

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC  
SERVICE COMMISSION HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCING ON  
JANUARY 21, 2021

Commission Chair Daniel C. Scripps called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.  
Executive Secretary Lisa Felice called the roll and declared there was a quorum.

**PRESENT**

Commission: Daniel C. Scripps, Chair (participating from Leelanau County)  
Tremaine L. Phillips, Commissioner (participating from Ingham County)  
Katherine Peretick, Commissioner (participating from Wayne County)

Staff: Lisa Gold  
Lisa Felice

Additional Staff & Public Attending Telephonically/Video Conferencing: 99 Participants

**I.** Commissioner Phillips moved to approve today's agenda, Commissioner Peretick seconded.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Phillips, Peretick  
Nays – None

The agenda was approved.

**II.** Commissioner Phillips moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting of December 17, 2020, Commissioner Peretick seconded.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Phillips, Peretick  
Nays – None

The minutes were approved.

**III. CONSENTED ORDERS**

**A. COMMUNICATIONS**

1. U-12426 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF LINGO TELECOM OF THE GREAT LAKES, LLC, f/k/a BIRCH TELECOM OF THE GREAT LAKES, INC., FOR A LICENSE TO PROVIDE BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE THROUGHOUT

THE STATE OF MICHIGAN IN ALL ZONES AND EXCHANGES  
SERVED BY AMERITECH MICHIGAN, GTE NORTH  
INCORPORATED, AND GTE SYSTEMS OF MICHIGAN  
(request to voluntarily surrender license/final order)

2. U-15105 IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST FOR COMMISSION  
APPROVAL OF A PAGING FACILITIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
AMERICAN MESSAGING SERVICES, LLC AND AT&T MICHIGAN  
(second amendment)
- U-20946 IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST FOR COMMISSION  
APPROVAL OF THE INTERCONNECTION AND MUTUAL  
TRAFFIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN SAND  
CREEK TELEPHONE COMPANY AND TIME WARNER CABLE  
INFORMATION SERVICES (MICHIGAN), LLC  
(interconnection agreement)
3. U-15548 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF HURON MOUNTAIN  
COMMUNICATIONS CO. FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A TEMPORARY  
AND PERMANENT LICENSE TO PROVIDE BASIC LOCAL  
EXCHANGE SERVICE  
(request to voluntarily surrender license/final order)
4. U-16183 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, TO  
IMPLEMENT 2009 PA 182, MCL 484.2310  
(restructuring mechanism for toll access services/interim order)
5. U-20329 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CRYSTAL  
AUTOMATION SYSTEMS, INC., d/b/a CASAIR, INC., FOR  
DESIGNATION AS A HIGH-COST ELIGIBLE  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER PURSUANT TO SECTION  
214(e)(2) OF THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934, AS  
AMENDED  
(request to relinquish eligible telecommunications carrier  
designation/final order)

**C. GAS**

1. U-20242 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES  
POWER COMPANY, FOR RECONCILIATION OF ITS GAS COST  
RECOVERY PLAN FOR THE 12-MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2020  
(proposed settlement agreement)

Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve all the orders on the consent agenda. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Phillips, Peretick  
Nays – None

The orders were adopted.

#### **IV. OTHER ORDERS**

##### **A. ELECTRIC**

1. U-20829 IN THE MATTER OF THE NOTICE OF UPPER MICHIGAN ENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION FOR AN INTENDED THREE-PHASE SERVICE EXTENSION PURSUANT TO MICH ADMIN CODE, R 460.3411  
(final order)

Case No. U-20829 involves a notice of intent to serve filed by Upper Michigan Energy Resources Corporation to extend 3-phase service. The order before you denies a motion for summary disposition filed by Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association and grants both Upper Michigan Energy Resources Corporation's motion to dismiss and Aquila Resources USA, Inc.'s motion for summary disposition. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its January 21, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Phillips, Peretick  
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

2. U-20900 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION AND REQUEST OF INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY SEEKING APPROVAL AND AUTHORITY TO AMEND ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF OPEN ACCESS DISTRIBUTION SERVICE  
(*ex parte*/final order)

Case No. U-20900 involves an amended application filed by Indiana Michigan Power Company for *ex parte* approval of amendments to its open access distribution service tariffs. The order before you approves the amended application. Commissioner Phillips moved

that the Commission approve the order at its January 21, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Phillips, Peretick  
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

3. U-20905 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, TO EXAMINE THE CHANGES TO THE REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE PUBLIC REGULATORY POLICIES ACT OF 1978, 16 USC 2601 *ET SEQ.*, PURSUANT TO FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FINAL ORDER NO. 872 (interim order)
- U-18089 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, ESTABLISHING THE METHOD AND AVOIDED COST CALCULATION FOR ALPENA POWER COMPANY TO FULLY COMPLY WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY POLICIES ACT OF 1978, 16 USC 2601 *ET SEQ.*
- U-18090 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, ESTABLISHING THE METHOD AND AVOIDED COST CALCULATION FOR CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY TO FULLY COMPLY WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY POLICIES ACT OF 1978, 16 USC 2601 *ET SEQ.*
- U-18091 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, ESTABLISHING THE METHOD AND AVOIDED COST CALCULATION FOR DTE ELECTRIC COMPANY TO FULLY COMPLY WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY POLICIES ACT OF 1978, 16 USC 2601 *ET SEQ.*
- U-18092 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, ESTABLISHING THE METHOD AND AVOIDED COST CALCULATION FOR INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY TO FULLY COMPLY WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY POLICIES ACT OF 1978, 16 USC 2601 *ET SEQ.*
- U-18093 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, ESTABLISHING THE METHOD AND AVOIDED COST CALCULATION FOR NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY TO FULLY COMPLY WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY POLICIES ACT OF 1978, 16 USC 2601 *ET SEQ.*
- U-18095 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, ESTABLISHING THE METHOD AND AVOIDED COST CALCULATION FOR UPPER MICHIGAN ENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION TO FULLY COMPLY WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY POLICIES ACT OF 1978, 16 USC 2601 *ET SEQ.*
- U-20645 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, TO ESTABLISH MI POWER GRID.

U-20852        IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, TO  
COMMENCE A COLLABORATIVE TO CONSIDER BEST  
PRACTICES TO ENSURE COST-EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF  
NEW ENERGY RESOURCES AND TO LIMIT PROCUREMENT  
BARRIERS FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING  
PROCESSES FOR COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Commission Staff Caitlin Mucci, Regulatory Affairs Division, presented a brief synopsis of the case listed above. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its January 21, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Phillips, Peretick  
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

4.        U-20907        IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF UPPER MICHIGAN  
ENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF  
REVISIONS TO ITS BUDGET BILLING PLAN SET FORTH IN ITS  
ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS TARIFFS  
(*ex parte*/final order)

Case No. U-20907 involves an application by Upper Michigan Energy Resources Corporation for *ex parte* approval of revisions to its budget billing plan set forth in its electric and natural gas tariffs. The order before you approves the application. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its January 21, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

Commissioner Phillips commented:

“In the order before us this afternoon, Upper Michigan Energy Resources Corporation or UMEREC has requested *ex parte* approval of revisions to its electric and natural gas billing plans in order to facilitate alignment between UMEREC and its affiliates, Wisconsin Electric Power Company and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation’s billing systems. The further alignment amongst these billing systems will result in a “synergy of savings” that ultimately will benefit UMEREC natural gas and electricity customers.

In this order, the Commission supports UMEREC’s application and tariff revisions, but the approval of UMEREC’s application by the Commission is conditional upon the approval of substantially the same revisions by its affiliates, Wisconsin Electric Power Company and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

Furthermore, within 30 days of the date of an order from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin approving revisions to the billing plans for Wisconsin Electric Power Company or Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, UMEREC shall file a copy of the order or orders, as well as an attestation that the

revisions approved by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin are substantially similar to those revisions before this Commission today.”

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Phillips, Peretick  
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

**B. GAS**

1. U-20209 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FOR RECONCILIATION OF ITS GAS COST RECOVERY PLAN FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD APRIL 1, 2018 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2019  
(petitions for rehearing)

Case No. U-20209 involves an application by Consumers Energy Company requesting authority to reconcile its gas cost recovery costs and revenues for the 12-month period ended March 31, 2019. The order before you denies the petitions for rehearing filed by Consumers Energy Company and the Residential Customer Group. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its January 21, 2021 meeting. Chair Scripps seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Phillips  
Abstains – Peretick  
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

2. U-20831 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF MATTHEW A. SHAY AGAINST DIRECT ENERGY SERVICES, LLC  
(final order)

Case No. U-20831 involves a complaint filed by Matthew A. Shay against Direct Energy Services, LLC. The order before you dismisses the complaint without prejudice. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its January 21, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Phillips, Peretick  
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

3. U-20917 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DTE GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO RESIDENTIAL INCOME ASSISTANCE AND LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE TARIFF REGARDING ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION  
(*ex parte*/final order)

Case No. U-20917 involves an *ex parte* application by DTE Gas Company requesting approval of changes to the residential income assistance and low income assistance tariff regarding eligibility verification. The order before you approves the application. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its January 21, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Phillips, Peretick  
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

#### **C. STEAM**

1. U-20794 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DETROIT THERMAL, LLC FOR AUTHORITY TO REDESIGN AND INCREASE ITS RATES FOR STEAM SERVICE AND FOR OTHER RELIEF  
(proposed settlement agreement)

Commission Staff Nyrhe Royal, Energy Operations Division, presented a brief synopsis of the case listed above. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its January 21, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Phillips, Peretick  
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2021 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE**

#### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

Chair Scripps commented:

“I have a few announcements this afternoon:

First, I’m excited to announce that the Commission currently has a number of open positions, including two gas safety engineers in our Energy Operations Division, a departmental analyst working on

resource optimization and certification in our Energy Resources Division, and a Commission advisor position in our Strategic Operations Division. All four position descriptions are posted on our website – [www.Michigan.gov/mpsc](http://www.Michigan.gov/mpsc) – and I strongly encourage anyone who is interested to apply. The Commission is a great place to work, our Staff are some of the smartest people on energy and telecommunications issues you’ll find anywhere, and we have a lot of fun serving the people of Michigan.

In addition, the Commission also recently finalized our Strategic Plan that will take us through 2025. Planning efforts for this update started back in 2019 and continued through all of 2020. Our mission statement now reads “To serve the public by ensuring safe, reliable, and accessible energy and telecommunications services at reasonable rates” and our vision is to be a best-in-class commission by making well-informed decisions at every level of the organization; meaningfully engaging the public; and enabling innovation for the future. The new strategic plan also includes five key goals:

Goal 1: Create a culture of excellence through an informed and competent workforce, in a welcoming and comfortable work environment.

Goal 2: Assure safe, secure, and reliable energy and telecommunications service and infrastructure.

Goal 3: Assure accessible and affordable utility services through regulatory oversight.

Goal 4: Cultivate open and diverse communication and education within the organization and externally to stakeholders, customers and the general public.

Goal 5: Empower customers to make informed choices to meet their energy and telecommunications needs.

This plan reflects input from dozens of MPSC Staff members, and I want to particularly thank Cathy Cole, Mike Byrne, and Amy Rittenhouse for their efforts in getting it across the finish line.

Third, Michigan House Speaker Wentworth this morning announced the Representatives who will Chair the various House legislative committees for the upcoming term and includes Representative Bellino continuing his service as House Energy Committee Chair, Representative Hoitinga continuing to serve as House Communications and Technology Committee Chair, and Representative Yarocho continuing to serve as the Appropriations Subcommittee Chair with oversight for the MPSC budget. We’ve enjoyed a constructive and positive relationship with each of these Representatives over the past two years, and I’m excited to continue to work with them and their Committee members over the course of this legislative session.

Next, I want to recognize Commission Phillips, who has been named Co-Vice Chair of the NARUC Committee on Telecommunications. We in Michigan benefit from Commissioner Phillips’s expertise and passion for telecommunication issues, and I continue to thank him for also taking on a national leadership role, both in this Committee work and through his service on the NARUC Broadband Expansion Task Force.

And finally, last but certainly not least, I want to formally welcome Commissioner Katherine Peretick to her first official meeting as a member of the Michigan Public Service Commission. Commissioner Peretick joined the Commission on January 4 after nearly a decade in the energy storage industry and global leadership roles with energy industry leaders and even time spent with NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Not surprisingly she has hit the ground running, and we’re excited to welcome her aboard!”

Commissioner Peretick commented:

“I am really excited to join the Commission and have the opportunity to work with Chair Scripps, Commissioner Phillips, and all of the staff at the Public Service Commission to work for safe, reliable, and affordable energy and telecom services for the state.”

A recording of the proceedings of the January 21, 2021 meeting is archived at:

[https://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,9535,7-395-93307\\_93316\\_93317\\_93875---Y,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,9535,7-395-93307_93316_93317_93875---Y,00.html) .

Chair Scripps announced that the next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission adjourn, Commissioner Peretick seconded.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Phillips, Peretick  
Nays – None

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

---

Lisa Felice  
Executive Secretary