October 31, 2017

Ms. Kavita Kale
Executive Secretary
Michigan Public Service Commission
7109 West Saginaw Highway
Post Office Box 30221
Lansing, MI  48909

RE:  Case No. U-18424 – In the Matter of the application of Consumers Energy Company for authority to increase its rates for the distribution of natural gas and for other relief.

Dear Ms. Kale:

Enclosed for electronic filing in the above-captioned case, please find Consumers Energy Company’s Application, Proposed Notice of Hearing, Proposed Protective Order, and the Testimony and Exhibits of Consumers Energy Company’s witnesses. Also included is a Proof of Service showing service upon the parties in Consumers Energy Company’s last gas rate case (Case No. U-18124). This case has been designated as a paperless case and is therefore only being filed in PDF.

In accordance with the filing procedures adopted by the Michigan Public Service Commission in Case No. U-18238: (i) exhibits that were prepared in Excel format are being provided in Excel format, with active formulas and links, in addition to PDF format; (ii) tariff changes are being provided in Word format, in addition to PDF format, with changes shown in redline; and (iii) economic models used to support the rate increase request will be provided to parties in working Excel version. Copies of the rate case filing are being provided to parties to Case No. U-18124 on electronic disks concurrently with this filing and will be made available on electronic disks to all requesting parties to this case. Workpapers of Consumers Energy Company’s witnesses, as well as Part II and Part III – Standard Filing Requirements Supplemental Data, are being provided on electronic disk to the Commission Staff and parties to Case No. U-18124. Upon request, Consumers Energy Company will provide this information to additional intervening parties in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Anne M. Uitvlugt

cc: Administrative Law Manager
   Michigan Administrative Hearing System
   Gary Kitts, Executive Director, MPSC Staff
   Bill Stosik, MPSC Staff
   Dan Blair, MPSCStaff
   Brian Ballenger, MPSC Staff
   Paul Proudfoot, MPSC Staff
   Parties to Case No. U-18124

Annie M. Uitvlugt
cc: Administrative Law Manager
   Michigan Administrative Hearing System
   Gary Kitts, Executive Director, MPSC Staff
   Bill Stosik, MPSC Staff
   Dan Blair, MPSCStaff
   Brian Ballenger, MPSC Staff
   Paul Proudfoot, MPSC Staff
   Parties to Case No. U-18124
APPLICATION

Consumers Energy Company ("Consumers Energy" or the "Company") respectfully requests that the Michigan Public Service Commission ("MPSC" or the "Commission") authorize Consumers Energy to increase its rates for the distribution of natural gas and grant it additional relief as set forth herein. In support, Consumers Energy states as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Consumers Energy is, among other things, engaged as a public utility in the business of purchasing, storing, transporting, distributing, and selling natural gas to approximately 1.8 million customers in the State of Michigan. The natural gas system of Consumers Energy is an integrated and interconnected system and is operated as a single utility system in which the same rates and tariffs are applicable.

2. Consumers Energy’s retail natural gas business, including its retail transportation, storage, and distribution business, is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission pursuant to various statutory provisions of 1909 PA 300, as amended, MCL 462.2 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; and 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6h(1) et seq. Pursuant to these statutory provisions, the Commission has the power and jurisdiction to regulate Consumers Energy’s retail natural gas sales, transportation, storage, and distribution rates.
3. On July 31, 2017, in Case No. U-18124, the Commission issued an Order approving Consumers Energy’s current retail natural gas transportation, storage, and distribution rates. Consumers Energy recovers its cost of gas associated with sales to its retail natural gas sales customers by means of a gas cost recovery clause authorized by the Commission pursuant to the provisions of 1982 PA 304, MCL 460.6h. In addition, the Commission has authorized, through various orders, the recovery of certain additional costs as set forth in the tariffs on file with the Commission.

II. REQUESTED RATE INCREASE

4. For purposes of this case, Consumers Energy has undertaken a complete examination, using a projected test year for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2019, of relevant items of investment, expense, and revenues for the determination of just and reasonable natural gas rates. Using a projected test year for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2019 will allow the rates established in this case to reflect more closely the investments made and expenses incurred during the time the rates established in this case will be in effect.

In Case No. U-18124, the Company was recently approved an Investment Recovery Mechanism (“IRM”). As set forth below, Consumers Energy is again requesting approval of an IRM that would adjust rates in July of 2019 and 2020 so as to provide for recovery, subject to reconciliation as set forth in the Company’s filing, of the incremental annual revenue requirements associated with the capital expenditures and direct expenses related to eight specific gas transmission and distribution programs. The capital expenditures for the programs included in the proposed IRM are each based on the test year amounts presented in this case.

5. It is important that the financial health of Consumers Energy be sufficient to maintain adequate service quality and reliability, and to ensure the ability of the utility to access
capital markets at reasonable terms so that needed investments can be made. Consumers Energy expects to be one of the largest investors in Michigan over the next five years. These investments are not only necessary to provide safe, reliable natural gas utility service; they also will create other economic benefits, including Michigan jobs and tax base.

6. Consumers Energy has determined that an increase in Consumers Energy’s natural gas rates is required to afford the Company a reasonable opportunity to recover its reasonable costs of providing natural gas service during the time that rates established in this case will be in effect, including a reasonable return on common equity, as more fully described in the accompanying direct testimony and exhibits. Consumers Energy has calculated that, without rate relief, it will experience an annual jurisdictional revenue deficiency of approximately $178.194 million for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2019. Additionally, Consumers Energy has projected that it will experience an incremental revenue requirement of approximately $39.161 million associated with $301.987 million of capital expenditures included in the IRM.

7. Factors contributing to Consumers Energy’s need for additional gas revenues above levels currently recovered in base rates include:

(i) Ongoing investments in gas utility assets in order to provide safe, reliable, and efficient service to customers, and to comply with environmental and legal requirements;

(ii) A reduction in miscellaneous revenues from programs and services; and

(iii) Changes in cost of capital.

The net impacts of these and other factors described in more detail in the supporting direct testimony and exhibits, when examined in total, necessitate an increase in Consumers Energy’s retail natural gas rates.
8. The principal factor necessitating rate relief is Consumers Energy’s ongoing infrastructure investments in its Michigan natural gas utility system. Approximately 89% of the Company’s rate request is comprised of investment-related costs. Examples of the investments being made are in the Company’s Enhanced Infrastructure Replacement Program, New Business Program, Compression and Transmission Replacement programs, Pipeline Integrity Program, Asset Relocation Program, and Technology programs. These investments are being made on behalf of customers for compliance, system reliability, and enhanced technology. These include investments required to maintain compliance with pipeline integrity requirements, transmission, compression and storage system upgrades to better serve customers, and distribution system improvements. These investments will help ensure that the Company is able to safely and reliably deliver natural gas to customers. Among other things, the Company is undertaking a comprehensive gas main replacement program and transmission pipeline inspection program to help ensure continued customer safety and reliable system operation. Additionally, investments in technology are being made to further enhance the Company’s interaction with customers and improve customer satisfaction.

9. Included in Consumers Energy’s filing in this case is evidence that benefits of installing gas meter communications modules in gas/electric combination service territories in conjunction with the implementation of electric smart meters will exceed program costs. Benefits include improved billing accuracy, reduced meter reading costs, energy theft reduction, and gas conservation. The Company is requesting recovery of gas Advanced Metering Infrastructure (“AMI”) Operation and Maintenance (“O&M”) expenses and gas AMI incurred and projected capital expenditures. In addition, the Company is seeking recovery for investment
that will allow mobile Automated Meter Reading in its gas-only service areas who are not part of
the Company’s AMI Program.

10. The Company strives to keep O&M costs at a reasonable level. Compared to
current rate levels, the Company’s overall O&M expenses are projected to decrease. This
decrease is primarily associated with retirement benefit expenses, technology, and other gas
operations costs. While a decrease is projected, some categories of O&M expenses are
increasing to include the effects of inflation, increases in health care costs, and increases in
technology spending designed to improve customer satisfaction. In addition, the Company is
requesting rate recovery for a portion of incentive compensation costs that the Company incurs
to attract and retain a talented workforce. Increases in revenue requirements have been offset, in
part, by Company efforts to control O&M expenses through improved productivity, first time
quality improvements, and reducing safety incidents. Specifics regarding the Company’s
requests are described in the direct testimony and exhibits which are being filed in support of this
Application.

11. Without a rate increase, Consumers Energy’s gas revenues and gas overall rate of
return will be below a just and reasonable level. Without rate relief, Consumers Energy’s retail
natural gas rates will be so low as to deprive Consumers Energy of a reasonable return on the
Company’s property, and to amount to confiscation and deprivation of the Company’s property,
contrary to the Company’s rights under the Constitutions of the United States and the State of
Michigan.

12. In order to protect customers and the Company from variability of revenues
attributable to factors which are, in general, largely driven by factors beyond the control of the
Company, Consumers Energy is requesting approval in this case of a Gas Revenue Decoupling
Mechanism. A brief description of the proposed Gas Revenue Decoupling Mechanism and IRM is provided below:

(i) The proposed **Gas Revenue Decoupling Mechanism** compares the total nonfuel rate case revenues approved by the Commission in the most recent case (“authorized revenue level”), to the total nonfuel revenue generated through actual sales for the period of time under evaluation (excluding customer charges). The amount of the actual revenue shortfall or surplus compared to the authorized revenue level would then be allocated to customers on the various rate schedules based on the level of nonfuel revenue as approved in the most recent rate case, such that the Company would collect its authorized revenue level. The Company proposes the mechanism be effective following the end of the test year if the Company’s proposed test year sales are adopted and with a final order in the current case if the Company’s test year sales are not adopted and stay in place until rates are changed in the next gas rate case. The Company proposes that the revenues be reconciled on an annual basis. The Company believes the proposed methodology will be administratively efficient while effectively decoupling revenues from sales volumes. The mechanism being proposed is the same mechanism currently in place which was approved by the Commission in Case No. U-18124.

(ii) The proposed **IRM** would authorize the Company to implement surcharges to recover the incremental annual revenue requirements associated with certain July 2019 through June 2021 incremental rate base and associated direct expenses beyond the level approved for the projected test year, with the assurance that the incremental capital expenditures will either be made or the associated revenue requirement recovered from customers will be refunded. The IRM surcharges would be effective from July 1, 2019 until rates are changed in a subsequent general rate case. After the year ending June 30, 2020 is complete, the Company will submit a reconciliation filing. This filing will also include the Company’s capital expenditures for the year ended June 30, 2021 for the included programs in the IRM and will recalculate the surcharge to include these capital expenditures, as well as provide customers a credit for any actual underspending for the year ended June 20, 2020. After the year ended June 30, 2021 is complete, the Company will submit a reconciliation filing to determine if the actual incremental capital spend is more or less than the approved amounts reflected in the surcharge. The capital expenditures included in the Company’s proposed IRM are based on the projected investments in eight specified distribution and transmission programs.

Further details supporting the Company’s proposals regarding these mechanisms are described in the direct testimony and exhibits which are being filed in support of this Application.

13. Consumers Energy requests that rates be established in this case based on an authorized return on common equity of 10.50% and reflect an overall rate of return on total rate
base of 6.11%. Consumers Energy submits that the requested returns reasonably and appropriately balance interests of customers and investors.

III. RATE DESIGN, TARIFF, AND OTHER PROPOSALS

14. Consumers Energy is proposing use of a cost-based rate design by customer class. The Company proposes to allocate the required gas revenue increase among rate classes as set forth on Attachment A to this Application. A comparison of present and proposed rates is set forth on Attachment B to this Application. Proposed surcharges for the IRM are shown on page 2 of Attachment B.

15. Consistent with Consumers Energy’s support of economic growth in Michigan and attracting new jobs, Consumers Energy is proposing a new pilot transportation rate called Extra Extremely Large Transportation Service Rate Schedule XXLT to the test year Cost-of-Service Study. The changes in the allocation methodology and the reasons for the change are discussed in the direct testimony which is being filed in support of this Application. The Company has designed rates so that the revenue recovered from each customer class reflects the costs for that customer class as provided in the Company’s Cost-of-Service Study.

16. In addition to seeking authority to increase the level of rates and charges, Consumers Energy is proposing various revisions to its gas rules, regulations, and tariffs. Reference to Consumers Energy’s direct testimony and exhibits provides additional details on the relief being sought.

17. In accordance with the September 29, 2016 Settlement Agreement in Case No. U-17900, Consumers Energy agreed to present an analysis of the benefits and costs associated with daily balancing of End-Use Transportation customers’ supplies and deliveries in
the Company’s next general gas rate case. The Company is filing direct testimony with this Application which presents the agreed-to analysis.

18. Following the enactment of 2016 PA 341, MCL 460.6a(5) specifies a new 10-month timeframe for processing rate cases. In Case No. U-18238, the Commission established new standard rate case filing forms and instructions based on the 10-month statutory rate case processing timeframe. In light of the changes made, the Commission has waived compliance with Attachments 2-11 under Part III of the required rate case filing forms until July 31, 2018. Nevertheless, in an effort to be responsive, the Company has included the information available related to these requirements.

19. In addition to other relief described in this Application, Consumers Energy is seeking Commission approval of certain accounting requests. The Company requests accounting approval for use of regulatory assets or regulatory liabilities, as needed, for the Gas Revenue Decoupling Mechanism. Additional accounting approval is also requested in order to accumulate and amortize Information Technology project implementation costs for cloud-based solutions. These accounting requests are described in the Company’s filing.

IV. TESTIMONY, EXHIBITS, AND RESERVATION OF RIGHT TO AMEND

20. Concurrently with the filing of this Application, Consumers Energy is filing written direct testimony and exhibits in support of natural gas rate relief and the other relief it is seeking in this case. Reference to this material will provide additional details regarding the proposals and relief being sought. The relief described in the direct testimony and exhibits should be considered as if specifically requested in this Application. Consumers Energy reserves the right to revise, amend, or otherwise change the relief it is requesting in any way appropriate
depending upon the duration and progress of hearings in this proceeding, the issuance of orders that have an impact upon this case, or the occurrence of other material events.

21. In addition to the issues described above, it is possible that other pending or to-be-filed proceedings or other events may have impacts upon the rate adjustments requested in this filing. These impacts will be evaluated for materiality and may need to be considered in the results of this proceeding.

V. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Consumers Energy Company respectfully requests that the Michigan Public Service Commission:

A. Authorize Consumers Energy to adjust its retail natural gas rates so as to provide additional revenue of $178.194 million annually above the level established in Case No. U-18124 based on a projected 12-month test year ending June 30, 2019;

B. Authorize Consumers Energy to adjust its existing retail natural gas rates so as to produce a rate of return on common equity of not less than 10.50%;

C. Approve the Gas Revenue Decoupling Mechanism proposed by the Company in this case;

D. Authorize Consumers Energy to implement an Investment Recovery Mechanism to recover the annual revenue requirements associated with the incremental capital expenditures and associated direct expenses for specified distribution and transmission programs beyond the level provided in rates through the projected test year;

E. Grant the accounting authorizations described in the accompanying direct testimony;
F. Approve the modifications to the rates, rules, and regulations as are described in the direct testimony and exhibits that accompany this Application; and

G. Grant Consumers Energy such other and further relief as is just and reasonable.

Respectfully submitted,

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY

Dated: October 31, 2017

By: ___________________________________

Michael A. Torrey
Vice President, Rates and Regulation

H Richard Chambers (P34139)
Anne M. Uitvlugt (P71641)
Bret A. Totoraitis (P72654)
Robert W. Beach (P73112)
Gary A. Gensch, Jr. (P66912)
Theresa A. G. Staley (P56998)
One Energy Plaza
Jackson, Michigan 49201
Attorneys for Consumers Energy Company
(517) 788-2112
STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter of the application of

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY

for authority to increase its rates for the
distribution of natural gas and for other relief

Case No. U-18424

__________________________________

VERIFICATION

Michael A. Torrey, states that he is Vice President, Rates and Regulation, of Consumers
Energy Company; that he has executed the foregoing Application for and on behalf of
Consumers Energy Company; that he has read the foregoing Application and is familiar with the
contents thereof; that the facts contained therein are true, to the best of his knowledge and belief;
and that he is duly authorized to execute such Application on behalf of Consumers Energy
Company.

Dated: October 31, 2017

By: ____________________________________

Michael A. Torrey
Vice President, Rates and Regulation
Attachment A
### Summary of Proposed Rate Increase

**Case No.: U-18424**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Present Revenue</th>
<th>Proposed Revenue</th>
<th>Difference Revenue</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<td>(a)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$000</td>
<td>$000</td>
<td>$000</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Residential Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>1,273,043</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Multifamily Dwelling A-1</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Total Residential Service</td>
<td>1,180,421</td>
<td>1,314,041</td>
<td>133,620</td>
<td>11.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>General Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Small Service GS-1</td>
<td>159,373</td>
<td>171,259</td>
<td>11,887</td>
<td>7.5</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Medium Service GS-2</td>
<td>167,566</td>
<td>182,104</td>
<td>14,538</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Large Service GS-3</td>
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<td>34,737</td>
<td>3,046</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Outdoor Lighting GL</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(20.0)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Total General Service</td>
<td>358,636</td>
<td>388,105</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Total Gas Sales (1)</td>
<td>1,539,057</td>
<td>1,702,146</td>
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<td>(d)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Small Transport ST</td>
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<td>Extremely Large Transport XLT</td>
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<td>Extra Extremely Large Transport XXLT</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Total Transportation</td>
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<td>85,554</td>
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<td>Total Service (Delivery &amp; Fuel)</td>
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<td>Additional Late Payment Charge Revenue</td>
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<td>531</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Revenue Increase/(Decrease) Due to Rounding</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Total Revenue (Sufficiency)/Deficiency</td>
<td>178,194</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
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</table>

**Notes**

(1) Includes aggregate billed transportation accounts.
Attachment B
### Consumers Energy Company

**Comparison of Rates**

**Case No.:** U-18424

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(a) Description</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>(b) Present</th>
<th>(c) Proposed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residential Class</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Family Dwelling A</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Customer Charge</td>
<td>$/Mth</td>
<td>11.75</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Income Assistance - RIA Program</td>
<td>$/Mth</td>
<td>(11.75)</td>
<td>(15.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Income Assistance - LIAC Pilot</td>
<td>$/Mth</td>
<td>(30.27)</td>
<td>(30.27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Distribution Charge</td>
<td>$/Mcf</td>
<td>2.96</td>
<td>3.41</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Multifamily Dwelling A-1</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Customer Charge</td>
<td>$/Mth</td>
<td>11.75</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Excess Peak Charge</td>
<td>$/Mcf</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.09</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Distribution Charge</td>
<td>$/Mcf</td>
<td>2.96</td>
<td>3.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Service</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Service GS-1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Customer Charge - Master</td>
<td>$/Mth</td>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Customer Charge - Contiguous</td>
<td>$/Mth</td>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>16.00</td>
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<td>10 Distribution Charge</td>
<td>$/Mcf</td>
<td>2.48</td>
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<td><strong>Medium Service GS-2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Customer Charge - Master</td>
<td>$/Mth</td>
<td>49.00</td>
<td>86.00</td>
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<td>12 Customer Charge - Contiguous</td>
<td>$/Mth</td>
<td>41.95</td>
<td>45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Distribution Charge</td>
<td>$/Mcf</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>1.81</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Large Service GS-3</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Customer Charge - Master</td>
<td>$/Mth</td>
<td>669.00</td>
<td>520.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Customer Charge - Contiguous</td>
<td>$/Mth</td>
<td>53.00</td>
<td>70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Distribution Charge</td>
<td>$/Mcf</td>
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<td>1.31</td>
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<td><strong>Outdoor Lighting GL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Single Mantle</td>
<td>$/Lum.</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>6.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Multiple Mantle</td>
<td>$/Lum.</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transportation</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Transport ST</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Customer Charge - Master</td>
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<td>520.50</td>
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<td>20 Customer Charge - Contiguous</td>
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<td>70.00</td>
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<td>21 Distribution Charge</td>
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<td>23 Customer Charge - Contiguous</td>
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<td>53.00</td>
<td>70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Distribution Charge</td>
<td>$/Mcf</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extremely Large Transport XLT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Customer Charge - Master</td>
<td>$/Mth</td>
<td>7,491.00</td>
<td>11,348.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Customer Charge - Contiguous</td>
<td>$/Mth</td>
<td>53.00</td>
<td>70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Remote Meter Charge</td>
<td>$/Mth</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Distribution Charge</td>
<td>$/Mcf</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extra Extremely Large Transport XXLT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Customer Charge - Master</td>
<td>$/Mth</td>
<td>7,491.00</td>
<td>45,029.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Remote Meter Charge</td>
<td>$/Mth</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Distribution Charge</td>
<td>$/Mcf</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Comparison of Rates

**Case No.: U-18424**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>4.0% ATL</td>
<td>$/Mcf</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(0.1589)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>6.5% ATL</td>
<td>$/Mcf</td>
<td>(0.0766)</td>
<td>(0.0706)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>7.5% ATL</td>
<td>$/Mcf</td>
<td>(0.0383)</td>
<td>(0.0353)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>8.5% ATL</td>
<td>$/Mcf</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>9.5% ATL</td>
<td>$/Mcf</td>
<td>0.0383</td>
<td>0.0353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>10.5% ATL</td>
<td>$/Mcf</td>
<td>0.0766</td>
<td>0.0706</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Customer Attachment Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Discount Rate %</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>7.59</td>
<td>7.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Carrying Cost Rate %</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>11.02</td>
<td>11.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other Transportation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Authorized Gas Use Charge $/Mcf</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Unauthorized Gas Use Charge $/Mcf</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Load Balancing Charge $/MMBtu</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>EUT Gas In Kind %</td>
<td>2.68</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IRM Monthly Charge**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>$/Customer</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Service (1)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Small Service GS-1 $/Customer</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Medium Service GS-2 $/Customer</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Large Service GS-3 $/Customer</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>62.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Transportation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Small Transport ST $/Customer</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Large Transport LT $/Customer</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>49.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Extremely Large Transport XLT $/Customer</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>363.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Extra Extremely Large Transport XXLT $/Customer</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,257.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**

(1) Excludes Outdoor Lighting GL
Proposed Notice of Hearing
MPSC Case No. U-18424
Consumers Energy Company is requesting approval from the Michigan Public Service Commission to increase its rates for the distribution of natural gas and for other relief.

A TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER WHO USES 93 Mcf (THOUSAND CUBIC FEET) OF NATURAL GAS PER YEAR MAY SEE AN INCREASE IN NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION COSTS OF APPROXIMATELY $42.00 PER YEAR IF THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION APPROVES THE REQUEST. IF THE PROPOSED INVESTMENT RECOVERY MECHANISM IS APPROVED, ADDITIONAL INCREMENTAL INCREASES WOULD OCCUR IN 2019 AND 2020.

The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.

You may contact Consumers Energy Company, One Energy Plaza, Jackson, Michigan 49201, (800) 477-5050 for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the documents at the offices of Consumers Energy Company.

A public hearing will be held:

DATE/TIME: __________________, 2017, at _______ a.m.
This hearing will be a prehearing conference to set future hearing dates and decide other procedural matters.

BEFORE: Administrative Law Judge ____________

LOCATION: Michigan Public Service Commission
7109 West Saginaw Highway
Lansing, Michigan

PARTICIPATION: Any interested person may attend and participate. The hearing site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 284-8090 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider Consumers Energy Company’s (Consumers Energy) October 31, 2017 application, which seeks Commission approval to: 1) adjust its retail natural gas rates to provide additional revenue of approximately $178.194 million annually for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2019 test year; 2) adjust Consumers Energy’s existing retail natural gas rates to produce a return on common equity of not less than 10.5%; 3) implement a Gas Revenue Decoupling Mechanism to annually reconcile non-fuel rate revenues approved by the Commission in the most recent case to non-fuel rate revenues generated through actual sales during the period of time under evaluation; 4) implement an Investment Recovery Mechanism to recover the annual revenue requirements
associated with 2019 and 2020 incremental rate base and associated direct expenses beyond the level ultimately approved in test year rates and to adjust retail gas rates to recover additional incremental revenues in the years 2019 and 2020; 5) modify the rates, rules, and regulations; and 6) grant certain accounting authorizations as described in Consumers Energy’s filing. The 2019 through 2020 incremental revenue requests are associated with investments in the natural gas system for the safe and reliable delivery of natural gas to customers.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission’s E-Dockets website at: michigan.gov/mpscedockets. Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 241-6180 or by email at: mpscedockets@michigan.gov.

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by _______, 2017. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Consumers Energy’s Legal Department – Regulatory Group, One Energy Plaza, Jackson, Michigan 49201.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of his or her wish to make a statement of position. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information: available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure R 460.17315 and R 460.17335. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 241-6060.

A copy of Consumers Energy’s application may be reviewed on the Commission’s website at: michigan.gov/mpscedockets, and at the office of Consumers Energy Company. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 241-6180.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 300, as amended, MCL 462.2 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6h et seq.; and the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1999 AC, R 460.17101 et seq.

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY HAS REQUESTED THE INCREASES AND OTHER PROPOSALS DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE. THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION MAY GRANT OR DENY THE REQUESTED INCREASES AND OTHER PROPOSALS IN WHOLE OR IN PART, MAY GRANT LESSER OR GREATER INCREASES THAN THOSE REQUESTED, AND MAY AUTHORIZE A LESSER OR GREATER RATE FOR ANY CLASS OF SERVICE THAN THAT REQUESTED.

_______, 2017
Proposed Protective Order
MPSC Case No. U-18424
This Protective Order governs the use and disposition of Protected Material that Consumers Energy Company (“Applicant”) or any other Party discloses to another Party during the course of this proceeding. The Applicant or other Party disclosing Protected Material is referred to as the “Disclosing Party”; the recipient is the “Receiving Party” (defined further below). The intent of this Protective Order is to protect non-public, confidential information and materials so designated by the Applicant or by any other party, which information and materials contain confidential, proprietary, or commercially sensitive information. This Protective Order defines “Protected Material” and describes the manner in which Protected Material is to be identified and treated. Accordingly, it is ordered:

I. “Protected Material” and Other Definitions

A. For the purposes of this Protective Order, “Protected Material” consists of trade secrets or confidential, proprietary, or commercially sensitive information provided in Disclosing Party’s discovery or audit responses, any witness’ related exhibit and testimony, and any arguments of counsel describing or relying upon the Protected Material. Subject to challenge under Paragraph IV.A, Protected Material shall consist of non-public confidential information and materials including, but not limited to, the following information disclosed during the course of this case if it is marked as required by this Protective Order:
1. Trade secrets or confidential, proprietary, or commercially sensitive information provided in response to discovery, in response to an order issued by the presiding hearing officer or the Michigan Public Service Commission ("MPSC" or the "Commission"), in testimony or exhibits filed later in this case, or in arguments of counsel;

2. To the extent permitted, information obtained under license from a third-party licensor, to which the Disclosing Party or witnesses engaged by the Disclosing Party is a licensee, that is subject to any confidentiality or non-transferability clause. This information includes reports; analyses; models (including related inputs and outputs); trade secrets; and confidential, proprietary, or commercially sensitive information that the Disclosing Party or one of its witnesses receives as a licensee and is authorized by the third-party licensor to disclose consistent with the terms and conditions of this Protective Order; and

3. Information that could identify the bidders and bids, including the winning bid, in a competitive solicitation for a power purchase agreement or in a competitively bid engineering, procurement, or construction contract at any stage of the selection process (i.e., before the Disclosing Party has entered into a power purchase agreement or selected a contractor).

B. The information subject to this Protective Order does not include:

1. Information that is or has become available to the public through no fault of the Receiving Party or Reviewing Representative and no breach of this Protective Order, or information that is otherwise lawfully known by the Receiving Party without any obligation to hold it in confidence;

2. Information received from a third party free to disclose the information without restriction;

3. Information that is approved for release by written authorization of the Disclosing Party, but only to the extent of the authorization;

4. Information that is required by law or regulation to be disclosed, but only to the extent of the required disclosure; or

5. Information that is disclosed in response to a valid, non-appealable order of a court of competent jurisdiction or governmental body, but only to the extent the order requires.

C. “Party” refers to the Applicant, MPSC Staff (“Staff”), Michigan Attorney General, or any other person, company, organization, or association that is granted intervention
D. “Receiving Party” means any Party to this proceeding who requests or receives access to Protected Material, subject to the requirement that each Reviewing Representative sign a Nondisclosure Certificate attached to this Protective Order as Attachment 1.

E. “Reviewing Representative” means a person who has signed a Nondisclosure Certificate and who is:

1. An attorney who has entered an appearance in this proceeding for a Receiving Party;

2. An attorney, paralegal, or other employee associated, for the purpose of this case, with an attorney described in Paragraph I.E.1;

3. An expert or employee of an expert retained by a Receiving Party to advise, prepare for, or testify in this proceeding; or

4. An employee or other representative of a Receiving Party with significant responsibility in this case.

A Reviewing Representative is responsible for assuring that persons under his or her supervision and control comply with this Protective Order.

F. “Nondisclosure Certificate” means the certificate attached to this Protective Order as Attachment 1, which is signed by a Reviewing Representative who has been granted access to Protected Material and agreed to be bound by the terms of this Protective Order.

II. Access to and Use of Protected Material

A. This Protective Order governs the use of all Protected Material that is marked as required by Paragraph III.A and made available for review by the Disclosing Party to any Receiving Party or Reviewing Representative. This Protective Order protects: (i) the Protected Material; (ii) any copy or reproduction of the Protected Material made by any person; and
(iii) any memorandum, handwritten notes, or any other form of information that copies, contains, or discloses Protected Material. All Protected Material in the possession of a Receiving Party shall be maintained in a secure place. Access to Protected Material shall be limited to persons authorized to have access subject to the provisions of this Protective Order.

B. Protected Material shall be used and disclosed by the Receiving Party solely in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Protective Order. A Receiving Party may authorize access to, and use of, Protected Material by a Reviewing Representative identified by the Receiving Party, subject to Paragraphs III and V below, only as necessary to analyze the Protected Material; make or respond to discovery; present evidence; prepare testimony, argument, briefs, or other filings; prepare for cross-examination; consider strategy; and evaluate settlement. These individuals shall not release or disclose the content of Protected Material to any other person or use the information for any other purpose.

C. The Disclosing Party retains the right to object to any designated Reviewing Representative if the Disclosing Party has reason to believe that there is an unacceptable risk of misuse of confidential information. If a Disclosing Party objects to a Reviewing Representative, the Disclosing Party and the Receiving Party will attempt to reach an agreement to accommodate that Receiving Party’s request to review Protected Material. If no agreement is reached, then either the Disclosing Party or the Receiving Party may submit the dispute to the presiding hearing officer. If the Disclosing Party notifies a Receiving Party of an objection to a Reviewing Representative, then the Protected Material shall not be provided to that Reviewing Representative until the objection is resolved by agreement or by the presiding hearing officer.

D. Before reviewing any Protected Material, including copies, reproductions, and copies of notes of Protected Material, a Receiving Party and Reviewing Representative shall sign
a copy of the Nondisclosure Certificate (Attachment 1 to this Protective Order) agreeing to be bound by the terms of this Protective Order. The Reviewing Representative shall also provide a copy of the executed Nondisclosure Certificate to the Disclosing Party.

E. Even if no longer engaged in this proceeding, every person who has signed a Nondisclosure Certificate continues to be bound by the provisions of this Protective Order. The obligations under this Protective Order are not extinguished or nullified by entry of a final order in this case and are enforceable by the MPSC or a court of competent jurisdiction. To the extent Protected Material is not returned to a Disclosing Party, it remains subject to this Protective Order.

F. Members of the Commission, Commission staff assigned to assist the Commission with its deliberations, and the presiding hearing officer shall have access to all Protected Material that is submitted to the Commission under seal without the need to sign the Nondisclosure Certificate.

G. A Party retains the right to seek further restrictions on the dissemination of Protected Material to persons who have or may subsequently seek to intervene in this MPSC proceeding.

H. Nothing in this Protective Order precludes a Party from asserting a timely evidentiary objection to the proposed admission of Protected Material into the evidentiary record for this case.

III. Procedures

A. The Disclosing Party shall mark any information that it considers confidential as “CONFIDENTIAL: SUBJECT TO THE PROTECTIVE ORDER ISSUED IN CASE NO. U-18424.” If the Receiving Party or a Reviewing Representative makes copies of any Protected
If a Receiving Party wants to quote, refer to, or otherwise use Protected Material in pleadings, pre-filed testimony, exhibits, cross-examination, briefs, oral argument, comments, or in some other form in this proceeding (including administrative or judicial appeals), the Receiving Party shall do so consistent with procedures that will maintain the confidentiality of the Protected Material. For purposes of this Protective Order, the following procedures apply:

1. Written submissions using Protected Material shall be filed in a sealed record to be maintained by the MPSC’s Docket Section, or by a court of competent jurisdiction, in envelopes clearly marked on the outside, “CONFIDENTIAL – SUBJECT TO THE PROTECTIVE ORDER ISSUED IN CASE NO. U-18424.” Simultaneously, identical documents and materials, with the Protected Material redacted, shall be filed and disclosed the same way that evidence or briefs are usually filed;

2. Oral testimony, examination of witnesses, or argument about Protected Material shall be conducted on a separate record to be maintained by the MPSC’s Docket Section or by a court of competent jurisdiction. These separate record proceedings shall be closed to all persons except those furnishing the Protected Material and persons otherwise subject to this Protective Order. The Receiving Party presenting the Protected Material during the course of the proceeding shall give the presiding officer or court sufficient notice to allow the presiding officer or court an opportunity to take measures to protect the confidentiality of the Protected Material; and

3. Copies of the documents filed with the MPSC or a court of competent jurisdiction, which contain Protected Material, including the portions of the exhibits, transcripts, or briefs that refer to Protected Material, must be sealed and maintained in the MPSC’s or court’s files with a copy of the Protective Order attached.

It is intended that the Protected Material subject to this Protective Order should be shielded from disclosure by a Receiving Party. If any person files a request under the Freedom of Information Act with the MPSC or the Michigan Attorney General seeking access to
documents subject to this Protective Order, the MPSC’s Executive Secretary, Staff, or the Attorney General shall immediately notify the Disclosing Party, and the Disclosing Party may take whatever legal actions it deems appropriate to protect the Protected Material from disclosure. In light of Section 5 of the Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.235, the notice must be given at least five (5) business days before the MPSC, Staff, and/or the Michigan Attorney General grant the request in full or in part.

IV. **Termination of Protected Status**

A. A Receiving Party reserves the right to challenge whether a document or information is Protected Material and whether this information can be withheld under this Protective Order. In response to a motion, the Commission or the presiding hearing officer in this case may revoke a document’s protected status after notice and hearing. If the presiding hearing officer revokes a document’s protected status, then the document loses its protected status after 14 days unless a Party files an application for leave to appeal the ruling to the Commission within that time period. Any Party opposing the application for leave to appeal shall file an answer with the Commission no more than 14 days after the filing and service of the appeal. If an application is filed, then the information will continue to be protected from disclosure until either the time for appeal of the Commission’s final order resolving the issue has expired under MCL 462.26 or, if the order is appealed, until judicial review is completed and the time to take further appeals has expired.

B. If a document’s protected status is challenged under Paragraph IV.A, the Receiving Party challenging the protected status of the document shall explicitly state its reason for challenging the confidential designation. The Disclosing Party bears the burden of proving that the document should continue to be protected from disclosure.
V. Retention of Documents

Protected Material remains the property of the Disclosing Party and only remains available to the Receiving Party until the time expires for petitions for rehearing of a final MPSC order in Case No. U-18424 or until the MPSC has ruled on all petitions for rehearing in this case (if any). However, an attorney for a Receiving Party who has signed a Nondisclosure Certificate and who is representing the Receiving Party in an appeal from an MPSC final order in this case may retain copies of Protected Material until either the time for appeal of the Commission’s final order resolving the issue has expired under MCL 462.26 or, if the order is appealed, until judicial review is completed and the time to take further appeals has expired. On or before the time specified by the preceding sentences, the Receiving Party shall return to the Disclosing Party all Protected Material in its possession or in the possession of its Reviewing Representatives—including all copies and notes of Protected Material—or certify in writing to the Disclosing Party that the Protected Material has been destroyed.

VI. Limitations and Disclosures

The provisions of this Protective Order do not apply to a particular document, or portion of a document, described in Paragraph II.A if a Receiving Party can demonstrate that it has been previously disclosed by the Disclosing Party on a non-confidential basis or meets the criteria set forth in Paragraphs I.B.1 through I.B.5. A Receiving Party intending to disclose information taken directly from materials identified as Protected Material must—before actually disclosing the information—do one of the following: (i) contact the Disclosing Party’s counsel of record and obtain written permission to disclose the information, or (ii) challenge the confidential nature of the Protected Material and obtain a ruling under Paragraph IV that the information is not confidential and may be disclosed in or on the public record.
VII. Remedies

If a Receiving Party violates this Protective Order by improperly disclosing or using Protected Material, the Receiving Party shall take all necessary steps to remedy the improper disclosure or use. This includes immediately notifying the MPSC, the presiding hearing officer, and the Disclosing Party, in writing, of the identity of the person known or reasonably suspected to have obtained the Protected Material. A Party or person that violates this Protective Order remains subject to this paragraph regardless of whether the Disclosing Party could have discovered the violation earlier than it was discovered. This paragraph applies to both inadvertent and intentional violations. Nothing in this Protective Order limits the Disclosing Party’s rights and remedies, at law or in equity, against a Party or person using Protected Material in a manner not authorized by this Protective Order, including the right to obtain injunctive relief in a court of competent jurisdiction to prevent violations of this Protective Order.

Administrative Law Judge
STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter of the application of
CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY
for authority to increase its rates for the
distribution of natural gas and for other relief.

Case No. U-18424

NONDISCLOSURE CERTIFICATE

By signing this Nondisclosure Certificate, I acknowledge that access to Protected Material is provided to me under the terms and restrictions of the Protective Order issued in Case No. U-18424, that I have been given a copy of and have read the Protective Order, and that I agree to be bound by the terms of the Protective Order. I understand that the substance of the Protected Material (as defined in the Protective Order), any notes from Protected Material, or any other form of information that copies or discloses Protected Material, shall be maintained as confidential and shall not be disclosed to anyone other than in accordance with the Protective Order.

Date: ____________________
Title: ____________________
Representing: ____________________
Printed Name: ____________________
In the matter of the application of
CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY
for authority to increase its rates for the
distribution of natural gas and for other relief

Case No. U-18424

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN )
COUNTY OF JACKSON ) SS

Samantha J. O’Rourke, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that she is employed in the Legal Department of Consumers Energy Company; that on October 31, 2017, she served an electronic copy of Consumers Energy Company’s Application, Proposed Notice of Hearing, Proposed Protective Order, and the Testimony and Exhibits of Consumers Energy Company’s Witnesses upon the persons listed in Attachment 1 hereto, at the e-mail addresses listed therein. She further states that she mailed electronic disks containing: (i) Consumers Energy Company’s Application, Proposed Notice of Hearing, Proposed Protective Order, and the testimony, exhibits, and workpapers of Consumers Energy Company’s witnesses in PDF; (ii) exhibits in Excel format that were filed in Excel format; (iii) tariff changes in Word format that were filed in Word format; (iv) workpapers in Excel format; and (v) Part II and Part III – Standard Filing Requirements Supplemental Data to all of the addresses listed in Attachment 1, as noted, by depositing the same in the United States mail in the City of Jackson, Michigan with first-class postage thereon fully paid.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31st day of October, 2017.

Samantha J. O’Rourke

________________________________________
Melissa K. Harris, Notary Public
State of Michigan, County of Jackson
My Commission Expires: 06/11/20
Acting in the County of Jackson
Counsel for the Michigan Public Service Commission Staff
Hand-Delivered
Heather M.S. Durian, Esq.
Meredith R. Beidler, Esq.
Assistant Attorneys General
Public Service Division
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Lansing, MI 48909
E-Mail: durianh@michigan.gov
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mpattwell@clarkhill.com

Stephen A. Campbell, Esq.
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Detroit, MI 48226
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