



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II  
LT. GOVERNOR

August 20, 2021

Dan Scripps, Chair  
Michigan Public Service Commission  
7109 W. Saginaw Highway  
Lansing, MI 48917

Chair Scripps,

Michigan families are bearing the brunt of climate change right now. Over the past several weeks, more than 750,000 Michiganders lost power – with many outages lasting for several days on some of the hottest days of the year. Michigan’s utilities need to ensure the production and delivery of safe, stable, and reliable energy to all Michiganders. Ensuring that Michigan has safe, dependable energy is key to our quality of life and our economy. We must ensure we have a resilient and reliable grid with adequate generation without ratepayers shouldering heavy costs.

Today, I sent a letter to Consumers Energy, DTE Energy, and Indiana Michigan Power asking them to:

- Automatically credit those customers who experienced outages who are eligible under the MPSC’s service quality rules, and expand the amount of credits paid, either through higher credit amounts and/or reducing the outage duration needed to qualify for a credit.
- Announce additional investments and redirect existing resources to improve reliability through tree trimming and grid hardening. These investments should be financed in a manner that does not add to the consumers’ burden.

In light of this letter, I strongly encourage the Michigan Public Service Commission to consider take the following actions:

- Prevent recovery of outage credit costs and other relief efforts in upcoming utility rate cases;
- Expedite the promulgation of updated technical standards for electricity service and utility service quality rules as much as possible;
- Consider requiring utilities to increase emergency preparedness planning around extreme weather, to add reporting requirements that add transparency around their efforts to improve system reliability, and to carefully review the recently filed utility distribution plans to gauge whether the proposed actions and investments are sufficient; and



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- Convene a technical conference on emergency preparedness, planning, and storm response.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor

cc: Dana Nessel, Attorney General

Orlene Hawks, Director, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
Suzanne Sonneborn, Director, Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules  
Tremaine Phillips, Commissioner, Michigan Public Service Commission  
Katherine Peretick, Commissioner, Michigan Public Service Commission  
Mike Byrne, Chief Operating Officer, Michigan Public Service Commission  
Jerry Norcia, President and CEO, DTE Energy  
Garrick Rochow, President and CEO, Consumers Energy Corporation  
Steve Baker, President and COO, Indiana Michigan Power  
Capt. Kevin Sweeney, Deputy State Director of EMHSD, Michigan State Police