

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 24, 2023.

Commission Chair Daniel C. Scripps called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
Executive Secretary Lisa Felice called the roll and declared there was a quorum.

PRESENT

Commission: Daniel C. Scripps, Chair
Katherine Peretick, Commissioner
Alessandra Carreon, Commissioner

Staff: Jana Bachman
Matt Helms
Lisa Felice
Chris Forist
Anne Armstrong
Dave Isakson
Amy Rittenhouse
Nora Quilico
Dave Chislea
Al Freeman
Roger Doherty
Cathy Cole
Sarah Mullkoff
Roberta Marks
Sally Wallace
Blair Renfro
Ryan Wilson
Jake Thelen
Andy Hannum
Lori Mayabb
Sharon Feldman
Alissa Day
Nick Evans
Katherine Talbot
Jill Rusnak
Paul Proudfoot
Kyle Damon
Jon Thoits
Danielle Rogers
Meaghan Dobie
Lauren Fromm
Karsten Szajner

Anna Stirling
Nick Revere
Jennifer Brooks
Reka Holley
Linda Brauker
Alena Clark
Wendy Cadwell

Public: Kelly Hall, Consumers Energy
Heidi Myers, Consumers Energy
John Pung
Coreen Strzalka
Martha Kenyon
Karol Sanborn

Additional Staff & Public Attending Telephonically/Video Conferencing: 262 Participants

- I.** Commissioner Peretick moved to approve today’s agenda, Commissioner Carreon seconded.

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

The agenda was approved.

- II.** Commissioner Peretick moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting of October 12, 2023, Commissioner Carreon seconded.

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

The minutes were approved.

III. CONSENTED ORDERS

A. COMMUNICATIONS

1. U-21478 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NGA 911, L.L.C. FOR A TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT LICENSE TO PROVIDE BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF MICHIGAN
(interim order)

Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order on the consent agenda. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

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

The 1 order was adopted.

IV. OTHER ORDERS

A. ELECTRIC

1. U-18425 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH STS HYDROPOWER, LTD.
(*ex parte*/final order)

Case No. U-18425 involves an application from Consumers Energy Company for *ex parte* approval of a new power purchase agreement with STS Hydropower, LLC for the output of the Ada Hydro Plant. The order before you approves the application. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its October 24, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

2. U-20147 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, TO OPEN A DOCKET FOR CERTAIN REGULATED ELECTRIC UTILITIES TO FILE THEIR DISTRIBUTION INVESTMENT AND MAINTENANCE PLANS AND FOR OTHER RELATED, UNCONTESTED MATTERS
(opportunity to comment on distribution plans/interim order)

Case No. U-20147 involves a matter, on the Commission's own motion, for certain regulated electric utilities to file their distribution investment and maintenance plans and for other related matters. The order before you establishes dates for the filing of comments on the most-recently filed distribution plans for Indiana Michigan Power Company, Consumers Energy Company, and DTE Electric Company. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission

approve the order at its October 24, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

Commissioner Peretick commented:

“I would just like to highlight the opportunity for public input on these 5-year electric distribution plans for DTE Electric, Consumers Energy, and Indiana Michigan Power in this order that is before us. We value the public’s input and would like to build a robust record on the plans that were submitted. The due dates for comments for each of the companies’ plans are staggered – I&M’s comments are due January 19th, Consumers Energy’s February 16th, and DTE’s March 15th. I look forward to hearing from all interested parties.”

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

The order was adopted.

3. U-21496 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DTE ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR ACCOUNTING APPROVAL TO ACCRUE AN ALLOWANCE FOR FUNDS USED DURING CONSTRUCTION ON CONSTRUCTION WORK IN PROGRESS FOR PROJECTS WITHIN ITS RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN
(*ex parte*/final order)

Case No. U-21496 involves an application filed by DTE Electric Company for *ex parte* approval to accrue an allowance for funds used during construction on construction work in progress for projects within the company’s renewable energy plan. The order before you approves the application. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its October 24, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

4. U-21502 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, TO REQUIRE CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY TO SHOW CAUSE WHY IT SHOULD NOT BE FOUND IN VIOLATION OF THE CONSUMER STANDARDS AND BILLING PRACTICES FOR ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS SERVICE, MICH ADMIN CODE, R 460.101 *ET SEQ.*, THE SERVICE QUALITY AND RELIABILITY STANDARDS FOR ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, MICH

ADMIN CODE, R 460.701 *ET SEQ.*, AND THE TECHNICAL
STANDARDS FOR GAS SERVICE, MICH ADMIN CODE, R 460.2301
ET SEQ.

(show cause order)

Commission Staff Jake Thelen, Customer Assistance Division, presented a brief synopsis of the case listed above. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its October 24, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

Commissioner Peretick commented:

“I would like to thank MPSC staff for their diligent work on this matter. A big thanks to Mr. Thelen and the whole Customer Assistance team who have investigated this and upheld the standards and rules that are in place to protect Michigan customers. I would also like to note the importance of public comment and complaints, and how critical public input has been to identifying and solving the issues addressed in this order. We learned of the multiple issues addressed here as a result of public comment at our town halls, informal questions and complaints to our Customer Assistance team, both in-person, over the phone, and through electronic means, and through the formal complaint process. Our Consumer Standards and Billing Practices and our Service Quality and Reliability Standards exist for a reason, and it is important that all our utilities in our state are meeting these standards. I look forward to resolving all the issues identified.”

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

The order was adopted.

V. Presentation on the Gas-Electric Harmonization (GEH) Forum by Robert W. Gee, Chair of the North American Energy Standards Board GEH Forum

Chair Scripps, Commissioner Peretick, and Commissioner Carreon participated in the Q&A segment of the presentation.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Coreen Strzalka read a letter that she submitted to ITC in Case No. U-21471 regarding installation of the proposed transmission line in Oneida Township.

Martha Kenyon, Eagle, provided comments regarding the alternate route transmission line proposed by ITC.

John Pung provided comments on behalf of his family farm regarding the proposed transmission line by ITC.

Karol Sanborn read a letter that her son wrote addressed to ITC and the proposed transmission line by ITC.

Commissioner Peretick announced:

“I wanted to notify folks of an upcoming grant opportunity. The Department of EGLE has recently released an RFP opportunity for funding under the IIJA Section 401010(d): "Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resiliency of the Electric Grid Formula Grants to States and Indian Tribes." The State of Michigan's formula allocation for this initial phase of a multi-year grant from the DOE, is \$16.3 million to be available to eligible entities- including investor owned, municipal, and cooperatively owned utilities. The program goals are to fund grid hardening efforts, such as tree trimming, technology upgrades, microgrid opportunities, and more. The response to the RFP is due to EGLE by November 17th. More information can be found on the "Grid Resiliency Funding Opportunities" page on EGLE's website. I encourage all utilities to consider innovative projects for funding to increase the resilience of Michigan's electric grid.”

Chair Scripps announced:

“The Department of Energy, through that Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships program, recently made a series of awards totaling (I think) \$3.4 billion across the country, including \$100 million to Consumers Energy and (I believe) \$22 million to DTE for work to improve the resilience of the grid, as well as some regional awards. Kudos to both of those companies for pursuing successfully that funding. We are excited to see you put it to work.

The last piece, I know that all three of us are pretty excited over the football results over the weekend. I am talking, of course, the Rice Owls winning 42-10 over Tulsa and my alma Scott’s winning 43-10 over Kalamazoo. Commissioner Peretick, I think your undergraduate institution did fairly well, as well.”

A recording of the proceedings of the October 24, 2023 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 9, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

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

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

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Lisa Felice
Executive Secretary