not have the technical capability of measuring Momentary Interruptions as defined by the [amended SQRS]. Alpena has no other systems in place that have the capability of measuring Momentary Interruptions on a customer level. Without an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system in place, it is technically infeasible to report

² Mich Admin Code, R 460.751(1), permits “[a]n electric utility or cooperative [to] petition the commission for a permanent or temporary waiver or exception from [the SQRS] rules when specific circumstances beyond the control of the electric utility or cooperative render compliance impossible or when compliance would be unduly economically burdensome or technologically infeasible.”

Momentary Interruptions as required by Rule 32(r), and installation of an AMI system in the timeframe required by Rule 32 would be unduly economically burdensome.

* * *

Alpena submitted its first distribution investment and maintenance plan on September 30, 2024, as ordered by the Commission in Case No. U-20147.^[3] Alpena indicated in the distribution plan that at this point it plans to begin infrastructure investments for AMI in 2029 with possible rollout of meter replacements beginning in 2031 (outside of the 5-year distribution plan). As of December 20, 2024, Alpena has yet to receive any comments on its distribution investment and maintenance plan.

December 23 application, pp. 3-4. As a result, Alpena requests:

an extension of the temporary waiver of the Rule 32(r) requirement for recording and reporting Momentary Interruptions as defined by the [amended SQRS] . . . until December 31, 2026, to provide . . . Alpena with adequate time to apply for an additional temporary waiver that will reflect what Alpena has learned from its distribution investment and maintenance plan regarding a feasible timeline for installing an AMI system and having the technological capability to record and report Momentary Interruptions[.]

Id., pp. 4-5.

The Commission, having considered Alpena’s December 23 application, finds that the extension of the temporary waiver is reasonable, promotes the efficient use of company resources, and should be granted. Furthermore, a petition for a waiver not involving a customer credit provision may be granted by the Commission without notice or hearing. *See*, Mich Admin Code, R 460.752(2). Because Alpena does not yet have the necessary AMI infrastructure in place to determine customer momentary outages, the Commission finds that a temporary waiver is reasonable. Alpena’s proposed distribution plan indicates the company does not plan to begin the

³ “The September 8, 2022 order in Case No. U-20147 (September 8 order) directed Alpena to file no later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern time) on September 30, 2024, a distribution investment and maintenance plan consistent with the requirements set forth in the order.” August 30 order, p. 3, n. 2.

installation of AMI until 2029. Until Alpena's timeline for AMI installation is finalized, the Commission finds it reasonable and appropriate to grant the extension until December 31, 2029. Alpena may apply for an additional temporary waiver of Rule 32(r) prior to the expiration of the waiver granted here. Finally, *ex parte* review and approval are appropriate because granting the waiver will not affect rates or rate schedules resulting in an increase in the cost of service. *See*, MCL 460.6a(3).

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Alpena Power Company's request for an extension of the temporary waiver of the momentary interruptions reporting requirement pursuant to Mich Admin Code, R 460.732(r), of the Commission's Service Quality and Reliability Standards for Electric Distribution Systems is granted until December 31, 2029.

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 LARA-MPSC-Edockets@michigan.gov and to the Michigan Department of Attorney General - Public Service Division at sheacl@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

Katherine L. Peretick, Commissioner

Alessandra R. Carreon, Commissioner

By its action of February 11, 2025.

Lisa Felice, Executive Secretary

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

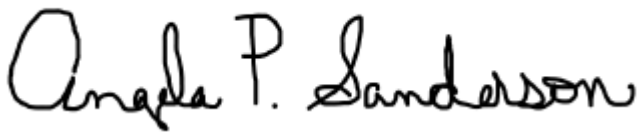
Case No. U-21419

County of Ingham)

Brianna Brown being duly sworn, deposes and says that on February 11, 2025 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 11th day of February 2025.



Angela P. Sanderson
Notary Public, Shiawassee County, Michigan
As acting in Eaton County
My Commission Expires: May 21, 2030

Service List for Case: U-21419

Name	On Behalf Of	Email Address
Alpena Power Company	Alpena Power Company	kd@alpenapower.com
Timothy M. Gulden	Alpena Power Company	tmgulden@bfwlawfirm.com