



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **MPSC Approves Settlement Agreements with Michigan Consolidated Gas Co., Consumers Energy Regarding Noncompliance with Michigan Gas Safety Standards**

**March 26, 2003**

The Michigan Public Service Commission today approved three settlement agreements with Michigan Consolidated Gas Company and Consumers Energy regarding noncompliance with Michigan Gas Safety Standards.

In Case No. U-13706, the Commission approved a settlement agreement between Michigan Consolidated Gas Company and Commission staff regarding noncompliance with Michigan Gas Safety Standards. The order comes after Commission staff had issued two non-compliance reports (02-11DC dated August 20, 2002 and 01-28CD dated June 4, 2002) recommending civil penalties of \$5,000 and \$36,000, respectively, for alleged violations relating to the creation and inspection of plastic pipe fusions. In the settlement agreement, Michigan Consolidated Gas Company agreed to take actions to correct the violations and pay the penalties.

In Case No. U-13711, the Commission approved a settlement agreement between the Michigan Consolidated Gas Company and Commission staff regarding noncompliance with Michigan Gas Safety Standards. The order comes after Commission staff had issued a noncompliance report (01-06KB dated August 16, 2001) recommending a civil penalty of \$5,000 for alleged violations related to the poor condition of a service line. In the settlement agreement, Michigan Consolidated Gas Company agreed to take actions to improve compliance and pay the penalty.

In Case No. U-13707, the Commission approved a settlement agreement between Consumers Energy and Commission staff regarding noncompliance with Michigan Gas Safety Standards. The order comes after Commission staff had issued a noncompliance report (02-04KB dated June 7, 2002) recommending two civil penalties of \$5,000 each for alleged violations related to the failure of Consumers' employees to follow operating procedures that resulted in a fire causing burn injuries. In the settlement agreement, Consumers Energy agreed to institute corrective action and to pay the penalties.

Michigan Consolidated Gas Company, a Detroit-based subsidiary of DTE Energy Company, provides natural gas service to 1.2 million customers across Michigan. Consumers Energy, headquartered in Jackson, provides natural gas service to about 1.6 million Michigan customers.

The MPSC is an agency within the Department of Consumer and Industry Services.

Case Nos. U-13706, U-13711, U-13707