

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 26, 2024.

Commission Chair Daniel C. Scripps called the meeting to order at 1:04 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: Lisa Gold
Matt Helms
Lisa Felice
Blair Renfro
Jacob Martus
Al Freeman
Dolores Midkiff-Powell
Anne Armstrong
Elaina Braunschweig
Amy Rittenhouse
Dan Williams
Julie Baldwin
Nora Quilico
Lisa Kindschy
Corrie Schmidt-Parker
Ally Durfee
Jessica Duell
Teresa McKay
Charlie Tidwell
Andy Hannum
Ben Johnson
Kyle Daymon
Lauren Fromm
Jesse Harlow
Naomi Simpson
Karsten Szajner
Zach Heidemann
Lori Mayabb
Paul Proudfoot
Wanda Clavon-Jones
Roberta Marks
Mike Byrne

Public: Heidi Myers, Consumers Energy
Kelly Hall, Consumers Energy
Ray Stanczak

Additional Staff & Public Attending Telephonically/Video Conferencing: 272 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 September 5, 2024, Commissioner Carreon seconded.

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

The minutes were approved.

III. Presentation by The Liberty Consulting Group regarding the Final Report Utility Distribution Audits

John Antonuk, Co-founder, The Liberty Consulting Group presented an overview of the final audit report. Commissioner Peretick and Commissioner Carreon asked questions in which Mr. Antonuk provided answers to those questions.

IV. CONSENTED ORDERS

A. COMMUNICATIONS

1. U-21530 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ATOS PUBLIC SAFETY, LLC FOR TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT LICENSES TO PROVIDE BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE (request to withdraw application/ final order)

2. MINUTE ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER ANNUAL

- ACTION RECERTIFICATION FOR 2024
(U-21535)
- 3. MINUTE ACTION AT&T MICHIGAN
(9-1-1 wireless, U-14000, invoice no. 517 R41-0001 067 9, dated
September 1, 2024)
- 4. MINUTE ACTION PENINSULA FIBER NETWORK NEXT GENERATION SERVICES
LLC
(9-1-1 wireless, U-14000, invoice no. INV-1262, dated September 1,
2024)

B. ELECTRIC

- 1. U-21256 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ALPENA POWER
COMPANY FOR RECONCILIATION OF ITS POWER SUPPLY COST
RECOVERY PLAN (CASE NO. U-21255) FOR THE 12 MONTHS
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023
(proposed settlement agreement)
- 2. MINUTE ACTION TECHNICAL CONFERENCE REGARDING LARGE LOADS CO-
LOCATED AT GENERATING FACILITIES
(FERC Docket No. AD24-111-000)

C. GAS

- 1. U-21529 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DTE GAS COMPANY
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND
NECESSITY RELATIVE TO THE VILLAGE OF BUCKLEY,
WEXFORD TOWNSHIP, AND HANOVER TOWNSHIP IN
WEXFORD COUNTY, MICHIGAN
(Act 69/proposed settlement agreement)
- 2. U-21624 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF SEMCO ENERGY
GAS COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO EXTEND/AMEND ITS
MAIN REPLACEMENT PROGRAM AND INFRASTRUCTURE
RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND APPROVAL OF
NEW RELATED SURCHARGES
(proposed settlement agreement)

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

Chair Scripps commented:

“I did want to flag the order in consent agenda item # IV C.1. which involves a settlement agreement allowing DTE Gas to extend natural gas service to parts of Wexford County and particularly, the Village of Buckley. This comes out of awards made under the low carbon grant program last year where DTE was one of the recipients of these awards. The project is projected to provide customer savings to residential customers in the Village of Buckley of \$1,723 each year and also result in a 14% reduction of CO2 emissions in that area.

I just wanted to flag that it was one of the things connected with the grant that we provided last year and ultimately a settlement agreement that was entered into with DTE Gas and other participants in that case.”

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

The 4 orders and 4 minute actions were adopted.

V. OTHER ORDERS

A. COMMUNICATIONS

1. U-11830 IN THE MATTER OF AMERITECH MICHIGAN'S SUBMISSION ON PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS, REPORTING, AND BENCHMARKS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OCTOBER 2, 1998 ORDER IN CASE NO. U-11654
(request for extension/interim order)

Case No. U-11830 involves a request filed by AT&T Michigan for an extension of the approved performance measures and remedy plan. The order before you approves the extension. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 26, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

B. ELECTRIC

1. 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
(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, uncontested matters. The order before you follows the September 8, 2022 order in this docket, summarizing comments in response thereto; directs the Commission Staff to develop a protective order for use in the matter, with an opportunity for comment; schedules a comment period on a straw proposal for distribution investment and maintenance plan filing requirements moving forward; directs the Commission Staff to convene a collaborative session with interested persons following the comment period on the proposed filing requirements and for the Commission Staff to subsequently file a revised straw proposal if needed within 30 days following the collaborative session; and directs the Financial Incentives and Disincentives workgroup to evaluate potential appropriate metrics for distributed energy resources in the docket for Case No. U-21400. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 26, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

Commissioner Peretick commented:

“I’d first like to thank the large staff team that worked so hard on the review of these distribution plans and putting together the straw proposal that we are putting out for comment in this order, as well as all the intervening parties who participated with comments and analysis to make this process work. A special thanks goes to the Distribution Planning Section, including Tayler Becker, Kit Sabo, Anna Schiller, Li Szilagyi, and Paul Proudfoot.

This order carefully outlines how we think we can make the distribution planning process better for improving utility performance and planning into the future, including supporting details, alternatives analyses, climate risks, and many other metrics and improvements.

I’m optimistic that as a result of these distribution plans and the strong straw proposal put forward by Staff that, with the help of all commenters, we will strengthen our electric distribution system and address Michigan’s reliability challenges in an affordable way.”

Commissioner Carreon commented:

“The order we issue today marks a significant milestone that reflects years of engagement and analysis aimed at achieving our objectives for safety, reliability, resiliency, cost-effectiveness, affordability, and accessibility, and so I also want to thank all the parties involved for their contributions to this effort, with a special thanks to our Staff for their very thorough, thoughtful

review of many plans, comments, and supporting information, and their ability to forge connections and propose next steps to grant structure to what's been an iterative process.

I want to highlight three points from the order and the straw proposal Commissioner Peretick mentioned: 1) that distribution plans must align with other required planning efforts, 2) they must include meaningful input from third parties, and 3) they must adequately address affordability. The coordination with other planning efforts that we call out include Integrated Resource Planning, Transportation Electrification Planning, transmission planning, and ultimately, we're looking for proposals that are consistent across plans and rate cases, with any differences explained. This is truly meant to serve as an informational resource docket that can feed into our utilities' other rate case filings and include supporting data that reflects the strategic vision from the plans. We also just heard about the process behind and insights from the unprecedented distribution system audits for DTE and Consumers, so we'll look for those to inform future distribution planning for our two largest investor-owned utilities, too.

I do want to emphasize that fostering engagement and integrating diverse perspectives in plan development must include appropriate outreach and opportunities for feedback both before and after filing distribution plans, and we expect to see a direct link between those comments, recommendations, and accounts of lived experience from third parties in the development and implementation of the plan.

I want to end on a point of affordability and equity, stressing the need for equity and environmental justice analyses in both our distribution planning and rate case proceedings. And again, I emphasize the importance of seeking, as we also repeat in our order, funding options beyond rates, increasing third-party and community engagement to address affordability and cost-effectiveness and going beyond narratives on affordability and demonstrating how proposed investments are equitably distributed and in the best interest of customers.”

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

The order was adopted.

2. 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*/ Jackson County Solar/amendment to power purchase agreement/final order)

Case No. U-20165 involves an application filed by Consumers Energy Company for *ex parte* approval of Amendment No. 3 to a power purchase agreement between Consumers Energy Company and Jackson County Solar, LLC. The order before you approves the application. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 26, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

3. U-21053 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY FOR RECONCILIATION OF ITS POWER SUPPLY COST RECOVERY PLAN (CASE NO. U-21052) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022 (final order)

Case No. U-21053 involves an application filed by Indiana Michigan Power Company for reconciliation of its power supply cost recovery for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2022. The order before you approves the application as modified by the order. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 26, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

4. U-21305 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION, TO INVESTIGATE, AUDIT AND REVIEW THE METHODS EMPLOYED BY DTE ELECTRIC COMPANY AND CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY TO SECURE GOOD ELECTRIC SERVICE AND THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO MCL 460.555 AND MCL 460.556 (interim order)

Case No. U-21305 involves an investigation, audit, and review of the methods employed by Consumers Energy Company and DTE Electric Company to secure good electric service and ensure the safety of the public under Michigan law. The order before you directs the utilities to file responses to the completed audits, and invites comments and reply comments from interested persons. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 26, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

Commissioner Peretick commented:

“I’m thrilled that we now have the results of the distribution system audit that we kicked off back in 2022. This has been a long process, and many, many hours have gone into this final report not only

from our third-party consultant, Liberty, who you got to hear from in the presentation earlier, but also from our staff here at the MPSC. I want to especially thank Tayler Becker, Jessica Duell, Kit Sabo, Luke Dennin, Ryan Boutet, Li Szilagyi, Anna Schiller, Jing Shi, Ally Durfee, Paul Proudfoot, Julie Baldwin, Nick Evans, and Lynn Beck – and all others who helped - for your expert review and guidance throughout this process.

We now have a comprehensive deep dive into the state of the electric distribution systems for both Consumers Energy and DTE Electric. We now understand the physical state of the poles, wires, and substations and all the physical equipment that delivers electricity to our homes and businesses. We also now understand the programs and processes that are in place at the utilities for how they maintain their systems, plan for storms, and respond to outage events, among many other things.

The main finding I was hoping to get out of this audit is where the most effective place is to invest to improve reliability. When we initiated this audit, we were well aware that the number of power outages and duration of those outages was much too long for Michigan customers. What we wanted to understand is why. Then once we know why, what we can do to fix it. This audit has concrete recommendations for the utilities to do just that, as Mr. Antonuk described earlier, and I'm looking forward to making these happen.

But first, this order will allow for comment both from the utilities to respond and from any interested parties, with a special emphasis on quick action from the utilities to rectify any safety-related issues. If you have any thought, reactions, or additional recommendations for the utilities that you'd like to share, please do so in this docket U-21305 before December 15."

Chair Scripps commented:

"I would also like to echo the thanks of Commissioner Peretick and to our staff. I would also like to thank the companies, as John did, for their constructive engagement through this process providing the documentation and access to key decision makers within both Consumers and DTE that were necessary in order to complete this audit.

I think the goal in this process is one we all share - a safer, more reliable electric distribution system, one with fewer outages where the outages are shorter when they do happen, and with few customers experiencing multiple outages and trying to understand the most cost-effective way to get there. The audit that was entered into the docket earlier this week and is subject of this order includes a whole host of recommendations in three primary buckets. First, safety issues that need immediate attention. Second, moving toward compliance with Commission rules and industry standards. Third, improvements to the utility distribution planning process to improve performance in the long run.

We now want to hear from you, as Commissioner Peretick said. Both, on the audit findings and recommendations themselves, as well as to the utility responses. I do not believe that the challenges identified in the audit are anything new and certainly not surprising to anyone who has experienced poor reliability performance over the past several years. I would also state that this is not a starting point. We have been working to address these issues for a number of years in any number of ways, including this audit, the distribution planning process that was discussed earlier, the financial incentives and disincentives, work to try and better align utility financial performance with the

performance of the distribution systems and the experiences of their customers, updates to the Commission’s Service Quality Rules and Technical Standards for Electric Service, and a number of other avenues.

We have also heard, as John noted, that there have been some notable improvements. Both, in outage restoration, communication during storm events, improvements in the asset management organizations, and the project management organizations. We also know that there is more work to do. What I am most excited about in this audit is the focus on solutions! The solutions identified by this independent third-party team of experts give us the beginnings of what I think is a road map to get to that better, more reliable, safer system. That goal we all share.

Again, I appreciate the work of all involved and excited to continue the efforts to improve the safety and reliability of the utility distribution systems here in Michigan.”

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

The order was adopted.

5. U-21477 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF UPPER PENINSULA POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF INTERCONNECTION PROCEDURES PURSUANT TO R 460.920 (final order)

Case No. U-21477 involves an application for approval of interconnection procedures filed by Upper Peninsula Power Company pursuant to Mich Admin Code, R 460.920. The order before you approves interconnection procedures, forms, and agreements for Upper Peninsula Power Company. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 26, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

6. U-21508 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A WISCONSIN CORPORATION, SEEKING *EX PARTE* APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT LIGHT EMITTING DIODE AUTOMATIC OUTDOOR LIGHTING SERVICES (final order)

Case No. U-21508 involves an *ex parte* application filed by Northern States Power Company for approval to implement light

emitting diode automatic outdoor lighting services. The order before you approves the *ex parte* application. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 26, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

7. U-21555 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF UPPER PENINSULA POWER COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES FOR THE GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRICITY AND OTHER RELIEF
(proposed settlement agreement)

Case No. U-21555 involves an application filed by Upper Peninsula Power Company for authority to increase its retail electric base rates and for other relief. The order before you approves a settlement agreement resolving all issues in the case. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 26, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

Chair Scripps commented:

“As we often do in rate cases, I would like to briefly highlight a couple of the key provisions in the settlement agreement that is in front of us today. The order before us approves a settlement agreement by which UPPCO would be authorized to increase its rates by \$9 million. This agreement balances needed investment with ever present considerations over cost and affordability, with a typical residential customer who uses 500 kilowatt-hours a month seeing an increase of \$7.52 or 5.7% on their monthly bill effective January 1st of next year.

The settlement represents an overall capital structure of 50% common equity and an authorized return of equity of 9.86% and notably the settlement agreement includes a commitment from UPPCO to donate \$200,000 to organizations benefiting low-income customers within its service territory with the utility conferring with our Commission staff and Attorney General Dana Nessel’s office to identify appropriate organizations to receive this donation and the parameters of the donation.

I would like to thank the participants in this case, including UPPCO, the Attorney General, the Citizens Utility Board of Michigan, Calumet Electronics Corporation, Billerud Americas Corporation, the Association of Businesses Advocating Tariff Equity, as well as our MPSC staff for their work and creativity in finding agreement represented by the settlement agreement before us.”

Vote: Yeas – Scripps, Peretick, Carreon

Nays – None

The order was adopted.

8. U-21781 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, REGARDING THE AWARD OF GRANTS UNDER THE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ELECTRIFICATION INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO PUBLIC ACT 119 OF 2023 (announcement of grant awards)

Commission Staff Amy Rittenhouse, Strategic Operations Division, presented a brief synopsis of the case listed above. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 26, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

Chair Peretick commented:

“I am really excited to announce these 19 grants today for some really fantastic projects that Ms. Rittenhouse just went through that will advance the MI Healthy Climate Plan. We got a large number of excellent submissions to the grant program, as she noted. It was really hard to narrow these down to decide on the 19 that we are awarding today. I would especially like to thank Amy Rittenhouse and Lynn Beck for their help in managing this grant award process. I am really excited to see all the positive change in Michigan that will happen as a result of this funding that we are awarding today.”

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

The order was adopted.

C. GAS

1. U-21271 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, 2024 (final order)

Case No. U-21271 involves an application filed by DTE Gas Company for approval to implement a gas cost recovery plan for the 12-month period ending March 31, 2024. The order before you approves the plan, as set forth in the order, and accepts the company’s five-year forecast, but also provides caution with regards to costs associated with responsibly sourced gas premiums, pursuant to MCL 460.6h(7). Commissioner Peretick moved that the

Commission approve the order at its September 26, 2024 meeting.
Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

2. U-21341 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF A TEMPORARY WAIVER OF RULES 460.2351 AND 460.2351a AND FOR APPROVAL OF ALTERNATIVE NATURAL GAS DIAPHRAGM METER TESTING PROCEDURES
(*ex parte* /final order)

Case No. U-21341 involves an application filed by Consumers Energy Company for *ex parte* approval to waive meter testing requirements in the Commission’s Technical Standards for Gas Service until December 31, 2025, and to approve alternative natural gas diaphragm meter testing procedures. The order before you approves the application, establishes an annual reporting requirement, and requires the company to file revised tariff sheets within 30 days. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 26, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

3. U-21408 IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF DTE GAS COMPANY SEEKING AUTHORITY TO EXTEND ITS VOLUNTARY CLEANVISION NATURAL GAS BALANCE (NGB) PILOT PROGRAM
(*ex parte*/final order)

Case No. U-21408 involves an application filed by DTE Gas Company for *ex parte* authority to extend its Voluntary CleanVision Natural Gas Balance pilot program. The order before you approves the application with revised testimony and exhibits. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 26, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

Commissioner Carreon commented:

“I want to take the opportunity to emphasize the importance of reporting outcomes in evaluating the performance of any utility pilot program. In the instant application, the company proposes to continue issuing a public comprehensive report detailing the prior year’s results of the Natural Gas Balance Pilot Program. In our order, we request reporting of required metrics that are consistent with other voluntary programs designed to reduce carbon emissions and include performance assessment areas such as: (1) customer enrollment levels; (2) information about projects utilized by the company to source the carbon reduction supply; (3) the quantity of total emissions negated; (4) marketing costs; (5) quantity, source, and cost of renewable gas and carbon offsets purchased; (6) customer participation forecasts; and (7) marketing studies. This reporting is critical to justify the resulting benefits the company can assess from implementation of the program, especially in verifying anticipated emission reductions.”

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

The order was adopted.

4. U-21526 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE GROUP TRANSPORTATION SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM
(*ex parte*/final order)

Case No. U-21526 involves an *ex parte* application filed by Consumers Energy Company for approval of modifications to the company’s gas transportation customer pooling program. The order before you approves the application. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 26, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

5. U-21540 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MICHIGAN GAS UTILITIES CORPORATION FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE NATURAL GAS RATES
(proposed settlement agreement)

Case No. U-21540 involves an application filed by Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation for authority to increase its retail natural gas rates and for other relief. The order before you approves a settlement agreement resolving all issues in the case. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its September 26, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

Chair Scripps commented:

“As Ms. Gold mentioned, this too is a settlement agreement resolving the issues in Michigan Gas Utilities rate case. Under the agreement, Michigan Gas Utilities would be permitted to increase rates by \$7 million with a typical residential customer using a 100 CCF of gas a month seeing an increase of approximately 59 cents or 0.7% on their monthly bill as of January 1, 2025. In addition, as a result of ongoing work to replace the company’s gas distribution mains in order to reduce leaks and improve safety, rates will step up an additional 23 cents per month on January 1, 2026, and 33 cents per month starting on January 1, 2027 for an average residential customer.

As with the UPPCO case discussed earlier, the increase represents an overall capital structure of 50% common equity and an authorized return on common equity of 9.86%.

I appreciate the work of the parties to this case, including Attorney General Dana Nessel, the Citizens Utility Board of Michigan, the Association of Businesses Advocating Tariff Equity, and the MPSC staff. I support the order adopting this settlement agreement.”

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

The order was adopted.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kaman Clark, Detroit commented on the audit and the reliability of DTE.

Mara Matta commented on the audit and indicated that it did not include affordability and did not include the health impact of fellow Michiganders.

Marita Ky thanked the Commission for having the public hearing last week in Detroit and encouraged the Commission to hold more hearings in low-income areas of Detroit. She also thanked the Commission for taking the initiative to audit Consumers and DTE.

Ray Stanczak, Plymouth Township commented of DTE Energy’s policies and opposes the rate increase.

Dee Woods, Detroit commented about extended power outages in her low-income area.

Tamika Ross, We the People, commented on DTE’s lack of accountability as well as services and requests an audit of a budget.

Javae requested no more rate hikes and audit DTE’s budget that looks into affordability and fairness.

Ershad Hussein, Detroit commented on how DTE has affected him and his household. He also commented on the reliability of DTE and requests an audit of its budget.

Jackson Koepel appreciated the extent of work that went into and the value that came out of deep infrastructure audit and commented on the results of the audit.

Jennifer Oresty, St. Clare Shores spoke on behalf of families like hers who have experienced extended durations of outages as a DTE customer and requests the Commission do an audit on affordability and reliability.

Chair Scripps announced:

“As I noted at our last meeting, we will be holding a virtual public hearing to take comments relating to the major electric transmission upgrades proposed by Michigan Electric Transmission Company in Case No. U-21471. The public hearing will be Thursday, October 3, 2024 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The meeting is virtual only with participation available via live stream on Microsoft TEAMS or by phone. There is information on our website as well as some background information on the process under Act 30 of 1995, as well as the specifics of the particular application.

Second, together with the Michigan Department of Great Lakes and Energy, we are announcing a second opportunity to submit applications for funding under Part B of the Propane Resilience Enhancement Program (PREP) of approximately \$2.85 million in Part B funds remain for projects that expand storage capacity connected to expanded propane pipeline and fractionation capacity. There is information on our website for that as well. Applications are due by October 9, 2024.

Third, this announcement is a sadder one. I wanted to recognize the loss of Motor Carrier Officer Daniel Kerstetter with the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement division of the Michigan State Police. I know this, both because as a fellow State worker we wanted to recognize his loss of life, but also because up until 2015 parts of the Motor Carrier division were actually housed here at the Commission. The Commission is in many ways a family and while Officer Kerstetter never served with the Commission, he actually was hired in January 2023. We certainly know a number of the folks who with whom he served. I want to think of those folks and his family as we mourn his passing in the line of duty.

On October 6th of this year, we will celebrate 50 years of Paul Proudfoot. Paul joined the Commission as a young engineer back on October 6, 1974, and for the last 50 years has been a grumpy old bear. In some ways I think of him as the heart and soul of this place. In fact, we have a sign in our office that says, ‘Commissioners come and go, but Paul Proudfoot lasts forever.’ I certainly hope that is true. Fifty years affiliated with any one organization is just an incredible achievement. While this certainly is not goodbye. This is in no way a retirement. We are excited for the next 50. We did want to take a moment and recognize five decades of public service to the MPSC and the people of Michigan.”

A recording of the proceedings of the September 26, 2024 meeting is archived at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWq5syDj94w> .

Chair Scripps announced that the next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting will be held on October 10, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in Escanaba, Michigan.

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 3:07 p.m.

Lisa Felice
Executive Secretary