

From: [George Medved](#)
To: [LARA-MPSC-Commissioners](#); [Michigan Attorney General](#)
Cc: [clerk@house.mi.gov](#); [MattHall@house.mi.gov](#); [abrahamaiyash@house.mi.gov](#)
Subject: Re: DTE Rate Hikes - Unethical, Wrong, Ripping off Michigan Residents
Date: Monday, September 2, 2024 10:40:11 AM

**CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to
abuse@michigan.gov**

Hello,

I hope you and your families had a great Labor Day Weekend.

Your offices were successful in betraying the trust of Michigan citizens by granting DTE the ability to grab more undeserved money at the expense of loyal Michigan residents. Electricity bills are costing some residents more than their car payments because of your weakness with managing repetitive DTE increase requests. The decision to grant DTE a single dime of additional increases in 2024 was weak, unjustified, and outrageous. Are we paying for the DTE legacy costs, DTE pensions, DTE raises, all of which were inflated & undeserved in many cases? Did DTE intentionally instill fear of outages into your office ahead of negotiations? Did this make you cave in fear and gave them what they want because it was the easy thing to do?

They negotiated circles around you. They likely sat down, decided how much unjustified money they wanted, and then someone at DTE said "Double that number so that when they give us (DTE) 50% of what we asked for, they will feel like they were good negotiators." And it worked ! That simple. Perhaps they will try it again. And again. Until someone at MPSC wakes up and realizes that the average Michigan resident is soon paying more for monthly electricity than they are paying for their mortgage. Is that what it will take for MPSC to wake up? Hopefully the house cleaning will happen way before it reaches that point.

It was not a victory to grant DTE 50% (or any percentage at all) of what they asked for. It was a pathetic loss at the expense of Michigan residents. My electric bill, along with millions of residents, it through the roof because of incompetent management on multiple fronts. And I don't use more electricity than the average household. Please don't try to shroud the ridiculous increases within an inflation argument. That would pile a weak excuse on top of weak excuses. Inflation plays a very minor role in this matter. Please get to the real issue at hand and seek an actionable resolution.

I am a senior citizen (over 65). The electricity drain & stressed power grid is not just caused by electric cars, grid rebuilds, tree trimming efforts, etc. The repeated requests for price increases are the result of mismanagement of the original requests for unjustified price increases. Granting the requests makes our state management look totally unqualified and woefully incompetent. Did DTE pull off an "extortion-ish" scheme to get more money by instilling fear in MPSC and other entities? Did such entities feel good about giving DTE only 50% of what they asked for. That was not a good negotiation. That was DTE making fools of Michigan state management.

It is just plain terrible to see what MPSC allows DTE to get away with. Does MPSC collude with DTE? Will Dana Nessel's office open an investigation into this woeful ineptness and/or potential collusion with DTE that leads to price increases whenever DTE asks for them? Is MPSC (or other MI entities) actually benefiting from DTE price increases in some clandestine manner?

Something is dreadfully wrong with MPSC's management. There is very limited service being done by the Michigan Public Service Commission. There is certainly a dis-service to Michigan residents.

I would like to apologize for some rather harsh statements made in this email, but when electricity bills begin to exceed car payments for Michigan residents, there is something dreadfully wrong. I would like to apologize, but the apologies shouldn't come from Michigan residents in this case. The apologies should come from Michigan leadership.

I am writing this email not just for myself, but for elderly citizens, middle class families, and others that can see that the DTE price increases were totally unjustified. DTE is being allowed, permitted, and welcomed to submit one price increase request after another without justification. It calls into question whether DTE is the only Michigan entity benefiting from this. Are our DTE payments going to any other entities or individuals other than DTE? Are our DTE payments being used for programs that have not been authorized by Michigan citizens? Something has gone terribly wrong. Please get to the bottom of the issues and fix them, so that Michigan residents can regain a degree of trust in the MPSC and other Michigan government entities.

Thank you,

Concerned Michigan Citizen.

On Saturday, March 30, 2024 at 11:30:21 AM EDT, George Medved <gmedved999@yahoo.com> wrote:

Michigan Public Service Commission:

Did someone screw up at DTE again, leading DTE to ask the residents of Michigan to pay for it? Does DTE want free unchecked money again that is unjustified, and not subjected to accountability metrics? Disgusting, disturbing, absurd, pathetic. All of these words apply.

Is the power grid overburdened by increased energy demands? Competent management at DTE would have been prepared for increased energy demands due to EVs and other power grid upgrade needs years ago, using the prior rate increases to fund their projects. Did mis-spent money that was previously approved for DTE projects get unethically & incompetently distributed to the wrong places? Was there any competence or oversight related to previous increases granted to DTE?

George Medved

Is DTE trying to sneak by these absurd hikes to pay for increasing unjustified legacy costs for folks that never should have received such legacy benefits in the first place?

Does DTE do layoffs or restructure when they can't pay bills due to incompetent management? I don't think anyone is convinced that any recent organizational changes are fixing things at DTE. Don't let DTE submit another unchecked list of promises to be broken. DTE customers are not responsible for prior & sustained incompetence at DTE. Make DTE manage with the funds that they are currently receiving from Michigan residents. Prove performance first, then consider a rate increase years after sustained performance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission has a responsibility to provide a service to the public in the state of Michigan. Please provide a service to Michigan citizens by telling DTE to manage their finances competently, and make the necessary changes to work within their current budget. In a strong and decisive manner, please instruct DTE to cease their unjustified requests for more free money.

Please do not let DTE think that they are good negotiators by submitting an astronomically high request, then getting half of it. Don't let DTE make fools of MPSC repeatedly. DTE should get absolutely nothing. No rate increases should be approved. Show DTE that MPSC does their job. DTE should not be

allowed to repeatedly make MPSC look foolish at the expense of Michigan residents.

It appears very obvious that **DTE consistently negotiates by setting absurdly high rate increase requests, and then relies on an inept person(s) at MPSC to approve half of what they asked for, giving a false indication that there was a competent negotiation.** DTE probably laughs in the faces of MPSC knowing that DTE can repeatedly get away with their absurd and obvious negotiating tactics. Hopefully there is someone at MPSC that has a skill level and the strength to tell DTE that they deserve zero. Absolutely no increase. Send DTE a message. Tell them to come back to the table in 2027, after proving that they have a level of competence required to manage the funds that they are already receiving from Michigan residents.

Please show the citizens of the State of Michigan that the Michigan Public Service Commission has the right to exist.

Please make sure that the MPSC is not accused of collusion with DTE.

I'm sure there are many good people at both DTE and MPSC. Please allow the ethical, competent, hard working good people resolve this issue, and deny any requests from DTE to take advantage of Michigan Residents.

Lastly, please don't send poorly crafted form letter replies that provide woefully pathetic excuses attempting to justify DTE rate hikes.

Thank you,

Concerned Michigan Resident (one of millions)