

January 29, 2024

*Via E-Filing*

Ms. Lisa Felice  
Executive Secretary  
Michigan Public Service Commission  
7109 West Saginaw Highway  
Lansing, MI 48917

RE: MPSC Case No. U-21291

Dear Ms. Felice:

The following is attached for paperless electronic filing:

- Petition to Intervene by Soulardarity;
- Appearance of Amanda Urban on behalf of Soulardarity; and
- Proof of Service.

Sincerely,

/s/ Amanda Urban

Amanda Urban (P-80915)  
t-9aurba@lawclinic.uchicago.edu

xc: Parties to Case No. U-21291  
Mark Templeton – University of Chicago

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter of the application of **DTE GAS COMPANY** for authority to increase its rates, amend its rate schedules and rules governing the distribution and supply of natural gas, and for miscellaneous accounting authority

Case No. U-21291

ALJ Jonathan F. Thoits

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**PETITION TO INTERVENE BY SOULARDARITY**

1. Soulardarity, a Highland Park, Michigan-based nonprofit organization whose members include customers of DTE Gas Company (“DTE”), seeks to intervene in this case to represent the interests of its members in receiving cost-effective gas that is generated and delivered through prudent and environmentally sound practices.

2. Soulardarity is a clean-energy and energy-justice community organization focused on building energy democracy through education, organizing, and community-owned clean energy. Residents of Highland Park formed Soulardarity as a community initiative to provide solar streetlights to the City of Highland Park after DTE repossessed more than 1,000 streetlights from the City in 2011. Soulardarity promotes solar street-lighting, community solar, and solar bulk purchasing not only for their environmental benefits, but also to advance energy affordability and reliability. Soulardarity advocates for energy education and expanding access to clean energy to improve the economic condition of low-income communities—especially low-income communities of color—in southeast Michigan.

3. Soulardarity’s members live, use gas, and pay gas bills in DTE’s service territory. The rates, terms and conditions, and policies governing the provision of gas by DTE directly affect Soulardarity’s members.

4. Soulardarity's members have a strong interest in having their gas needs met in an affordable, dependable, environmentally responsible, and safe manner and provided at costs that are relatively stable over the long term and allocated fairly among customer classes.

5. Soulardarity's members have the potential to be harmed if they incur higher, unreasonable, or unjust costs for gas or if they continue to bear disproportionate environmental, safety, and public health burdens caused by imprudent or unreasonable utility practices.

6. The Michigan Public Service Commission ("MPSC") recognizes two types of intervention:

- a. The first type is intervention by right, which requires that the party will suffer an injury-in-fact as a result of the outcome of the case and that the party is within the zone of interests protected by the statute. *See, e.g., Association of Data Processing Service Organizations, Inc. v. Camp*, 397 U.S. 150; 90 S. Ct. 827; 25 L.Ed.2d 184 (1970).
- b. The second type of intervention is permissive; the Commission has the discretion to permit a party to intervene in the case where that party can provide useful information to the Commission or a unique perspective on the issues in the case.

7. Soulardarity qualifies for intervention under both standards and will provide useful information to the Commission and a unique perspective on the issues.

8. With respect to intervention by right, Soulardarity's members include gas customers of DTE who could suffer injury-in-fact as a result of the outcome of the case. Soulardarity's members are directly impacted by DTE's provision of gas and billing practices and

will suffer adverse financial consequences from an imprudent or unreasonable outcome of this rate case.

9. Soulardarity's members are within the zone of interest protected by MCL 460.1, *et seq.* These statutes generally protect ratepayers and provide opportunities for advocacy by ratepayer groups to protect their interests in Commission proceedings.

10. Soulardarity also meets the standard for permissive intervention in this proceeding. As an advocate for low-income communities and communities of color, Soulardarity and its members will provide a unique perspective on and bring useful information to the issues in this case as described in paragraphs 2 through 5 and 8 and 9 above. Soulardarity staff have useful information, and extensive knowledge and experience in the areas of renewable energy and expanding access to community-owned clean energy, and will bring this expertise to bear in this proceeding.

11. While Soulardarity has not intervened in a DTE Gas case, it has previously intervened in several DTE Electric cases. The cases Soulardarity has previously intervened in include U-18232 (concerning DTE's Renewable Energy Plan); U-20733 (concerning DTE's Energy Waste Reduction plan); U-20162, U-20561, U-20836, and U-21297 (each concerning DTE's requested rate increases); U-20471 and U-21193 (both concerning DTE's proposed Integrated Resource Plan); U-20713 and U-20851 (consolidated) and U-21172 (concerning DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing program); U-21087 (concerning DTE's proposed PrePay program); and U-21015 (concerning DTE's securitization of qualified costs).

12. Soulardarity also has participated in the MPSC policymaking process to advance its members' interests described above. Examples of Soulardarity's participation include: filing comments in DTE's accounting approval application (U-20835) and DTE's Distribution Grid Plan

(U-20147); engaging in multiple phases of the Distributed Generation Program Tariff case (U-18383); contributing to the Third-Party Community Renewable Energy stakeholder process (resulting from orders in U-18351 and U-18352); participating in the C.O.M. Energy Assessment (IRP and Distribution Plan Alignment) process (U-20633); and participating as presenters and commenters in the MI Power Grid New Technologies and Business Models Workgroup (U-20898).

13. This petition to intervene is timely and before the close of the period for intervention set in the notice of prehearing.

14. No other party adequately represents the interests of Soulardarity and its members.

15. Soulardarity plans to evaluate DTE's application, testimony, and exhibits, and to conduct discovery, and then to raise those issues and take those positions that best serve the interests described above. Soulardarity reserves the right to advance other issues and request relief as the case develops.

16. If allowed to intervene, Soulardarity requests that all notices and pleadings be served on the following:

Amanda Urban (P80915)  
Attorney  
University of Chicago Law School – Abrams Environmental Law Clinic  
6020 South University Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60637  
(269) 254-0590  
t-9aurba@lawclinic.uchicago.edu

Mark Templeton (pro hac admission pending)  
Lead Counsel for Soulardarity  
University of Chicago Law School – Abrams Environmental Law Clinic  
6020 South University Avenue  
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For all of these reasons, Soulardarity respectfully requests that the Commission grant this petition to intervene in U-21291 and treat Soulardarity as a party to this proceeding.

Amanda Urban  
Counsel for Soulardarity  
Date: January 29, 2024

By:  
/s/ Amanda Urban  
Attorney  
6020 S. University Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60637  
Phone: (269) 254-0590  
Email: t-9aurba@lawclinic.uchicago.edu

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**ENTRY OF APPEARANCE IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**

This form is issued as provided for by 1939 PA 3, as amended, and by 1933 PA 254, as amended. The filing of this form, or an acceptable alternative, is necessary to ensure subsequent service of any hearing notices, Commission orders, and related hearing documents.

**General Instructions:**

Type or print legibly in ink. For assistance or clarification, please contact the Public Service Commission at (517) 284-8090.

*Please Note: The Commission will provide electronic service of documents to all parties in this proceeding.*

**THIS APPEARANCE TO BE ENTERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING:**

Case / Company Name: DTE Gas Co.

Docket No. U-21291

Please enter my appearance in the above-entitled matter on behalf of:

1. Soulardarity
2. (Name)
3. (Name)
4. (Name)
5. (Name)
6. (Name)
7. (Name)

Name: Amanda Urban

Address: 6020 S. University Ave.

City: Chicago State: IL

Zip: 60637 Phone (269) 254-0590

Email: t-9aurba@lawclinics.uchicago.edu

Date: January 29, 2024

Signature: /s/ Amanda Urban

I am not an attorney

I am an attorney whose:

Michigan Bar # is P80915

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STATE OF MICHIGAN

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ALJ Jonathan F. Thoits

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**PROOF OF SERVICE**

On the date below, an electronic copy of **Petition to Intervene by Soulardarity and Appearance of Amanda Urban on behalf of Soulardarity** was served on the following:

<b>Name/Party</b>	<b>E-mail Address</b>
<b>Administrative Law Judge</b> Hon. Jonathan F. Thoits	thoitsj@michigan.gov
<b>DTE Gas Company</b> Carlton D. Watson Paula Johnson-Bacon	carlton.watson@dteenergy.com paula.bacon@dteenergy.com
<b>MPSC Staff</b> Heather M.S. Durian Alena Clark	durianh@michigan.gov clarka55@michigan.gov
<b>Attorney General</b> Joel King	KingJ38@michigan.gov ag-enra-spec-lit@michigan.gov
<b>City of Ann Arbor</b> Valerie Jackson Valerie J.M. Brader	valerie@rivenoaklaw.com valeriejackson@rivenoaklaw.com ecf@rivenoak.com
<b>Citizens Utility Board of Michigan, Michigan Environmental Council</b> Christopher M. Bzdok Holly L. Hillyer Breanna Thomas	chris@tropospherelegal.com holly@tropospherelegal.com breanna@tropospherelegal.com

<b>Retail Energy Supply Association</b> Jennifer U. Heston	jheston@fraserlawfirm.com
<b>The Ecology Center, The Environmental Law &amp; Policy Center, Union of Concerned Scientists, and Vote Solar</b> Nicholas Wallace Daniel Abrams Carolyn Boyce Alondra Estrada	nwallace@elpc.org dabrams@elpc.org cboyce@elpc.org aestrada@elpc.org MPSCDocket@elpc.org
<b>Urban Core Collective</b> Amanda Urban Mark Templeton Jacob Schuhardt Sam Heppell Madison S. Wilson	t-9aurba@lawclinic.uchicago.edu templeton@uchicago.edu jschuhardt@uchicago.edu madisonswilson@uchicago.edu heppell@uchicago.edu aelc_mpssc@lawclinic.uchicago.edu

The statements above are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Amanda Urban  
Counsel for Soulardarity

Date: January 29, 2024

By: /s/ Amanda Urban  
Amanda Urban (P80915)  
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6020 S. University Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60637  
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