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## **MPSC Starts Investigation into Alleged Violations of Code of Conduct by Detroit Edison, U-12134 and U-14072**

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**March 16, 2004**

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) today issued an order that begins an investigation into alleged violations of the electric code of conduct by The Detroit Edison Company. The company has until May 3 to demonstrate its compliance with the code of conduct (Case No. U-12134) or to show why it should not be found in violation of the code.

On Nov. 17, 2003, Sandra Wotli, of Muskegon, filed a complaint against DTE Energy Company, the parent company of Detroit Edison and Michigan Consolidated Gas Company, alleging that it engaged in a violation of the code of conduct by using billing inserts to promote the appliance maintenance programs of its subsidiaries.

On Dec. 12, 2003, Daniel R. Squires, of Port Huron, sent a letter to the MPSC asserting that Detroit Edison used a billing insert to promote its Home Protection Plus (HPP) program in billings that he received in May and December 2003.

After reviewing the information received by Wotli, Squires and Detroit Edison, the MPSC staff recommended that the Commission conduct an investigation into Detroit Edison's use of billing inserts to promote its HPP program in apparent disregard of U-12134. Today's order begins an investigation into the matter.

Detroit Edison must also provide its customers with notice of this investigation with a billing message or insert no later than May 31 and shall publish a notice of the pre-hearing conference throughout its service territory.

A pre-hearing conference will be held on June 15 to give all interested parties an opportunity to participate in this case.

The Michigan Court of Appeals on March 2 unanimously affirmed the MPSC's authority to establish the electric code of conduct in an appeal brought by Detroit Edison and other parties.

The MPSC is an agency within the Department of Labor & Economic Growth.

Case No. U-12134, U-14072

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