

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the matter, on the Commission's own motion,	)	
to commence a collaborative for the creation of	)	
a gas choice price comparison website for	)	Case No. U-17580
use by customers of all regulated gas utilities.	)	
_____	)	

At the March 18, 2014 meeting of the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing, Michigan.

PRESENT: Hon. John D. Quackenbush, Chairman  
Hon. Greg R. White, Commissioner  
Hon. Sally A. Talberg, Commissioner

**ORDER COMMENCING COLLABORATIVE**

In Case No. U-17487, DTE Gas Company (DTE Gas) filed an application seeking approval for changes to its gas customer choice (GCC) program, including the creation of a utility run gas choice price comparison website. In a separate order issued today in Case No. U-17487, the Commission, seeing value in the creation of such a website but desiring to expand participation in such a site to all regulated gas utilities and other interested parties, closed the docket with respect to a DTE Gas-managed website in favor of studying the benefits of the creation of a price comparison website to benefit customers from the service areas of all regulated gas utilities.

Toward that end, the Commission directs its Executive Secretary to notify each regulated gas utility and each alternative gas supplier (AGS) in this state of the issuance of this order. Also, the Commission appoints Bill Stosik, Director of its Financial Analysis and Audit Division, to

convene a collaborative to discuss the creation of a gas choice price comparison website for use by customers of all regulated gas utilities.

Every regulated gas utility having a customer choice program shall be required to participate in the collaborative.<sup>1</sup> Other regulated gas utilities, AGSs, and interested parties are invited to fully participate, but are not required to do so. By April 4, 2014, all required and voluntary participants in the collaborative shall submit a letter to the Commission's Executive Secretary indicating the identities and contact information<sup>2</sup> of their representatives.<sup>3</sup> Thereafter, the Executive Secretary shall notify those so identified as participants of the date, time, and place of the initial collaborative session, which is to be established at the direction of Mr. Stosik. A notice of that event shall also be posted in this docket.

At the initial collaborative session, Mr. Stosik shall make a presentation to the participants regarding the issues, which should include but not be limited to administration of the website, data reporting requirements, the scope of any staff review of underlying prices, mandatory versus voluntary participation, enforcement, and website design options. Thereafter, the participants shall be free to decide amongst themselves how to conduct the collaborative, and to determine when and how often to meet. After the initial session, the participants shall provide the Commission with an estimate of their schedule for the completion of the collaborative. The collaborative shall finish its work by June 30, 2014.

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<sup>1</sup>Consumers Energy Company, DTE Gas Company, SEMCO Energy Gas Company, and Michigan Gas Utilities Corp.

<sup>2</sup> The required contact information shall include not only the representative's name and business address, but also both the representative's direct business telephone number and e-mail address. Because such telephone numbers and e-mail addresses likely are not public information, and therefore not subject to disclosure under Section 13(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.243(1)(a), the Executive Secretary shall ensure that this information is not publically posted in the docket for this proceeding.

<sup>3</sup>A designated participant may have a substitute attend any collaborative session.

Mr. Stosik shall then direct his Staff to prepare a report of the collaborative's findings and recommendations, which should be filed in this docket by July 22, 2014, after which time the public will be invited to comment on the report.

Any person may express views or arguments regarding the July 22, 2014 report. Written and e-mail comments may be filed with the Commission no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 5, 2014.

All comments should reference Case No. U-17580. Written comments should be sent to:

Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, P. O. Box 30221, Lansing, Michigan 48909. Comments may also be e-mailed to: [mpscdockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscdockets@michigan.gov). Documents may be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets Website at:

[michigan.gov/mpscdockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscdockets). Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an e-mail sent to [mpscdockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscdockets@michigan.gov). Anyone requiring assistance prior to e-filing may contact the Commission staff at (517) 241-6180 or by e-mail at [mpscdockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscdockets@michigan.gov). All information submitted to the Commission in this matter will become public information available on the Commission's website and subject to disclosure, and will not remain private.

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED that:

A. The Commission's Executive Secretary shall notify each regulated gas utility, each alternative gas supplier in this state, and each person who submitted a comment in Case No. U-17487 of the issuance of this order and the commencement of a collaborative proceeding, on the Commission's own motion, for the creation of a gas choice price comparison website for use by customers.

B. Consumers Energy Company, DTE Gas Company, SEMCO Energy Gas Company, and Michigan Gas Utilities Corp. shall be required to participate in the collaborative because they currently have a gas choice program.

C. All required and voluntary participants in the collaborative shall submit a letter to the Executive Secretary indicating the identities and contact information of their representatives by April 4, 2014.

D. The Director of the Commission's Financial Analysis and Audit Division shall convene the initial collaborative session to discuss the creation of a gas choice price comparison website for use by customers at a date, time, and place to be determined after the identities of the participants are known.

E. The collaborative shall complete its tasks by June 30, 2014.

F. The Commission Staff shall file a report in this docket regarding the findings and recommendations of the collaborative by July 22, 2014. The report shall be sent to all participants in the collaborative process.

G. The public shall have until August 5, 2014 to comment on the July 22, 2014 report.

The Commission reserves jurisdiction and may issue further orders as necessary.

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



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John D. Quackenbush, Chairman



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Greg R. White, Commissioner



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Sally A. Talberg, Commissioner

By its action of March 18, 2014.



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Mary Jo Kunkle, Executive Secretary

# P R O O F O F S E R V I C E

STATE OF MICHIGAN )

Case No. U-17580

County of Ingham )

Lisa Felice being duly sworn, deposes and says that on March 18, 2014 A.D. she served a copy of the attached **Commission Order (Commission's Own Motion) via e-mail transmission**, to the persons as shown on the attached service list (Listserv Distribution List).

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Lisa Felice

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 18th day of March 2014

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Gloria Pearl Jones  
Notary Public, Ingham County, MI  
As acting in Eaton County  
My Commission Expires June 5, 2016

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