

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HELD IN ITS OFFICES AND AVAILABLE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCING ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2021.

Commission Chair Daniel C. Scripps called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.
Executive Secretary Lisa Felice called the roll and declared there was a quorum.

PRESENT

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

Staff: Jana Bachman
Lisa Felice
Barbara Kunkel
Taylor Becker
Al Freeman
Paul Ausum
Kyle Daymon
Ben Johnson
Teresa McKay
Lucy Clay
Drew Simon

Public : Valerie Brader, Rivenoak
Heidi Myers, Consumers Energy
Gary Melow, MI Biomass
Yvette Collins, AT&T

Additional Staff & Public Attending Telephonically/Video Conferencing: 211 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 Special Commission Meeting of August 25, 2021, Commissioner Peretick seconded.

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

The minutes were approved.

III. CONSENTED ORDERS

A. COMMUNICATIONS

1. U-15334 IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN AT&T MICHIGAN AND INTRADO COMMUNICATIONS, LLC, f/k/a WEST TELECOM SERVICES, LLC
(fifth amendment)
2. U-18103 IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN AT&T MICHIGAN AND ATT&T CORP. AND TELEPORT COMMUNICATIONS AMERICA, LLC
(third amendment)
3. U-18348 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ASSIST WIRELESS, INC. FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER PURSUANT TO SECTION 214(e)(2) OF THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934
(request to voluntarily surrender license/final order)
4. U-21112 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF THEODORE HELD AND BARBRA HELD AGAINST AT&T/AMERITECH
(request to withdraw/final order)

B. ELECTRIC

1. U-20532 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY FOR RECONCILIATION OF ITS POWER SUPPLY COST RECOVERY PLAN (CASE NO. U-20531) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 2020
(proposed settlement agreement)
2. U-20534 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF UPPER MICHIGAN ENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION FOR RECONCILIATION OF ITS POWER SUPPLY COST RECOVERY PLAN (CASE NO. U-

20533) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020
(proposed settlement agreement)

3. U-20869 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, REGARDING THE REGULATORY REVIEWS, REVISIONS, DETERMINATIONS, AND/OR APPROVALS NECESSARY FOR UPPER PENINSULA POWER COMPANY TO FULLY COMPLY WITH PUBLIC ACT 295 OF 2008, AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC ACT 342 OF 2016
(energy waste reduction reconciliation/proposed settlement agreement)
4. U-20934 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF ROBERT AND CAROLYN PUTT AGAINST CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY
(request to withdraw/final order)
5. MINUTE ACTION APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE KATHERINE E. TALBOT
6. MINUTE ACTION PJM INTERCONNECTION, L.L.C.’S REVISIONS TO ITS APPLICATION OF THE MINIMUM OFFER PRICE RULE
(FERC Docket No. ER21-2582)

C. GAS

1. U-20814 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF A GAS COST RECOVERY PLAN AND AUTHORIZATION OF GAS COST RECOVERY FACTORS FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31, 2022
(proposed settlement agreement)
2. U-20872 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MICHIGAN GAS UTILITIES CORPORATION FOR AUTHORITY TO RECONCILE ITS 2020 ENERGY WASTE REDUCTION COSTS AND REVENUES
(proposed settlement agreement)

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

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

The 10 orders and 2 minute actions were adopted.

IV. OTHER ORDERS

A. COMMUNICATIONS

1. U-17126 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF AIR VOICE WIRELESS, LLC, d/b/a FEELSAFE WIRELESS, FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER ON A WIRELESS BASIS (LOW-INCOME ONLY)
(final order)

Case No. U-17126 involves an application filed on August 10, 2021, by Air Voice Wireless, LLC, d/b/a Feelsafe Wireless, to expand the exchange areas of its eligible telecommunications carrier designation. The order before you grants the application. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 9, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

2. U-20980 IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF EXTENET SYSTEMS, INC. TO INITIATE A PROCEEDING FOR THE COMMISSION TO ISSUE AND MAKE EFFECTIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING MICHIGAN’S REGULATORY AUTHORITY OVER WIRELESS POLE ATTACHMENTS
(final order)

Case No. U-20980 involves a petition filed by ExteNet Systems, Inc., to initiate a proceeding for the Commission to issue and make effective rules and regulations implementing Michigan’s regulatory authority over wireless pole attachments. The order before you finds that the Commission’s current interpretation of the terms “attaching party” and “utility” remain in effect and directs the Commission Staff to communicate with the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules to ensure that pole attachment complaints are resolved within 180 days. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 9, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

Commissioner Phillips commented:

“The order this afternoon is in response to a petition from ExteNet Systems Inc. requesting the Commission clarify its rules and regulations for utility pole attachments, in particular, the attachment of wireless communications equipment. On May 13th of this year, the Commission initially responded to ExteNet’s petition by opening this docket, U-20980, and requested that interested persons provide comments and responses to a set of questions related to the Commission’s regulatory jurisdiction and process for addressing pole attachment proceedings. The Commission subsequently received responses from 13 commenters in the telecommunications and electric utility industries.

The Commission thanks and greatly appreciates recommendations and best practices provided in the responses by commenters in this docket.

The order for our consideration this afternoon agrees with the position of many commenters and clarifies that Section 6g of MCL 460 applies to wireless attachments, therefore, the Commission’s authority to ensure that rates, terms and conditions between attaching parties and utility pole owners are just and reasonable extends to attachment of wireless equipment. The Commission in this order, however, declines to reexamine or expand the meaning of “attaching party” or “utility” as defined by previous Commission orders and precedent.

Furthermore, the order encourages Administrative Law Judges presiding over pole attachment complaints and disputes to employ procedural flexibility to ensure that such cases are in compliance with the 180-day timeline for resolution of pole attachment disputes contained in the federal Pole Attachment Act.

Lastly, at this time, the Commission declines to adopt the additional recommendations and guidance provided by commenters, but given the ongoing advancement of telecommunications technologies and business models as well as the increased integration and interdependence between energy and telecommunications infrastructure and services, the Commission reserves the opportunity in the future to address concerns and recommendations expressed by commenters in this docket or brought to the attention of the Commission through a contested case or complaint.”

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

The order was adopted.

3. U-21034 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF SPECTROTEL OF THE MIDWEST LLC FOR A TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT LICENSE TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF MICHIGAN IN THE ZONES AND EXCHANGES SERVED BY FRONTIER NORTH INC., FRONTIER MIDSTATES INC., AT&T MICHIGAN, CENTURYTEL OF MICHIGAN, INC. d/b/a CENTURYLINK AND FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS OF MICHIGAN, INC.
(final order)

Case No. U-21034 involves an application, as amended, filed by Spectrotel of the Midwest LLC for temporary and permanent licenses to provide basic local exchange service in the zone and exchange areas in which Frontier North Inc., Frontier Midstates Inc., AT&T Michigan, CenturyTel of Michigan, Inc., d/b/a CenturyLink, and Frontier Communications of Michigan, Inc. are the incumbent local exchange carriers. The order before you approves the application for a permanent license. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 9, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

4. U-21078 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, TO RE-ADOPT RULES REQUIRED BY MCL 484.2202(1)(c)(ii) (rulemaking/public hearing announcement)

Case No. U-21078 involves the proposed re-adoption of rules for the provision of unbundled network elements and local interconnection services. The order before you approves the schedule for a public hearing and for the filing of written comments on the proposed re-adoption. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 9, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

5. U-21079 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, TO PROMULGATE RULES REQUIRED BY MCL 484.2202(1)(c)(iii) (rulemaking/public hearing announcement)

Case No. U-21079 involves the proposed repromulgation of rules for the provision of basic local exchange service customer migration. The order before you approves the schedule for a public hearing and the receipt of written comments on the proposed repromulgation. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 9, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Phillips, Peretick

Nays – None

The order was adopted.

B. ELECTRIC

1. U-20165 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF ITS INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN PURSUANT TO MCL 460.6t AND FOR OTHER RELIEF
(*ex parte*/proposed power purchase agreement with Heathlands Solar, LLC)

Case No. U-20165 involves an application from Consumers Energy Company for *ex parte* approval of a power purchase agreement. The order before you approves the application. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 9, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

2. U-20604 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS
(*ex parte*/proposed power purchase agreement with Crystal Flash Renewable, LLC)

Case No. U-20604 involves an application filed by Consumers Energy Company requesting *ex parte* approval of a power purchase agreement. The order before you approves the application. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 9, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

3. U-20632 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, TO COMMENCE A COLLABORATIVE TO CONSIDER ISSUES RELATED TO UTILITY CURTAILMENT PROCEDURES

(Natural Gas Curtailment Procedures Workgroup Report/interim order)

Case No. U-20632 involves a matter, on the Commission’s own motion, regarding issues related to utility service curtailment procedures. The order before you accepts the Workgroup Report filed in the docket; adopts recommendations therein, as set forth and modified in the order; and requires the Commission Staff to file a status report no later than –September 30, 2022. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 9, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

Chair Scripps commented:

“Before we vote, I have just a couple of quick comments on the order before us. First, I want to thank our Commission Staff for their work in developing the Workgroup Report, and certainly to the utility and other stakeholders for their participation in the workgroup that led to that report. This has been a core priority of the Commission since the Statewide Energy Assessment certainly, and you’ll hear more about that effort later in today’s agenda.

The recommendations adopted in today’s order will add greater clarity in the prioritization when the same molecule of natural gas is needed for both electric generation and heating Michigan homes and our industrial processes, and additional certainty in respect to how we respond in energy emergencies, including communication protocols to make sure we’re all on the same page.

I think a lot of good work has gone into the workgroup processes, the development of the Report, and ultimately the enactment of these recommendations, and brings us an important step closer to adding certainty and protections for Michigan residents and businesses in the case of energy emergencies.”

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

The order was adopted.

4. 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 (interim order)

Commission Staff Jesse Harlow, Energy Resources Division, presented a brief synopsis of the case listed above. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 9, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

Commissioner Peretick commented:

“I’d like to first thank all the participants who were a part of the workgroup, and for all the constructive comments and discussion that resulted from this process – today is just a few days short of a year after the first Competitive Procurement Workgroup meeting held September 14 of last year.

I also would like to thank all the Staff here at the Commission who worked on this for their dedication to this Workgroup process, and their careful collaboration and a constructive effort throughout. I know this has been a long and time-intensive process for **all** parties involved, and the quality of the work can be clearly seen in the product to be adopted by this order.

I am personally encouraged by and excited about the steps these guidelines have taken to improve transparency and encourage cost effective solutions for electric ratepayers in Michigan.

Our job is to ensure our citizens are paying a fair price for their electric service, and one way to do this is through encouraging market competition in the procurement of new resources to meet our energy needs. As Mr. Harlow correctly pointed out, through these guidelines, we are striving to ensure a strong, technology-neutral market and provide value for ratepayers through transparency, non-discriminatory access, certainty, and fairness in procurement processes.

These guidelines effectively provide a fast track for approval when market competition is employed in resource procurement, encouraging cost-effective and high-value solutions for our grid, and improving efficiency of the regulatory process.

I look forward to seeing the implementation of these guidelines, as well as future modification and improvements to them as feedback is received as a result of forthcoming solicitations.
Thank you.”

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

The order was adopted.

5. U-20890 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, TO PROMULGATE RULES GOVERNING ELECTRIC INTERCONNECTION AND DISTRIBUTED GENERATION AND TO RESCIND LEGACY INTERCONNECTION AND NET METERING RULES
(rulemaking/public hearing announcement)

Case No. U-20890 involves a matter, on the Commission’s own motion, to promulgate rules governing electric interconnection and distributed generation, and rescind legacy net metering rules. The order before you provides notice of the opportunity to comment on the proposed actions at a public hearing and through the submission of written comments. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 9, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

Chair Scripps commented:

“Before we vote I just want to note that while the order before us is the beginning of the formal rulemaking process, it’s also an important step in the process of modernizing our interconnection and distributed generation rules that includes years of effort. In the previous case comments, Commissioner Peretick you noted that the competitive bidding order was the result of one year of effort, and I’m not actually sure how many years of effort have gone into these interconnection rules, but I do know that it will predate my joining the Commission in February 2019, and these rules, and the development of the updates for which we are starting the formal process being initiated today, were a foundational element of the MI Power Grid initiative launched in October of that year.

I particularly want to recognize Julie Baldwin, the manager of our Renewable Energy Section, as well as Nick Evans, the manager of our Electric Operations Section, and their teams, who have put in countless hours to the product that’s in front of us today, and I also want to thank the many, many stakeholders – representing the utilities, clean energy companies, environmental groups, residential and industrial users, as well as other subject matter experts from the national laboratories and other groups – who have contributed their expertise and their time and their passion to the rules that we start the formal process of updating today.

So today begins the formal process, and it will include opportunities for further refinement, further input, and further improvement, and I look forward to moving through this formal process in a timely manner and getting these well-overdue updates in place for our interconnection and distributed generation rules, and again, thank all who have contributed to getting us to this important milestone.”

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

The order was adopted.

6. U-20984 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO AMEND ITS RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN (proposed settlement agreement)

Case No. U-20984 involves an application filed by Consumers Energy Company requesting authority to amend its renewable energy plan. The order before you approves a settlement agreement resolving all matters in the case. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 9, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

7. U-21116 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, DIRECTING CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY TO SHOW CAUSE WHY IT SHOULD NOT BE FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION OF MCL 460.10ee(2), COMMISSION ORDERS, AND MICH ADMIN CODE, R 460.10105 (show cause/interim order)

Case No. U-21116 involves a matter, on the Commission’s own motion, initiating an action to require Consumers Energy Company to show cause why it should not be found in violation of MCL 460.10ee(2), as well as Commission orders and regulations. The order before you directs Consumers Energy Company to appear at a prehearing conference before an administrative law judge and to pre-file testimony and evidence. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 9, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

8. U-21117 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, COMMENCING A COLLABORATIVE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRIC UTILITY INTERCONNECTION PROCEDURES (interim order)

Case No. U-21117 involves a matter, on the Commission’s own motion, commencing a collaborative addressing the development of electric utility interconnection procedures. The order before you directs affected electric utilities and member-regulated electric cooperatives to provide draft interconnection procedures documents to the Commission Staff no later than January 18, 2022, and sets two stakeholder meetings. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 9, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

C. GAS

1. U-20718 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MICHIGAN GAS UTILITIES CORPORATION FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE NATURAL GAS RATES AND FOR OTHER RELIEF (proposed settlement agreement)

Commission Staff Cindy Creisher, Energy Operations Division, presented a brief synopsis of the case listed above. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 9, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

Chair Scripps commented:

“Before we vote, I also want to take the opportunity to thank Ms. Creisher for her presentation, and for the work that she and other members of our Staff, Michigan Gas Utilities, and the other intervening parties put in to reaching this settlement. I think the settlement before us today represents a balanced approach to resolving the issues involved, allows for continued investment in MGU’s infrastructure while maintaining affordability for customers, and in particular provides additional assistance to customers who may be struggling with their utility bills. I appreciate the work that went in to arriving at the settlement agreement before us today, and again, thank all parties involved.”

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

The order was adopted.

2. U-21091 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF LAMBDA GATHERING LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE CONVERSION AND OPERATION OF THE LAMBDA GATHERING WET HEADER, RANGING FROM MANISTEE COUNTY IN THE SOUTHEAST TO PRESQUE ISLE COUNTY IN THE NORTHEAST, TO PROVIDE CONTINUING WET NATURAL GAS SERVICE IN MICHIGAN’S ANTRIM SHALE AND NIAGARAN FORMATIONS, SEEKING *EX PARTE* RELIEF (proposed settlement agreement)

Case No. U-21091 involves an application filed by Lambda Gathering LLC requesting a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the operation of the Lambda Gathering Wet Header pipeline. The order before you approves a settlement agreement resolving all issues in the case and makes the required agency findings regarding the project’s environmental impact. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 9, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

Chair Scripps commented:

“Again, and I’ll keep this brief. I appreciate the efforts involved by all parties in arriving at the settlement agreement before us today. Combined with our decision in Case No. U-20894 in July to approve the petition from DTE Michigan Lateral Company to convert existing natural gas gathering pipelines, the settlement before us today represents a comprehensive approach that balances the interests of the companies involved, ensures continued access to markets by oil and gas companies, and most importantly, ensures greater reliability and resilience for natural gas customers in northern lower Michigan. I appreciate the work from Lambda Gathering LLC, our Commission Staff, and other stakeholders, and think this represents a solid path forward for northern lower Michigan.”

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Phillips, Peretick

Nays – None

The order was adopted.

V. UPDATE REGARDING THE MICHIGAN 2019 STATEWIDE ENERGY ASSESSMENT

Commission Staff Taylor Becker, Energy Operations Division, presented a synopsis of the update.

Chair Scripps commented:

“I start by saying I agree with everything my colleagues have said. Marking this date also has me reflecting – I remember where I was, distinctly, when I got the State Police emergency alert on my phone. I think most of us do. Later that week I got the call from the Governor asking me to join the Commission. So, in some ways my story with the Commission has been just as wrapped up with the development of the Assessment and its implementation, which is really remarkable now more than two years later.

We issue a lot of reports, and we see a lot of reports issued by others, but this is the one that I keep next to my desk at all times because I continue to rely on it and refer to it on a regular basis. The work that went into the report – the initial report, issued in September 2019, which was more than 200 pages and included more than 50 recommendations all told – that alone would be impressive enough. But of course, that’s not the culture of this Commission. I really want to commend the Staff in particular for following through on these recommendations.

It’s one thing to produce a comprehensive snapshot of where we are and what our energy systems are facing. It’s another thing altogether to take each of those 50-plus recommendations and observations, boil them down into what needs to be done – often in consultation with the regional grid operators or with other departments in state government – and see them through, involving a list of workgroups and additional reports and the rulemakings and everything else that underpins that, and to continue to focus on implementation, day after day, for two years now is a testament to the diligence of our Staff, but also to the culture of actual implementation. It’s not just enough to study it, we’ve got to move forward and provide real results to the people that we serve.

We started with a big goal: how do we keep our eyes on the prize of increased reliability and resilience, making sure that we're doing all that we can to reduce the risks where we can that are facing our electric natural gas, and propane systems? But the angels are in the details, and that's really where the real work begins, and this is an incredibly impressive effort.

Mr. Becker spoke for 20 minutes today, at a very high level, going through the recommendations and our response one after another after another, and I think had we given you 40 minutes, or an hour, or six hours, we could still be going in terms of the details that support each of the bullet points in each of the boxes in the presentation. And that, I think, is really is going to be what matters in the long run. As Commissioner Phillips said, we've seen this play out in Louisiana and Mississippi recently, and along the East Coast. We've seen it in California with the wildfires, with the winter storms this winter. And we in some ways got a head start on that. We were forced to. Ours is a success story. Our systems ultimately at the end of the day continued to keep the lights on and our homes warm. But we were pressed. I think it is really remarkable that we took that opportunity to do the deep dive, to come up with the recommendations, and then, most importantly of all, over the last two years focused one after another on implementing them, and I think that puts us in a much better place going forward for whatever the future holds."

Commissioner Peretick commented:

"Big thanks to all the staff who have performed this incredible amount of work over the past 2 years. As Mr. Becker described, this work stemmed from a series of weather and energy emergencies that I'm sure many of us remember vividly and has spurred over 50 recommendations and observations that the capable commission staff has been executing on ever since. As you have just seen, the quantity and quality of the work on this Statewide Energy Assessment is vastly impressive.

It is also deeply important for the future of our energy infrastructure and the integrity of our energy production and distribution systems as we continue to see the amplified effects of our changing climate. Each of the 5 sectors focused on by the SEA have grown even more important over the past 2 years, including energy emergency management and cyber and physical security. I'm looking forward to seeing the continued work on this and the improvements to our reliability and resiliency – and importantly safety – that we will see as a result."

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Valerie Brader, Lambda Gathering, LLC thanked MPSC staff for their efforts on the SEA and in the docket for Case No. U-20632. She also thanked ITC, Consumers Energy, private landowners, and customers for the ability to implement this solution as soon as possible.

Chair Scripps announced:

"First, the Commission has scheduled two public hearings - one in person, the other to be held virtually – where we will take public input on Consumers Energy Company's integrated resource plan, or IRP, which outlines the utility's plans for delivering electricity to its residential and business customers in Michigan.

The purpose of the hearings is for the MPSC to hear public comment on Consumers' long-range forecasts for ensuring reliable service over the next 20 years, including specific requirements for reporting 5-, 10- and 15-year projections. These IRPs were established under Michigan's 2016 energy laws and are required for each electric utility whose rates are regulated by the MPSC.

We have set the in-person hearing to take place on Thursday, Sept. 30, 4-7 p.m. at Saginaw Valley State University's Ott Auditorium in Gilbertson Hall, 7400 Bay Road in Saginaw. The virtual public hearing will take place the following week by videoconference and phone. The virtual public hearing is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 4, 6-8 p.m. There are additional details on website, as well as the case number for those who would like to submit emailed public comments, which are, of course, always welcome.

Second, I wanted to highlight that Wednesday, September 15 marks the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Month which is celebrated nationwide from September 15 to October 15 each year. It traditionally honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans as we celebrate heritage rooted in all Latin American countries. During this month and throughout the year, the Commission shares history, heritage, and accomplishments of Hispanic and Latino Americans of past and present, and we're looking forward to celebrating this year.

Finally, I wanted to offer my congratulations to the Chairman of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia, Chairman Willie Phillips, on his nomination by President Biden announced earlier today to serve on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Chairman Phillips has been active not just with the DC PSC, but also with the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, or MACRUC, where he previously served as president, as well as with NARUC, our national association, where we serve together on the Board of Directors and where Chairman Phillips has also led the Select Committee on Regulatory and Industry Diversity, as well as his engagement with a number of other organizations. I think it's important that Chairman Phillips as the nominee, has state PUC experience, and I'm confident that he will bring that with him in his new role, and again, I want to congratulate Chairman Phillips on his appointment."

A recording of the proceedings of the September 9, 2021 meeting is archived at: 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 Friday, September 24, 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 2:46 p.m.

Lisa Felice
Executive Secretary