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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-21973 Volume No. 1

PREHEARING

Proceedings held via Microsoft Teams in the above-entitled matter before Christopher S. Saunders, J.D., Administrative Law Judge with MOAHR, for the Michigan Public Service Commission, Lansing, Michigan, Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

APPEARANCES:

CARLTON D. WATSON, J.D.
DTE Energy
One Energy Plaza, 1635 WCB
Detroit, Michigan 48226

On behalf of DTE Gas Company

HOLLY L. HILLYER, J.D.
(CHRISTOPHER M. BZDOK, J.D.)
Troposphere Legal, PLC
420 East Front Street
Traverse City, Michigan 49686

On behalf of Michigan Environmental Council
and Citizens Utility Board of Michigan

(Continued)

1 APPEARANCES Continuing:

2 TROY C. OTTO, J.D.
3 (ARTHUR J. LEVASSEUR, J.D.)
4 Fischer Franklin & Ford
5 24725 West Twelve Mile Road, Suite 230
6 Southfield, Michigan 48034

7 On behalf of Detroit Thermal, LLC

8 JENNIFER U. HESTON, J.D.
9 Potomac Law Group, PLLC
10 1717 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 1025
11 Washington, DC 20006

12 On behalf of Retail Energy Supply Association

13 JOEL B. KING,
14 Assistant Attorney General
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17 Lansing, Michigan 48913

18 On behalf of Attorney General Dana Nessel

19 VALERIE R. JACKSON, J.D.
20 Guy C. Larcom City Hall
21 301 E. Huron Street
22 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

23 On behalf of City of Ann Arbor

24 TIMOTHY J. LUNDGREN, J.D.
25 (LAURA A. CHAPPELLE, J.D.)
(JUSTIN K. OOMS, J.D.)
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On behalf of Energy Michigan, Inc. and Billerud
Americas Corporation

26 (Continued)

1 APPEARANCES Continuing:

2 AMANDA URBAN, J.D.
3 MARK N. TEMPLETON, J.D.
4 ALEXANDRIA C. MISKHO, J.D.
5 University of Chicago
6 Abrams Environmental Law Clinic
7 6020 S. University Avenue
8 Chicago, Illinois 60637

9 On behalf of Urban Core Collective, Soulardarity,
10 and We Want Green, Too (Frontline Organizations)

11 JACOB S. PORCARELLI, J.D.
12 Miller Cohen, PLC
13 7700 Second Avenue, Suite 335
14 Detroit, Michigan 48202

15 On behalf of Utility Workers Union of
16 America, Local 223

17 STEPHEN A. CAMPBELL, J.D.
18 Clark Hill, PLC
19 500 Woodward Avenue, Suite 3500
20 Detroit, Michigan 48226

21 On behalf of Association of Businesses
22 Advocating Tariff Equity

23 HEATHER M. S. DURIAN,
24 MICHAEL J. ORRIS,
25 (ANNA B. STIRLING)
(ADAM COZORT)
Assistant Attorneys General
7109 W. Saginaw Highway, Floor 3
Lansing, Michigan 48917

On behalf of Michigan Public Service
Commission Staff

22 - - -

24 REPORTED BY: Lori Anne Penn, CSR-1315

25

1 Thursday, December 11, 2025

2 At 9:00 a.m.

3 - - -

4 (Hearing commenced pursuant to due notice.)

5 JUDGE SAUNDERS: O.K. Good morning. We
6 are on the record in the matter before the Michigan
7 Public Service Commission, Docket No. U-21973, entitled
8 In the matter of the application of DTE Gas Company for
9 authority to increase its rates, amend its rate schedules
10 and rules governing the distribution and supply of
11 natural gas, and for miscellaneous accounting authority.
12 For the record, my name is Christopher Saunders, I'm an
13 Administrative Law Judge with the Michigan Office of
14 Administrative Hearings and Rules, and I have been
15 assigned to be the presiding officer in this matter.
16 This is the date and time for a prehearing conference as
17 set by the Commission, and this prehearing conference is
18 being held remotely using Microsoft Teams. A link to
19 participate was to provided to all the parties who
20 requested one.

21 So present we have counsel, so why don't
22 we go ahead and we'll start off with appearances this
23 morning. So Mr. Watson, would you be so kind as to place
24 your appearance on the record for me, please.

25 MR. WATSON: Yes. Thank you, your Honor.

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1 Carlton Watson on behalf of DTE Gas Company.

2 JUDGE SAUNDERS: O.K., great. Good
3 morning. Thank you very much. And Ms. Hillyer.

4 MS. HILLYER: Thank you, your Honor.
5 Holly Hillyer appearing on behalf of the Michigan
6 Environmental Council and Citizens Utility Board of
7 Michigan.

8 JUDGE SAUNDERS: Great. Thank you very
9 much. And Ms. Hillyer, Mr. Bzdok is going to appear on
10 behalf of your clients as well; is that correct?

11 MS. HILLYER: Yes, your Honor.

12 JUDGE SAUNDERS: O.K., great. Thank you
13 so much. All right. Good morning to you. On behalf
14 of -- actually, is Mr. LeVasseur present this morning
15 yet?

16 MR. OTTO: I'm here for Mr. LeVasseur.

17 JUDGE SAUNDERS: Oh, good morning,
18 Mr. Otto. I'm sorry, I didn't see you. Would you go
19 ahead and place your appearance on the record, please.

20 MR. OTTO: Yep. Troy Otto from Fischer
21 Franklin & Ford with the venerable Art LeVasseur, who is
22 in Colorado skiing, on behalf of proposed intervenor
23 Detroit Thermal, LLC.

24 JUDGE SAUNDERS: All right. Thank you
25 very much. O.K. Good morning to you, Mr. Otto. And
Penn Reporting, LLC - lori.penn@yahoo.com

1 moving on, Ms. Heston.

2 COURT REPORTER: Somebody's talking in
3 the background.

4 JUDGE SAUNDERS: Excuse me. If there's
5 anyone else that's on the line here, would everyone
6 please just mute their microphone so that we make sure
7 that we don't have any interference. O.K. Thank you.

8 All right. Ms. Heston.

9 MS. HESTON: Thank you, your Honor.
10 Jennifer Heston of the Potomac Law Group appearing on
11 behalf of the Retail Energy Supply Association.

12 JUDGE SAUNDERS: Good morning,
13 Ms. Heston, and thank you very much. Mr. King.

14 MR. KING: Good morning, your Honor.
15 Joel King appearing on behalf of Attorney General Dana
16 Nessel.

17 JUDGE SAUNDERS: Good morning, Mr. King.
18 Ms. Jackson.

19 MS. JACKSON: Good morning, your Honor.
20 Valerie Jackson appearing on behalf of the City of Ann
21 Arbor.

22 JUDGE SAUNDERS: Good morning,
23 Ms. Jackson. Mr. Lundgren.

24 MR. LUNDGREN: Good morning, your Honor.
25 Tim Lundgren appearing on behalf of Energy Michigan and
Penn Reporting, LLC - lori.penn@yahoo.com

1 Billerud Americas Corporation. We've also entered
2 appearances for Laura Chappelle and Justin Ooms.

3 JUDGE SAUNDERS: Good morning,
4 Mr. Lundgren. Thank you very much. Ms. Urban.

5 MS. URBAN: Good morning, your Honor.
6 Amanda Urban appearing on behalf of the Urban Core
7 Collective, Soulardarity, We Want Green, Too,
8 collectively referred to as the Frontline Organizations
9 or FLO.

10 JUDGE SAUNDERS: O.K. Good morning,
11 Ms. Urban. Thank you very much. O.K. Mr. Campbell.

12 MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, your Honor.
13 Steve Campbell, Clark Hill, PLC, on behalf of the
14 Association of Businesses Advocating Tariff Equity.

15 JUDGE SAUNDERS: Good morning,
16 Mr. Campbell. Thank you very much. And Mr. Porcarelli.

17 MR. PORCARELLI: Good morning, your
18 Honor. It's Porcarelli, but no problem. Jacob
19 Porcarelli on behalf of UWA, Local 223.

20 JUDGE SAUNDERS: I'm sorry,
21 Mr. Porcarelli. Thank you very much.

22 MR. PORCARELLI: No worries.

23 JUDGE SAUNDERS: O.K. And then,
24 Ms. Durian, on behalf of Staff, please.

25 MS. DURIAN: Good morning, your Honor.

1 Heather Durian on behalf of Michigan Public Service
2 Commission Staff. Also appearing for Staff are Anna
3 Stirling, Adam Cozort, and Michael Orris.

4 JUDGE SAUNDERS: O.K. Thank you very
5 much.

6 All right. Did I miss anyone this
7 morning?

8 O.K. It looks like we have everyone's
9 appearances placed on the record.

10 So the first issue I'd like to address
11 this morning is the matter of notice. So Mr. Watson,
12 could you state for the record whether or not DTE Gas
13 Company was able to comply with the Commission's
14 instructions regarding notice in this matter.

15 MR. WATSON: Yes, your Honor. The
16 Company was directed to mail a copy of the notice of
17 hearing to all cities, incorporated villages, townships,
18 and counties in its gas service area, in addition to the
19 intervenors in Case No. 21291. Proof of service
20 confirming this was completed was filed in this docket on
21 December 8, 2025. In addition, the Company was to
22 publish the notice of hearing in newspapers of general
23 circulation for its gas service area. Affidavits of
24 publications were also filed to this docket on
25 December 8, 2025.

1 JUDGE SAUNDERS: O.K., great. Thank you
2 so much, Mr. Watson.

3 Ms. Durian, any concerns on behalf of
4 Staff regarding notice?

5 MS. DURIAN: No, your Honor.

6 JUDGE SAUNDERS: O.K. Thank you very
7 much.

8 All right. The next issue I'd like to
9 turn to is the matter of interventions. And we did have
10 a notice of intervention filed on behalf of the Attorney
11 General. Additionally, we had petitions to intervene
12 filed on behalf the Michigan Environmental Council;
13 Detroit Thermal, LLC; the Retail Energy Supply
14 Association; the City of Ann Arbor; Energy Michigan and
15 Billerud Americas Corporation; Urban Core Collective; We
16 Want Green, Too; Soulardarity; the Association of
17 Businesses Advocating Tariff Equity; and the Utility
18 Workers Union of America, Local 223. Is there any
19 objection to any of these petitions to intervene?

20 O.K. Hearing none, all those petitions
21 are granted.

22 O.K. Additionally, we have two motions
23 for admission via pro hac vice, one for Mark Templeton
24 and one for Alexandria Miskho. Is there any objection to
25 either of those motions for admission pro hac vice?

1 O.K. Hearing none, I will grant both of
2 those motions. I believe that I have all the requisite
3 paperwork in order, and I will get that issued as soon as
4 possible.

5 The next issue I'd like to address is the
6 matter of the schedule. And I would like to thank the
7 parties for putting the schedule together, I very much
8 appreciated the parties working together to do that. So
9 my understanding is that the parties have agreed to a
10 schedule with Staff and intervenor filing date of
11 March 13, 2026; a rebuttal filing date of April 3 of
12 2026; motions to strike to be filed by April 8 of 2026;
13 responses to motions to strike will be filed by April 13
14 of 2026. We'll start cross-examination on April 16 of
15 2026, and we'll conclude cross-examination on April 22 of
16 2026. We'll have initial briefs due May 14 of 2026, and
17 reply briefs due June 3 of 2026. We have a PFD target
18 date of July 9 of 2026; and as of now, we will have
19 exceptions to the PFD due July 29 of 2026, and replies to
20 those exceptions due August 10 of 2026, with the
21 Commission's final decision being due September 14 of
22 2026.

23 O.K. Is there anyone who thinks that I
24 did not properly articulate the schedule that's been
25 agreed to by the parties?

1 O.K. Hearing none, that will be our
2 schedule.

3 Additionally, the parties have agreed to
4 a discovery turnaround of eight business days/best
5 efforts until the Staff and intervenor filing date of
6 March 13 of 2026, and five business days/best efforts
7 thereafter.

8 Is there any party that disagrees with
9 the discovery turnaround that I just articulated?

10 O.K. Hearing none, that will be our
11 discovery turnaround.

12 O.K. I believe that's all that I have
13 this morning. After the prehearing, I will send out a
14 scheduling order that has instructions along with it. If
15 anyone has any questions regarding those instructions,
16 please just send me an email and I'll be happy to answer
17 any questions that you might have.

18 Is there anyone else that would like to
19 address anything while we're on the record this morning?

20 O.K. Well, I believe, like I said,
21 that's all that I have. Thank you all very much for all
22 your time and for putting that schedule together this
23 morning. Again, please remain on the line just to make
24 sure that Lori has everything that she needs. And I hope
25 that everyone has great holidays if I don't talk to you

1 all before then.

2 With that being all, there being nothing
3 further, we're adjourned for the day. O.K. Off the
4 record.

5 (At 9:09 a.m., the hearing was adjourned to April 16
6 through April 22, 2026, for cross-examination.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lori Anne Penn (CSR-1315), do hereby certify that I reported in stenotype via Microsoft Teams the proceedings had in the above-entitled matter, that being Case No. U-21973, before Christopher S. Saunders, J.D., Administrative Law Judge with Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules, for the Michigan Public Service Commission, Lansing, Michigan, on Thursday, December 11, 2025; and do further certify that the foregoing transcript, consisting of Volume 1, pages 1-13, constitutes a true and correct transcript of my stenotype notes.

Lori Anne Penn

Lori Anne Penn, CSR-1315
Penn Reporting, LLC
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Dated: December 12, 2025