

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the matter, on the Commission's own motion,)	
to open a docket for certain regulated electric)	
utilities to file their five-year distribution investment)	Case No. U-20147
and maintenance plans and for other related,)	
uncontested matters.)	
_____)	

At the April 12, 2018 meeting of the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing,
Michigan.

PRESENT: Hon. Sally A. Talberg, Chairman
Hon. Norman J. Saari, Commissioner
Hon. Rachael A. Eubanks, Commissioner

ORDER OPENING DOCKET

The Commission has experienced an increase in general rate cases filed utilizing future test years, as authorized by MCL 460.6a(1), that include projected increased infrastructure investment requests for electric distribution.

Against this backdrop, in the January 31, 2017 order (January 31 order) addressing a general rate case for DTE Electric Company (DTE Electric) in Case No. U-18014 and the February 28, 2017 order (February 28 order) addressing a general rate case for Consumers Energy Company (Consumers) in Case No. U-17990, the Commission expressed its desire to be able to properly evaluate significant and necessary investments to the utilities' aging electric distribution systems to ensure that such systems are safe, reliable, and resilient long into the future, as opposed to merely evaluating such costs over a 12-month snapshot of time. January 31 order, p. 40;

February 28 order, pp. 18-19. The Commission, therefore, directed DTE Electric and Consumers to develop and submit draft five-year investment and maintenance distribution plans (distribution plans) by the dates specified in those orders. January 31 order, pp. 40-41, 131; February 28 order, pp. 19, 167. Thereafter, following submission of their draft five-year distribution plans, an opportunity for interested persons to comment on the submissions, and working with the Commission Staff (Staff), DTE Electric and Consumers filed their final five-year distribution plans for 2018-2022 in their respective dockets on January 31, 2018, and March 1, 2018, as directed by the October 11, 2017 order in Case Nos. U-17990 and U-18014 (October 11 order) and as extended for Consumers on November 21, 2017.

In the October 11 order, the Commission acknowledged that, given the fast pace of technological advancement in grid technologies and changing customer expectations, taking a longer-term look at future distribution plans beyond the first iterations is necessary. As stated in the October 11 order, p. 14, “[t]he Commission believes there are significant benefits associated with a comprehensive and forward-looking approach to distribution planning that leverages greater Commission and stakeholder input.” In recognizing these potential benefits, the Commission therefore ordered the Staff to convene with stakeholders after DTE Electric and Consumers filed their final five-year distribution plans to develop a framework for the development of future distribution plans and for the Staff to file a report of its findings to the Commission no later than September 1, 2018. *Id.*, pp. 14-18.

Given the importance of these five-year distribution plans, particularly with the 10-month time required for rate cases decisions, the Commission, in today’s general rate case order in Case No. U-18370 (April 12 order), is also requiring Indiana Michigan Power Company (I&M) to file a five-year distribution plan, beginning with a draft due by October 31, 2018, and then meeting with

the Staff to complete and file a final version by May 1, 2019. April 12 order, pp. 28, 86.

However, instead of following suit from Case Nos. U-17990 and U-18014, the Commission finds that creating a single repository for all five-year distribution plans in this docket (Case No. U-20147) will allow a comprehensive and concerted review by all distribution system stakeholders of issues related to five-year distribution plans in one central, efficient location. Therefore, as set forth in the April 12 order, pp. 28, 86, I&M shall file its five-year distribution plan in this docket. Further, to also collect, in this docket, the final five-year distribution plans previously filed by DTE Electric and Consumers, the Commission's Executive Secretary shall, after opening this docket, efile copies of those plans in this docket, and the Staff's corresponding report due by September 1, 2018, following convening with stakeholders, shall too be filed herein.

In this order, the Commission is also inviting Staff and stakeholder comments on the distribution plans, to be filed within 30 days of this order. At this stage, the Commission seeks input on the existing distribution plans filed by DTE Electric and Consumers and how the information can help inform ratemaking and other regulatory processes, including consideration of performance-based metrics. Thereafter, the Commission anticipates holding a technical conference on this topic with logistical details to be provided by the Staff through a notice in this docket and a newly-created webpage and listserv. Following this process and the Staff report due by September 1, 2018, the Commission then expects to invite comments and convene a discussion among stakeholders on expectations for the next set of distribution plans.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

A. The Commission's Executive Secretary shall immediately open the docket for Case No. U-20147.

B. The Commission's Executive Secretary shall electronically serve a copy of this order on Consumers Energy Company, DTE Electric Company, Indiana Michigan Power Company, and all other parties to Case Nos. U-17990, U-18014, and U-18370.

C. Following the opening of this docket, the Commission's Executive Secretary shall efile, in this docket, copies of the following documents: the final five-year investment and maintenance distribution plans filed by Consumers Energy Company and DTE Electric Company, respectively, in Case Nos. U-17990 and U-18014 on March 1, 2018, and January 31, 2018.

D. Interested stakeholders shall file, in this docket, comments regarding Consumers Energy Company's and DTE Electric Company's final five-year investment and maintenance distribution plans within 30 days of this order. After comments are filed, the Commission Staff shall then review and compile the comments and, following notice, as set forth above, hold a technical conference (to be held at the Commission's Lansing office soon thereafter) to address any concerns outlined in the stakeholder comments and how to use the information contained in the five-year investment and maintenance distribution plans in regulatory processes.

E. The Commission Staff shall file, in this docket, its previously-required report, due by September 1, 2018, of its findings relative to the final five-year investment and maintenance distribution plans filed by Consumers Energy Company and DTE Electric Company, following the technical conference discussed above.

The Commission reserves jurisdiction and may issue further orders as necessary.

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Sally A. Talberg, Chairman

Norman J. Saari, Commissioner

Rachael A. Eubanks, Commissioner

By its action of April 12, 2018.

Kavita Kale, Executive Secretary

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

Case No. U-20147

County of Ingham)

Lisa Felice being duly sworn, deposes and says that on April 12, 2018 A.D. she electronically notified the attached list of this **Commission Order via e-mail transmission**, to the persons as shown on the attached service list (Listserv Distribution List).



Lisa Felice

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 12th day of April 2018



Steven J. Cook
Notary Public, Ingham County, Michigan
As acting in Eaton County
My Commission Expires: April 30, 2018

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