

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HELD IN ITS OFFICES ON FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Commission Chairman Sally A. Talberg called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
Executive Secretary Kavita Kale called the roll and declared there was a quorum.

PRESENT

Commission: Sally A. Talberg, Chairman
Norman J. Saari, Commissioner

Staff: Lisa Gold
Nick Assendelft
Kavita Kale
Lisa Felice
Jesse Harlow
Al Freeman
Roger Doherty
Caitlin Buchanan
Jill Rusnak
Paul Proudfoot
Cathy Cole
Matt Donahue
Patrick Hudson
Sandra Philpott-Burke
Patricia Poli
Staci Sova
Ryan Wilson
Brianna Brown
David J. Chislea

Public: Steve McLean, SEMCO
Valerie Brader, Rivenoak Consulting
Karen Wienke, Consumers Energy
Suzy Westmoreland, MEGA
Candace Gonzales, Consumers Energy
Mike Torrey, Consumers Energy

I. Chairman Talberg moved to approve today's agenda, Commissioner Saari seconded.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
Nays – None

The agenda was approved.

II. Chairman Talberg moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting of January 18, 2019, Commissioner Saari seconded.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
Nays – None

The minutes were approved.

III. CONSENTED ORDERS

A. COMMUNICATIONS

1. U-20326 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF GREAT LAKES ENERGY CONNECTIONS, INC. FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN
(final order)
2. U-20337 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE d/b/a MIDWEST ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS FOR EXPANSION OF ITS LICENSE TO PROVIDE BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE IN DESIGNATED EXCHANGES
(interim order)
3. U-20445 APPLICATION OF MERCURY WIRELESS INDIANA, LLC FOR A TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT LICENSE TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE THROUGHOUT CERTAIN EXCHANGES SERVED BY AT&T MICHIGAN, FRONTIER NORTH, INC. AND FRONTIER MIDSTATES, INC.
(interim order)

B. ELECTRIC

1. U-13245 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF WPS ENERGY FOR AN ALTERNATE ELECTRIC SUPPLIER LICENSE
(voluntary license surrender/final order)
2. U-20171 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY TO COMMENCE A RENEWABLE ENERGY COST RECONCILIATION PROCEEDING FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017
(final order)

3. U-20173 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY TO COMMENCE A RENEWABLE ENERGY COST RECONCILIATION PROCEEDING FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017
(final order)

C. GAS

1. U-20080 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC & GAS CO-OP FOR RECONCILIATION OF GAS COST RECOVERY PLAN (CASE NO. U-18156) FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2018
(final order)
2. U-20118 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DTE GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF DEPRECIATION ACCRUAL RATES AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS
(final order)
3. U-20247 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF UPPER MICHIGAN ENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF A GAS COST RECOVERY PLAN AND FACTORS FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2019 AND RELATED APPROVALS (FOR THE WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE RATE ZONE)
(final order)

Chairman Talberg moved that the Commission approve all the orders on the consent agenda. Commissioner Saari seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
Nays – None

The orders were adopted.

IV. OTHER ORDERS

A. ELECTRIC

1. U-17680-R IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DTE ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR RECONCILIATION OF ITS POWER SUPPLY COSTS RECOVERY COSTS AND REVENUES FOR THE 12-MONTH

PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015
(order on remand)

Case No. U-17680-R involves an opinion from the Court of Appeals reversing in part, and remanding in part, the July 12, 2017 order in this case. The order before you directs the parties to file briefs addressing the remand in this case. Chairman Talberg moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 7, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Saari seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

2. U-18094 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, ESTABLISHING THE METHOD AND AVOIDED COST CALCULATION FOR UPPER PENINSULA POWER COMPANY TO FULLY COMPLY WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY POLICY ACT OF 1978, 16 USC 2601 *ET SEQ.*
(extension request/interim order)

Case No. U-18094 involves a motion filed by Upper Peninsula Power Company to extend the date for filing its next application for review under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to February 12, 2019. The order before you grants the request. Chairman Talberg moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 7, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Saari seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

3. U-18231 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, REGARDING THE REGULATORY REVIEWS, REVISIONS, DETERMINATIONS, AND/OR APPROVALS NECESSARY FOR CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY TO FULLY COMPLY WITH PUBLIC ACTS 295 OF 2008
(final order)
- U-15805 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, REGARDING THE REGULATORY REVIEWS, REVISIONS, DETERMINATIONS, AND/OR APPROVALS NECESSARY FOR

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY TO FULLY COMPLY WITH
PUBLIC ACTS 286 AND 295 OF 2008

Commission Staff Caitlin Buchanan, Regulatory Affairs Division, presented a brief synopsis of the cases listed above. Chairman Talberg moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 7, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Saari seconded that motion.

Chairman Talberg stated that the Commission had significant concerns about the pricing of solar energy proposed in the renewable energy plan. The application was filed earlier, but given the technologies and trends, the costs are significant. Hence the Commission did not approve it at this time.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

4. U-18403 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DTE ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT A POWER SUPPLY COST RECOVERY PLAN IN ITS RATE SCHEDULES FOR 2018 METERED JURISDICTIONAL SALES OF ELECTRICITY (final order)

Case No. U-18403 involves an application filed by DTE Electric Company for authority to implement a power supply cost recovery plan for 2018 metered jurisdictional sales of electricity. The order before you approves the utility's PSCR plan and billing factor, and accepts its five-year forecast as specified in the order. The Commission cautions the company that it must demonstrate in the reconciliation proceeding that its actual sorbent costs are reasonable and prudent, based on a refreshed net present value analysis. Chairman Talberg moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 7, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Saari seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

5. U-18461 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 6t OF 2016 PA 341 (extension request by Northern States Power Company/interim order)

Case No. U-18461 involves a motion filed by Northern States Power Company requesting an extension for the filing of its multistate integrated resource plan under MCL 460.6t. The order before you approves the request. Chairman Talberg moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 7, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Saari seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

6. U-20362 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF WISCONSIN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF ITS INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN PURSUANT TO MCL 460.6t AND FOR OTHER RELIEF
(final order)

Case No. U-20362 involves a motion by Wisconsin Electric Power Company requesting that the Commission issue an order waiving the integrated resource plan filing requirements or determining that the company is relieved from complying with the integrated resource planning requirement set forth in MCL 460.6t(3). The order before you grants the company’s motion, finding that Wisconsin Electric Power Company is relieved from complying with the integrated resource plan requirements of MCL 460.6t(3). Chairman Talberg moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 7, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Saari seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

7. U-20365 2018 ENERGY WASTE REDUCTION RECONCILIATION AND ANNUAL REPORT FILING
(order assigning docket numbers)
CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY
U-20366 DTE ELECTRIC COMPANY
U-20367 INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY
U-20368 UPPER PENINSULA POWER COMPANY
U-20369 DTE GAS COMPANY (Gas matter)
U-20370 SEMCO ENERGY (Gas matter)
U-20371 ALPENA POWER COMPANY
U-20375 NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY
U-20377 UPPER MICHIGAN ENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION

U-20378 WISCONSIN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY
 U-18271 ALGER-DELTA CO-OPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
 U-18272 BAYFIELD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 U-18273 CHERRYLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 U-18274 CLOVERLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 U-18275 GREAT LAKES ENERGY COOPERATIVE
 U-18276 MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE
 U-18277 ONTONAGON COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIFICATION
 ASSOCIATION
 U-18278 PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC AND GAS CO-OP
 U-18279 THUMB ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 U-18280 TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 U-18281 VILLAGE OF BARAGA
 U-18282 CITY OF BAY CITY
 U-18283 CITY OF CHARLEVOIX
 U-18284 CHELSEA DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRIC AND WATER
 U-18285 VILLAGE OF CLINTON
 U-18286 COLDWATER BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
 U-18287 CROSWELL MUNICIPAL LIGHT & POWER DEPARTMENT
 U-18288 CITY OF CRYSTAL FALLS
 U-18289 DAGGETT ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
 U-18291 CITY OF DOWAGIAC
 U-18292 CITY OF EATON RAPIDS
 U-18293 CITY OF ESCANABA
 U-18294 CITY OF GLADSTONE
 U-18295 GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER
 U-18296 CITY OF HARBOR SPRINGS
 U-18297 CITY OF HART HYDRO
 U-18298 HILLSDALE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
 U-18299 HOLLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
 U-18300 VILLAGE OF L'ANSE
 U-18301 LANSING BOARD OF WATER AND LIGHT
 U-18302 LOWELL LIGHT AND POWER
 U-18303 MARQUETTE BOARD OF LIGHT & POWER
 U-18304 MARSHALL ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
 U-18305 NEGAUNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 U-18306 NEWBERRY WATER AND LIGHT BOARD
 U-18307 NILES UTILITY DEPARTMENT
 U-18308 CITY OF NORWAY
 U-18309 CITY OF PAW PAW
 U-18310 CITY OF PETOSKEY
 U-18311 CITY OF PORTLAND
 U-18312 CITY OF SEBEWAING
 U-18313 CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN
 U-18314 CITY OF ST. LOUIS
 U-18315 CITY OF STEPHENSON

U-18316 CITY OF STURGIS
 U-18317 TRAVERSE CITY LIGHT AND POWER
 U-18318 UNION CITY ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
 U-18319 CITY OF WAKEFIELD
 U-18320 WYANDOTTE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL SERVICE
 U-18321 ZEELAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
 U-20430 MICHIGAN GAS UTILITIES CORPORATION (Gas matter)

Case Nos. U-20365 *et al.* assign docket numbers and filing deadlines for energy waste reduction reconciliation proceedings and annual reports. Chairman Talberg moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 7, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Saari seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
 Nays – None

The order was adopted.

8. U-20371 2019 ENERGY WASTE REDUCTION BIENNIAL PLAN FILING
 (order assigning docket numbers)
 ALPENA POWER COMPANY
 U-20372 CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY
 U-20373 DTE ELECTRIC COMPANY
 U-20374 INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY
 U-20375 NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY
 U-20376 UPPER PENINSULA POWER COMPANY
 U-20377 UPPER MICHIGAN ENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION
 U-20378 WISCONSIN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY
 U-20379 ALGER-DELTA CO-OPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
 U-20380 BAYFIELD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 U-20381 CHERRYLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 U-20382 CLOVERLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 U-20383 GREAT LAKES ENERGY COOPERATIVE
 U-20384 MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE
 U-20385 ONTONAGON COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIFICATION
 ASSOCIATION
 U-20386 PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC AND GAS CO-OP
 U-20387 THUMB ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 U-20388 TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 U-20389 VILLAGE OF BARAGA
 U-20390 CITY OF BAY CITY
 U-20391 CITY OF CHARLEVOIX
 U-20392 CHELSEA DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRIC AND WATER
 U-20393 VILLAGE OF CLINTON
 U-20394 COLDWATER BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

U-20395 CROSWELL MUNICIPAL LIGHT & POWER DEPARTMENT
 U-20396 CITY OF CRYSTAL FALLS
 U-20397 DAGGETT ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
 U-20398 CITY OF DOWAGIAC
 U-20399 CITY OF EATON RAPIDS
 U-20400 CITY OF ESCANABA
 U-20401 CITY OF GLADSTONE
 U-20402 GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER
 U-20403 CITY OF HARBOR SPRINGS
 U-20404 CITY OF HART HYDRO
 U-20405 HOLLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
 U-20406 HILLSDALE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
 U-20407 VILLAGE OF L'ANSE
 U-20408 LANSING BOARD OF WATER AND LIGHT
 U-20409 LOWELL LIGHT AND POWER
 U-20410 MARQUETTE BOARD OF LIGHT & POWER
 U-20411 MARSHALL ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
 U-20412 NEGAUNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 U-20413 NEWBERRY WATER AND LIGHT BOARD
 U-20414 NILES UTILITY DEPARTMENT
 U-20415 CITY OF NORWAY
 U-20416 CITY OF PAW PAW
 U-20417 CITY OF PETOSKEY
 U-20418 CITY OF PORTLAND
 U-20419 CITY OF SEBEWAING
 U-20420 CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN
 U-20421 CITY OF ST. LOUIS
 U-20422 CITY OF STEPHENSON
 U-20423 CITY OF STURGIS
 U-20424 TRAVERSE CITY LIGHT AND POWER
 U-20425 UNION CITY ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
 U-20426 CITY OF WAKEFIELD
 U-20427 WYANDOTTE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL SERVICE
 U-20428 ZEELAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
 U-20429 DTE GAS COMPANY
 U-20430 MICHIGAN GAS UTILITIES CORPORATION
 U-20431 SEMCO ENERGY, INC.

Case Nos. U-20371 *et al.* assign docket numbers and filing deadlines for the filing of energy waste reduction plans for 2019. Chairman Talberg moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 7, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Saari seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
 Nays – None

The order was adopted.

B. GAS

1. U-18412 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DTE GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF A GAS COST RECOVERY PLAN, 5-YEAR FORECAST AND MONTHLY GCR FACTOR FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31, 2019
(final order)

Case No. U-18412 involves an application by DTE Gas Company requesting approval of a gas cost recovery plan, five-year forecast and authorization of gas cost recovery factors for the 12-month period ending March 31, 2019. The order before you approves the request, with modifications. Chairman Talberg moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 7, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Saari seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

2. U-20198 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ZFS ITHACA LLC, FOR AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A PIPELINE IN WHEELER, NORTH STAR, LAFAYETTE, AND EMERSON TOWNSHIPS OF GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN
(final order)

Case No. U-20198 involves an application by ZFS Ithaca, LLC, requesting a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate the West Yankee Pipeline in Gratiot County. The order before you approves a settlement agreement resolving all issues in the case and makes the required agency findings regarding the pipeline's environmental impact. Chairman Talberg moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 7, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Saari seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

3. U-20280 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION AND REQUEST OF DTE GAS COMPANY SEEKING *EX PARTE* APPROVAL AND AUTHORITY TO AMEND ITS CUSTOMER ATTACHMENT PROGRAM – (C8) TARIFF
(final order)

Case No. U-20280 involves an application by DTE Gas Company requesting authority to amend its Customer Attachment Program – (C8) Tariff. The order before you approves the request. Chairman Talberg moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 7, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Saari seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

4. U-20351 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY (Gas), A WISCONSIN CORPORATION, SEEKING *EX PARTE* APPROVAL TO REVISE ITS C8 CUSTOMER ATTACHMENT PROGRAM TARIFF
(final order)

Case No. U-20351 involves an application by Northern States Power Company for *ex parte* approval to revise its C8 Customer Attachment Program tariff. The order before you approves the application. Chairman Talberg moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 7, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Saari seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

5. U-20463 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, TO COMMENCE AN INVESTIGATION INTO A JANUARY 30, 2019 FIRE AT CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY’S RAY COMPRESSOR STATION IN MACOMB COUNTY
(order opening docket)

Commission Staff David Chislea, Energy Operations Division, presented a brief synopsis of the case listed above. Chairman Talberg moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 7, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Saari seconded that motion.

Commissioner Saari commented:

“A message and order from the Public Service Commission stating our concerns about natural gas safety programs is probably redundant and to some degree likely repetitive.

But the Commission will never believe that natural gas safety messages are boring and tedious. Commission staff will never accept a utility’s less than total commitment to safety.

Events of the past week, let alone the past year, have significantly heightened the Commission’s safety concerns with Michigan gas utilities. The outcome of the fire at the Ray Compressor Station ended without adverse consequences – no injuries, no off-site property damage, no residential gas customers were shut off. A potentially serious outcome never occurred because of effective onsite response, strong industry collaboration, successful communications and collaborative emergency services actions.

But the Ray fire -- and the gas explosion Sunday in a Pontiac neighborhood, and a contractor dig in of a gas line near a Warren business over the weekend -- all contribute to the Commission’s increasing, serious concern that there needs to be a more dedicated emphasis by gas utilities on developing and implementing strong safety programs.

The Commission has an ongoing investigation into why contractors in December cut into a natural gas line under the Detroit River that delivered natural gas to Belle Isle. The island is now served by a temporary gas line running along the pedestrian sidewalk on MacArthur Bridge.

Our safety investigators are completing their analysis of an explosion last year of a high pressure gas line in Orion Township. We recently issued a non-compliance letter regarding improper welds at the Milford gas facility.

Our staff has numerous additional ongoing safety inspections, some relatively minor, but all incidents had the potential consequence of property damage and injury to workers and the public. The Commission’s investigation into the Ray Compressor Station fire will be a comprehensive, thorough examination of gas utility operations with an emphasis on safety programs, facility operations, training and emergency responses.

We will emphasize there is no acceptable compromise for safety programs, no allowable shortcuts, quick fixes or cutting corners in the design, construction and operation of natural gas systems.

It is the Commission’s goal, and we expect also the gas companies’ commitment, to develop and implement a world class, nationally respected natural gas safety management system.”

Chairman Talberg commented:

“Thank you, Dave, for the efforts by you and your team in the MPSC’s Gas Operations Section to respond to the fire and to undertake your technical investigation into the cause and responses to the fire. Your team works day in, day out, – and sometimes nights, weekends, and holidays – to ensure the safety of our gas system. We appreciate Kyle and Nathan being on site beginning last Wednesday to examine conditions while many of us were at home with the state buildings closed.

I also want to thank Alex Morese’s team at the Michigan Agency for Energy for their expertise and coordination at the State Emergency Operations Center. Due to the impact of the fire and the role of large customers and others in stabilizing the gas system, this formal investigation is important and extensive. We look forward to learning more from this event to ensure safe, reliable energy service for all Michiganders.”

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

6. U-20464 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, TO ISSUE A REPORT ON THE STATE'S SUPPLY AND DELIVERABILITY OF NATURAL GAS ELECTRICITY, AND PROPANE, AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING, AS REQUESTED BY THE GOVERNOR
(order opening docket)

Commission Staff Patricia Poli, Energy Operations Division, presented a brief synopsis of the case listed above. Chairman Talberg moved that the Commission approve the order at its February 7, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Saari seconded that motion.

Commissioner Saari stated that the outlook and approach the Commission is taking will be comprehensive and transparent, with very robust input from the public. The Commission’s leadership role is very critical. He is confident that it will be successful because we have a major consideration for where Michigan’s energy future is going. We can clearly define this to the new Governor and its administration.

Chairman Talberg commented:

“The events of last week – with extreme cold and high energy usage combined with the fire at a major gas storage facility – reinforced the importance of what we do at the Michigan Public Service Commission to ensure safe, reliable and affordable utility service. We were facing the possibility of power outages for up to half a million Michiganders yesterday – fortunately the ice was not as severe as earlier predictions but there are over 100,000 customers without power on the west side of the state due to additional ice and winds today. It was less than a year ago that approximately 1 million customers in southeast Michigan lost their power due to ice and hurricane-level winds swept through the state.

Our energy supplies are changing, and extreme weather can disrupt service to customers. Therefore, this statewide energy assessment called for by Governor Whitmer is important and timely. With the leadership of Pat Poli and a team we are assembling at the MPSC and input from industry and stakeholders, we will examine vulnerabilities and improvements to energy planning, operational practices, and emergency response protocols to mitigate the risk of major events that could compromise safe, reliable energy service for Michigan’s 10 million residents. The Commission is committed to ensuring our energy supplies can withstand disruptions caused by extreme weather, equipment failure, human error, and/or cyber or physical security attacks.

Thank you, Pat, for taking on this important assignment.”

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Valerie Brader, Rivenoak Consulting, Inc., Ann Arbor, raised concerns on behalf of her client regarding the proposed construction of the new natural gas compressor by Blue Water Gas Storage across the street from her client’s home.

A recording of the proceedings of the February 7, 2019 meeting is archived at:
http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,4639,7-159-16400_46656---,00.html .

Chairman Talberg announced that the next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting will be held on February 21, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

Chairman Talberg moved that the Commission adjourn, Commissioner Saari seconded.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari
Nays – None

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Kavita Kale
Executive Secretary