

April 18, 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-21534

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-21534
Mark Templeton – University of Chicago

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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

Case No. U-21534

ALJ Wallace

PETITION TO INTERVENE BY SOULARDARITY

1. Soulardarity, a Highland Park, Michigan-based nonprofit organization whose members include customers of DTE Electric Company (“DTE”), seeks to intervene in this case to represent the interests of its members in receiving cost-effective electricity 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 electricity, and pay electricity bills in DTE’s service territory. The rates, terms and conditions, and policies governing the provision of electricity by DTE directly affect Soulardarity’s members.

4. Soulardarity's members have a strong interest in having their electricity 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 electricity 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 electric 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 electricity 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 and people of color communities, 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. Soulardarity has previously intervened in U-18232 (concerning DTE's Renewable Energy Plan); U-20733 (concerning DTE Electric's Energy Waste Reduction plan); U-20162, U-20561, U-21297 and U-20836 (each concerning DTE Electric's requested rate increases); U-20471 and U-21193 (both concerning DTE Electric's proposed Integrated Resource Plan); U-20713 and U-20851 (consolidated) and U-21172 (concerning DTE Electric's Voluntary Green Pricing program); U-21087 (concerning DTE Electric's proposed PrePay program); U-21015 (concerning DTE Electric's securitization of qualified costs); and U-21291 (concerning DTE Gas's requested rate increases).

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)
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For all of these reasons, Soulardarity respectfully requests that the Commission grant this petition to intervene in U-21534 and treat Soulardarity as a party to this proceeding.

Date: April 18, 2024

By:

/s/ Amanda Urban
Amanda Urban (P80915)
Counsel for Soulardarity
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Phone: (269) 254-0590
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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 Electric Co. Docket No. U-21534

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 (773) 702-9611

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

Date: April 18, 2024

Signature: /s/ Amanda Urban

<input type="radio"/> I am not an attorney
<input checked="" type="radio"/> I am an attorney whose: Michigan Bar # is <u>P80915</u>

SaveForm

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ALJ Sally Wallace

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:

Name/Party	E-mail Address
Administrative Law Judge Hon. Sally Wallace	wallaces2@michigan.gov
DTE Electric Company Jon P. Christinidis Paula Johnson-Bacon John A. Janiszewski Andrea E. Hayden Breanne K. Reitzel	jon.christinidis@dteenergy.com paula.bacon@dteenergy.com john.janiszewski@dteenergy.com andrea.hayden@dteenergy.com breanne.reitzel@dteenergy.com mpscfilings@dteenergy.com
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The City of Ann Arbor and Michigan Municipal Association for Utility Issues Valerie Jackson Valerie J.M. Brader Linda Hofrichter Rick Bunch	valeriejackson@rivenoaklaw.com valerie@rivenoaklaw.com lhd@rivenoaklaw.com rick@mi-maui.org ecf@rivenoak.com

<p>Michigan Environmental Council, Citizens Utility Board of Michigan, and Natural Resources Defense Council Christopher M. Bzdok Tracy Jane Andrews Breanna Thomas</p>	<p>chris@tropospherelegal.com tjandrews@tropospherelegal.com breanna@envlaw.com</p>
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<p>Soulardarity and We Want Green, Too Amanda Urban Mark Templeton Jacob Schuhardt Sam Heppell Madison S. Wilson</p>	<p>t-9aurba@lawclinic.uchicago.edu templeton@uchicago.edu jschuhardt@uchicago.edu heppell@uchicago.edu madisonswilson@uchicago.edu aclc mpssc@lawclinic.uchicago.edu</p>

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

[Signature to follow on next page.]

Amanda Urban
Counsel for Soulardarity

Date: April 18, 2024

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