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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HELD IN ITS OFFICES AND AVAILABLE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCING ON OCTOBER 13, 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
Tremaine L. Phillips, Commissioner
Katherine Peretick, Commissioner

Staff: Blair Renfro
Lisa Felice
Lynn Beck
Kyle Daymon
Barbara Kunkel
Al Freeman
Paul Ausum
Anne Armstrong
Mike Byrne

Public: Heidi Myers, Consumers Energy
Mike Torrey, Consumers Energy

Additional Staff & Public Attending Telephonically/Video Conferencing: 77 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 September 24, 2021, Commissioner Peretick seconded.

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

The minutes were approved.

III. CONSENTED ORDERS

A. COMMUNICATIONS

1. U-16997 IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEERFIELD FARMERS TELEPHONE COMPANY AND MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY d/b/a AT&T MICHIGAN (seventh amendment)
2. MINUTE ACTION AT&T MICHIGAN (9-1-1 wireless, U-14000, invoice no. 517 R41-0001 067 9 dated September 1, 2021 revised September 27, 2021)
3. MINUTE ACTION FRONTIER WIRELESS (9-1-1 wireless, U-14000, invoice nos. MI9NGMTS9110929 and MI9NZMTS9110929 dated September 29, 2021)
4. MINUTE ACTION PENINSULA FIBER NETWORK NEXT GENERATION SERVICES, LLC (9-1-1 wireless, U-14000, invoice no. 50018683 dated September 1, 2021)

B. ELECTRIC

1. U-20796 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF SUNWAVE USA HOLDINGS INC. FOR A LICENSE AS AN ALTERNATIVE ELECTRIC SUPPLIER (request to voluntarily surrender license)
U-20843 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, REGARDING THE REGULATORY REVIEWS, DETERMINATIONS, AND/OR APPROVALS NECESSARY FOR SUNWAVE USA HOLDINGS, INC. TO FULLY COMPLY WITH PUBLIC ACT 295 OF 2008, AS AMENDED BY 2016 PA 342
2. U-20865 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 ACT 295 OF 2008 (energy waste reduction/proposed settlement agreement)
3. MINUTE ACTION MIDCONTINENT INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR, INC., TARIFF REVISIONS ADDRESSING THE APPLICABILITY OF VALUE OF LOST LOAD PRICING DURING EMERGENCY EVENTS (FERC Docket No. ER21-2801-000)

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 3 orders and 4 minute actions were adopted.

IV. OTHER ORDERS

A. ELECTRIC

1. U-20220 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMER ENERGY COMPANY FOR RECONCILIATION OF ITS POWER SUPPLY COST RECOVERY PLAN (CASE NO. U-20219) FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019
(final order)

Case No. U-20220 involves an application filed by Consumers Energy Company for reconciliation of power supply cost recovery expenses and revenues for calendar year 2019. The order before you approves the application, as modified by the order. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its October 13, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

2. U-21094 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ALPENA POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS
(*ex parte*/proposed power purchase agreements with Thunder Bay Power Company)

Case No. U-21094 involves an application filed by Alpena Power Company requesting *ex parte* approval of an amendment to three power purchase agreements. The order before you approves the application. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its October 13, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

3. U-21121 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A WISCONSIN CORPORATION, FOR APPROVAL OF REVISED DEPRECIATION RATES
(*ex parte*/final order)

Case No. U-21121 involves an application filed by Northern States Power Company requesting *ex parte* approval of revised depreciation rates. The order before you approves the application. Commissioner Phillips moved that the Commission approve the order at its October 13, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Peretick seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

V. MI POWER GRID STATUS REPORT

Commission Staff Lynn Beck, Strategic Operations Division, presented the 2-year update on the MI Power Grid efforts.

Chair Scripps commented:

“This is an incredibly exciting time in the energy space and the changes that we are seeing take place driven by customer preferences, technological advancement, price declines, and data. It is, at times, feels like the ground is shifting beneath our feet and I think there’s a responsibility for us as Sstate energy and telecommunications regulators to make sure that our regulatory framework is keeping up with the changes taking place in the private sector and really maximizing the benefits of this transition for Michigan residents and businesses.

When we started this process, Paul Proudfoot, who is the head our of Energy Resources Division, made a comparison to the bus and who’s driving the bus of all this change, and I don’t think it’s the Commission. I think we are responding to changes that are being driven, in large part, by customers, technology, and economics. To stretch the analogy still further, it’s also important that we are not run over by the bus and that Michigan is not run over by the bus. I think that has really been the focus and the lens through which we have looked at a lot of the work that has taken place over the last two years, the work ahead of us in the next year, and beyond. What I think is exciting is that the bus may actually be a Ford F-150 Lightning pickup truck.

In terms of vehicle to home and the changing nature of how customers interact with a grid that for the first hundred years of the power sector was really one directional and increasingly is bi-directional and networked. That is really exciting.

Ms. Beck mentioned the hundreds of stakeholders, 350 different organizations, with 10 stakeholder forums, the reports, and the meetings that have taken place, and I absolutely echo that. From the utilities to NGOs, to customer groups. We are better for the participation and the expertise that has been brought to the Commission from all corners of the energy discussion.

I'd be remiss if I did not also thank (this is dangerous because there have been so many staff people who have been involved in this effort) the staff who have really led in many ways - Julie Baldwin, Nick Evans, Charyl Kirkland, Taylor Becker, Brian Sheldon, Pat Poli, Joy Wang, Naomi Simpson, Al Freeman, Sarah Mulkoff, Zack Heidemann, Roger Doherty, Pat Hudson, Kayla Gibbs, Lauren Fromm, Erik Hanser, Jesse Harlow, Anne Armstrong, Nick Revere, Kevin Krause, Anna Stirling, Elaina Braunschweig, as well as our Commission advisors and attorneys who have been active and particularly, Lynn Beck and Mike Byrne, our Chief Operating Officer and Cathy Cole, the head of Strategic Operations, for really helping with the facilitation, keeping the whole thing organized, and trains running (just to use another transportation analogy), and my colleagues, Commissioner Phillips, Commissioner Peretick, and certainly former Chair Talberg, who have really led and help to lend their passion, expertise, and backgrounds to this effort, as well.

I do not know what the future holds, but I do know that we are better prepared for the efforts that we've gone through and, in many ways, with the focus on action, not just studying this, not just creating reports, but how do we implement the recommendations? How do we continue to evolve the regulatory framework here in Michigan? We are creating a model that I hope is both good for Michigan and replicable elsewhere."

Commissioner Phillips commented:

"I wanted to see how much further you would go with those analogies. I want to thank Ms. Beck, Ms. Cole, as well as Mr. Burn for continuing to be air traffic controllers and to ensure the progress of the initiative, despite transitions in the Commission, and all of the challenges related to the pandemic. Similar to the comments that I made during our most recent update in regards to the Statewide Energy Assessment, I think what we are doing here and the ethos that this Commission has continued to project is one of being proactive, as opposed to being reactive. Certainly, what we have seen in terms of the learnings, and the recommendations, and the Commission orders related to some of the work of the MI Power Grid initiative, we continue to be ahead and continue to be responsive to the many changes that are happening in regards to new technologies and economic developments across our country as it relates to the energy transition.

Again, I would like to thank all of the staff, and the stakeholders that have participated over the last two years. I think you would be hard-pressed to find any initiative or stakeholder effort in State government that is as expansive as what we have engaged here in regards to the MI Power Grid initiative. That is something that should certainly be celebrated. I hope the ethos of being proactive as opposed to reactive is what we are doing in regards to looking at the impacts of climate change and some of our recent orders and efforts around reliability and resilience, as well.

Thank you, once again, for the presentation and for staff for their continued efforts.”

Commissioner Peretick commented:

“This all started well before I joined the Commission and have been even more impressed seeing this effort from the inside. Sincere thank you to all of the many Commission staff members who participated in the MI Power Grid work that was detailed by Ms. Beck in the presentation. As you saw from the presentation, there has been a huge amount of progress and accomplishments achieved. MI Power Grid has resulted in real results from contributions of many stakeholders, not just reports that will sit in an inbox. I have been impressed with the quality of work done, and genuinely look forward to the results of the remaining work that is forthcoming.”

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Peretick announced:

“I would like to note that the Commission is hosting a two-day technical conference on emergency preparedness, distribution reliability, and storm response virtually on October 22 and November 5, as ordered during the August 25 commission meeting in Order U-21122.

We expect this two-part conference to update and inform the commissioners, commission staff, and interested stakeholders on the current state of emergency preparedness, distribution reliability, and storm response, discuss the scale and degree of improvements required, and explore ideas for how to achieve these improvements all while maintaining a focus on environmental justice, equity, and cost.

We reviewed the public input into the docket for topics and solutions for discussion at this conference and will post an official agenda based on this input shortly.

Day 1 of the virtual technical conference will be held on October 22 and will begin with presentations from Commission Staff and national experts to ground us in the data. Then we will hear from utility representatives on their current status and existing plans. The final topic for day 1 will be on the customer and community impact, and we will hear how the current system work for our communities. Representatives from the Citizens Utility Board, Michigan State Police, and leaders of two hard-hit communities, Farmington Hills and Plainfield Township, will discuss on a panel how electric reliability affects their residents.

Day 2 on November 5 will focus on identifying the gaps in electric reliability, storm response, and emergency preparedness, and then discuss solutions for addressing these gaps. National experts, researchers from universities, local advocate organizations, and neighboring commissions will all be present to speak to these topics.

We expect there to be good presentation, ideas, and discussion, and we encourage anyone interested to join us virtually.”

Commissioner Phillips announced:

“As Ms. Beck mentioned, the MI Power Grid energy programs and technology pilots work group on October 11th, released the Michigan Pilots Directory. I wanted to thank Dr. Joy Wang, as well as Charlie Tidwell, and others from our IT team, to help bring this resource to life. We have not done extensive research on this, but as far as we know at the Commission, this is the first such directory of utility pilots by a public utilities commission to be released to the public. Certainly, we want this to be a resource that is developed over time and improved upon and have this be a resource, not only to our staff and stakeholders, but to the general public at-large. I encourage folks to utilize that resource, as well as provide feedback on how we can improve upon that resource.

Lastly, since I will note that our next Commission Meeting is on November 4th, I want to ensure that everyone has a Happy Halloween and Go GREEN.”

Chair Scripps announced:

“This is a reminder that starting October 24th (a little less than two weeks), folks living in the 616, 810, 989, and 906 area codes will need to begin ten-digit dialing – dialing the area code plus the phone number to make calls. This is in anticipation of the rollout of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline next July. Folks can start dialing 988 and be directly connected to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. In advance of that, because 988 is a prefix for phone numbers in the 616, 810, 989, and 906 area codes, the switch to 10-digit dialing will take place on October 24th. I will also note that even in advance of the 9-8-8 line going live next year for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, those who are seeking help and are struggling and need someone to talk to, there is actually a line that is available today. It is 800-273-TALK or 800-273-8255. There is probably not a person here who has not been touched directly by suicide. For anybody who’s watching this Commission Meeting who needs someone to talk to it is 800-273-TALK. That goes today and then next year it will be 9-8-8. That will be a direct line to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Starting October 24th, 10-digit dialing if you are in the 616, 810, 989, or 906 area codes.”

A recording of the proceedings of the October 13, 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 Thursday November 4, 2021 at 1:00 p.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 2:09 p.m.

Lisa Felice
Executive Secretary