

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 to consider issues)	Case No. U-20631
related to mutual aid agreements and transmission)	
contingency planning.)	
_____)	

At the September 11, 2019 meeting of the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing, Michigan.

PRESENT: Hon. Sally A. Talberg, Chairman
Hon. Daniel C. Scripps, Commissioner
Hon. Tremaine L. Phillips, Commissioner

ORDER OPENING DOCKET

On February 7, 2019, the Commission issued an order in Case No. U-20464 (February 7 order) in response to a request from Governor Gretchen Whitmer for the Commission to review the state's energy supply and preparedness for emergency situations, following a series of energy events that happened during Michigan's January 29 through February 1, 2019 cold weather emergency. In the July 2, 2019 order in that docket (July 2 order), the Commission noted that the initial Michigan Statewide Energy Assessment (SEA) report was timely provided to the Governor on July 1, 2019,¹ in accordance with her request. In the July 2 order, the Commission also invited interested persons to comment on the initial SEA report, which was developed with the

¹ On July 1, 2019, a copy of the initial SEA report was filed in Case No. U-20464, filing #U-20464-0031.

Commission Staff's (Staff) assistance as well as input from affected industries and other stakeholders.

Today, following the Commission's review and consideration of numerous comments from interested persons, the Commission issued a third order in Case No. U-20464 (September 11 order) stating that the final SEA report was timely provided to the Governor and is available in that docket. The September 11 order includes details from the final SEA report and discusses any comments that resulted in a change to the initial SEA report. The September 11 order also sets forth those jurisdictional recommendations indicated in the final SEA report that the Commission finds should be addressed immediately and those that can be addressed at a later time given prioritization of the resulting workload.

In this regard, and stemming from the September 11 order, the Commission is opening this docket to direct the Staff to establish a collaborative group consisting of Staff experts, representatives from Consumers Energy Company, DTE Energy Company, Michigan Electric and Gas Association member utilities, and other natural gas distribution and transmission companies, and other interested stakeholders, to review and discuss the development of mutual aid agreements to have in place for all natural gas distribution utilities, and how best to facilitate the development of gas transmission contingency planning.² In the final SEA report, the Commission notes that mutual assistance agreements for natural gas utilities, similar to those in use by electric utilities, could result in improvements to safely restore natural gas service as expeditiously as possible. Due to the differing effects on downstream customers, the Commission finds that these topics should be divided into separate distribution and transmission phases. The focus of the distribution

² See, final SEA report, 9.3.1.2 Compiled Recommendations and Observations for Mitigating Risks, Natural Gas Recommendation G-8, p. 200.

collaborative group shall be to review and study existing gas distribution mutual aid agreements, determine if all natural gas utilities are adequately prepared with existing agreements, discuss the possibility of agreements for Michigan utilities, address issues with employee qualifications, and develop recommendations for the Commission's consideration. The focus of the gas transmission collaborative group shall be to review and study existing natural gas transmission contingency planning, determine if all natural gas pipeline operators are adequately prepared to deal with outages in the transmission system, discuss the need for policy and/or agreements between natural gas pipeline operators, and develop recommendations for the Commission's consideration. The collaboratives shall also review and discuss issues related to small versus large operators, and whether utility tariffs should be revised. The Commission directs the Staff to file a report in this docket of the results of the distribution collaborative no later than March 31, 2020, and a report of the results of the transmission collaborative no later than March 31, 2021.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

A. The Commission Staff shall form a collaborative group that includes representatives from Consumers Energy Company, DTE Energy Company, Michigan Electric and Gas Association member utilities, other natural gas distribution and transmission companies, and other interested stakeholders to review and discuss the development of mutual aid agreements and how to facilitate the development of transmission contingency planning, as described in this order.

B. The Commission Staff shall file in this docket a report of findings and recommendations resulting from the distribution collaborative no later than March 31, 2020, and a report of findings and recommendations resulting from the transmission collaborative no later than March 31, 2021.

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

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Sally A. Talberg, Chairman

Daniel C. Scripps, Commissioner

Tremaine L. Phillips, Commissioner

By its action of September 11, 2019.

Lisa Felice, Executive Secretary

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

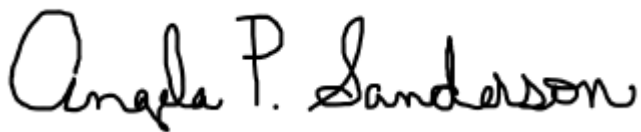
Case No. U-20631

County of Ingham)

Brianna Brown being duly sworn, deposes and says that on September 11, 2019 A.D. she electronically notified the attached list of this **Commission Order via e-mail transmission**, to the persons as shown on the attached service list (Listserv Distribution List).


Brianna Brown

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 11th day of September 2019.



Angela P. Sanderson
Notary Public, Shiawassee County, Michigan
As acting in Eaton County
My Commission Expires: May 21, 2024

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