

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HELD IN ITS OFFICES AND AVAILABLE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCING ON APRIL 10, 2025.

Commission Chair Daniel C. Scripps called the meeting to order at 1:05 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: Charlie Cavanagh
Matt Helms
Lisa Felice
Al Freeman
Ryan Wilson
Stephanie Fitzgerald
Corey Osier
Lucy Clay
Mike Byrne
Kate Daymon
Andy Hannum
Ben Johnson
Cathy Cole
Blair Renfro

Public: Merideth Hadala, Consumers Energy
Doug Bontekoe, Marion Township Supervisor

Additional Staff & Public Attending Telephonically/Video Conferencing: 165 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 March 21, 2025, Commissioner Carreon seconded.

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

The minutes were approved.

III. CONSENTED ORDERS

A. COMMUNICATIONS

1. U-17573 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF RCLEC, INC. FOR TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT LICENSES TO PROVIDE BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF MICHIGAN IN THE ZONE AND EXCHANGE AREAS SERVED BY AT&T MICHIGAN, FRONTIER NORTH, INC., FRONTIER MIDSTATES, INC., CENTURYTEL OF MICHIGAN, INC., CENTURYTEL MIDWEST-MICHIGAN, INC., CENTURYTEL OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN, INC., AND CENTURYTEL OF UPPER MICHIGAN, INC.
(request to surrender license/final 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 order was adopted.

IV. OTHER ORDERS

A. ELECTRIC

1. U-20959 IN THE MATTER, ON THE COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION, TO COMMENCE A COLLABORATIVE TO CONSIDER ISSUES RELATED TO FURTHER ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION, AND PARTICIPATION OF UTILITY CUSTOMERS
(interim order)

Case No. U-20959 involves, on the Commission’s own motion, the opening of a comment period to receive comments on proposed revisions to the Data Disclosure report template and other recommendations proposed by the Commission Staff

related to the Data Disclosure report and the Green Button progress reports. The order before you approves the Commission Staff's recommendations and sets a deadline date of May 30, 2025 for the submission of first quarter Green Button progress reports and annual Data Disclosure reports. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its April 10, 2025 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

2. U-21049 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSUMER ENERGY COMPANY FOR RECONCILIATION OF ITS POWER SUPPLY COST RECOVERY PLAN (CASE NO. U-21048) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022
(final order)

Case No. U-21049 involves an application filed by Consumers Energy Company for reconciliation of power supply cost recovery expenses and revenues for calendar year 2022. The order before you approves the application, as modified by the order. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its April 10, 2025 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

3. U-21534 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DTE ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES, AMEND ITS RATE SCHEDULES AND RULES GOVERNING THE DISTRIBUTION AND SUPPLY OF ELECTRIC ENERGY, AND FOR MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTING AUTHORITY
(petitions for rehearing/final order)

Case No. U-21534 involves an application filed by DTE Electric Company for authority to increase its rates for the sale and distribution of electric energy. The order before you addresses the petitions for rehearing filed by the Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council, Institute for Energy Innovation, and Advanced Energy United (jointly); Michigan Municipal Association for Utility Issues; and DTE Electric Company. Commissioner Peretick moved

that the Commission approve the order at its April 10, 2025 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

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

The order was adopted.

4. U-21653 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DTE ELECTRIC
COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN EXPEDITED PILOT REVIEW
WORKPLAN
(final order)

Commission Staff Josh Towsley, Energy Operations Division, presented a brief synopsis of the case listed above. Commissioner Peretick moved that the Commission approve the order at its April 10, 2025 meeting. Commissioner Carreon seconded that motion.

Commissioner Peretick commented:

“I would like to thank all the parties who provided helpful and productive input and comments in the workplan for DTE Electric’s expedited pilot program and thank the Company for reviewing all the comments and incorporating relevant changes and feedback into their final revised workplan that is before us today. We began this expedited pilot process in 2023, which is aimed at exploring how our electric utilities in Michigan can incorporate new technologies and business models in a quick, efficient way, allowing for testing and refinement of new models, and providing support for the rapid transformation of the energy system required to meet the electricity needs of our state.

The workplan is the first step in this process. The expedited pilot workplan is meant to establish the set of topics, that Mr. Towsley just listed, that the utility will focus on for their pilots submitted for accelerated review and is meant to have broad support from interested parties to reduce the amount of time needed for Commission review. Once these workplans are approved, the utility is then free to submit pilot plans in line with the content of their workplan at any time. It no longer needs to be in conjunction with a rate case or submitted ex-parte. We have promised to review and respond to the pilot request within 90 days.

Consumers Energy’s workplan was approved in December of 2023, and DTE Electric’s is before us today. I’m excited to see what innovative pilots will be submitted to further the advancement of our state’s electric grid and I encourage all regulated electric utilities to take advantage of this program.”

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

The order was adopted.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Douglas Bloom, Coldwater, addressed his concerns regarding Case No. U-21471.

Dawn Green, Coldwater, addressed her concerns regarding Case No. U-21471.

Doug Bontekoe, Marion Township Supervisor, requested additional information and clarification regarding a farm tap. Chair Scripps referred Mr. Bontekoe to Jason Mailloux, Manager, Gas Safety & Operations Division.

Mark Barone, Coldwater, addressed his concerns regarding Case No. U-21471.

Ivad Syed, Novi, provided comments regarding DTE's high electricity prices and feels that DTE staff should be held accountable for their actions.

Jennette Welch, Coldwater, addressed her concerns regarding Case No. U-21471.

Commissioner Carreon announced:

“For multiple days beginning the weekend of March 28th of this year, our state endured a truly devastating series of weather events of historic severity – an experience that in its darkest hour tragically claimed lives and subsequently caused widespread damage and hardship. I want to first extend my deepest sympathies to the families who lost loved ones; such a loss is unimaginable, and my heart is with you. At peak outage, more than half a million customers lost power, and we know that thousands remain without service today.

In this time of restoration, I'd like to point to and emphasize the critical and dire role of mutual aid and assistance between numerous parties in extreme weather emergencies. From the investor-owned utilities we regulate to municipal utilities and member owned cooperatives, and even to our transmission operator, the ability for utilities to coordinate and share resources, support, and expertise is essential to ensure restoration happens expeditiously. Coordination doesn't stop here, though, with emergency response; departments across state government, and organizations, agencies, and companies state-wide, as well as nationally, must work together to restore and rebuild. All three Commissioners take our mission to serve the public very seriously and the MPSC is deeply committed to collaboration to improve reliability and resilience with the engagement of all the energy providers and operators I mentioned, as well as other affected groups. Extreme weather events are only becoming more common, so for this reason and many more, resilience initiatives are paramount.

Finally, I cannot allude to any restoration work without expressing sincere thanks and gratitude to our line workers, local government leaders, helpful neighbors and community members, and of course, our own wonderful MPSC Staff who tirelessly monitored and assisted in carrying out our state emergency response with great care and concern. This includes Alex Morese, manager of our Energy Security section, and Jessica Duell, a departmental analyst in our Electric Operations Section who has officially earned the title “absolute all-star” and who worked around the clock while on call — as well as our own Chair Scripps, whose dedication and concern for his fellow Michiganders is evident in the way he

devotedly leads with our mission as his compass. Thank you all so much for your impactful, commendable efforts in service of your fellow Michiganders.”

Commissioner Peretick announced:

“Over the past few weeks, Michigan has been hit hard by a series of intense storms that caused widespread damage, deaths, injuries, and left many of our friends, families, and neighbors without power, some for an extended period of time – 20,000 still without power today. I want to begin by saying that the Commission takes this type of event extremely seriously. We know how disruptive and dangerous it can be to lose access to power, especially for our most vulnerable populations, those with medical needs, the elderly, and families with young children.

We see you and we hear you. The Commission exists to serve the public, and that means ensuring that our utilities are providing reliable service and efficient storm response.

I want to acknowledge the tremendous work that has gone into restoring power across the state. The work that utility crews, especially line workers and field responders, have done is essential. Their dedication deserves our gratitude. We are also grateful to all the local governments for their work, and our Commission Staff who have been working tirelessly to monitor outages and coordinate with utilities on their storm response.

While the utilities are working hard to do what needs to be done in the short term to restore power, the Commission is also keeping our eyes on what needs to be done in the long run to improve reliability. For example, our utilities are required to file distribution plans every three years. These dockets take a proactive approach to reliability planning and are integral to ensuring that our future grid has fewer outages during storms like these. We have also recently implemented a financial incentives and disincentives program for our two largest utilities, that incentivizes regulated utilities for their fast storm response and penalizes them – up to \$10 million – for an insufficient response. We also recently completed a distribution system audit that investigated the preparedness of the distribution system, the inner workings of the utilities storm response teams and plans and provided recommendations for how both utilities can improve, with further action on that coming in the near term. We have been working to ensure that our utilities are prepared as our storm seasons change and become more intense.

If you are affected and you need assistance, please visit our webpage, “Preparing for and Responding to Power Outages” where you can find information on reporting outages, on safety, and on whether you qualify for outage credits. Those credits are generally applicable based on the length of time your power has been out and the percentage of other customers in your utility’s service territories that are also experiencing outages. During situations like this, it also helps to follow the Michigan Public Service Commission on social media, where we share helpful information on outages and recovery efforts. And, as always, please utilize our Customer Assistance Division for any questions you may have, where you can contact our team by phone, by email, or online.”

Chair Scripps announced:

“I also want to take a moment to acknowledge the devastation of this severe weather, including the truly historic, worst-in-a-generation ice storm hit Northeast Lower Michigan, as well as 12 confirmed tornadoes impacting communities across the rest of the Lower Peninsula.

I have had the chance to visit the area multiple times over the last couple weeks. I was astounded by the extent of the damage – whole stands of trees where every single tree had been snapped, miles of roads with fallen trees lining the sides, stretches of dozens of power poles in a row that were broken in half or fallen over. It’s difficult to overstate the damage, including nearly 100% of customers in many of the counties affected.

But even more impressive than the damage was the spirit of the communities affected, and the dedication of line workers, control room operators, National Guardsmen and women, and the many others involved in the restoration efforts. I got to see first-hand some of the lessons learned and process changes stemming from the 2023 ice storms being deployed across northern Michigan. Indeed, the restoration efforts I saw were nothing short of heroic.

I’d note that for a number of districts and students in the area, today was the first day back at school. Some of these students, teachers, and other school employees still don’t have power at home, but the return to school is an important step towards getting back to normal.

Finally, I want to recognize our team here at the Commission for their work in working with the utilities to understand what’s happening on the ground, convening daily calls (and often more frequent) to discuss restoration efforts, working with the State Emergency Operation Center to ensure a coordinated response from the state, and their many additional efforts. Many people may not realize that we have staff on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to respond to outages and other emergencies, and they do their best work during the worst days on the system. I particularly want to thank Jessica Duell, who was on call for both outage weekends and where this was her first time staffing the SEOC, and Alex Morese, who leads our Energy Security team and is universally respected, both in state and beyond, for his focus during emergency events, for their outstanding leadership over the last couple of weeks.

I know events like this are challenging. As of this morning, there are still approximately 20,000 customers without power and I appreciate the patience of those customers still waiting on restoration, and the ongoing commitment of line workers and others working around the clock to get these remaining customers back on line. As both of my colleagues noted, there will be time to digest the lessons learned from this event and how to make improvements for the future, and it’s important that we do so. But the focus right now is on finishing the job on restoration.

Finally, as we do each April, the Commission is again this year celebrating Arab American Heritage Month this month, which this month immediately followed Ramadan and Eid-al-Fitr. As home to one of the largest Arab American communities in the country, Michigan has been particularly blessed by the many contributions of our Arab American friends and neighbors, and so it’s appropriate that we join with them in celebrating Arab American Heritage Month.”

A recording of the proceedings of the April 10, 2025 meeting is archived at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6dRDwqebvY> .

Chair Scripps announced that the next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2025 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 1:47 p.m.

Lisa Felice
Executive Secretary