

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter, on the Commission's
own motion, to promulgate rules
governing electric interconnection
and distributed generation and to
rescind legacy interconnection and
net metering rules.

Case No. U-20890

Volume No. 1

_____ /

PUBLIC HEARING

Proceedings held in-person and via Microsoft
Teams in the above-entitled matter before Dennis W.
Mack, J.D., Administrative Law Judge with MOAHR, at
the Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West
Saginaw Highway, Lake Michigan Room, Lansing,
Michigan, on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 9:03 a.m.

APPEARANCES:

BENJAMIN J. HOLWERDA,
Assistant Attorney General
7109 West Saginaw, Floor 3
Lansing, Michigan 48917

On behalf of the Michigan Public Service
Commission Staff

- - -

REPORTED BY: Lori Anne Penn, CSR-1315

1 Lansing, Michigan

2 Wednesday, October 20, 2021

3 At 9:03 a.m.

4 - - -

5 (Public hearing commenced pursuant to due notice.)

6 JUDGE MACK: Good morning. This is a
7 public hearing on the Michigan Public Service
8 Commission's own motion to promulgate rules governing
9 electric interconnection and distributed generation and
10 to rescind legacy interconnection and net metering rules.
11 This is Case No. U-20890.

12 My name is Dennis Mack, I'm an
13 Administrative Law Judge for the Michigan Office of
14 Administrative Hearings and Rules, and I will be
15 conducting this public hearing today.

16 We have -- Mr. Holwerda, would you like
17 to enter your appearance at this time.

18 MR. HOLWERDA: Certainly. Good morning,
19 your Honor. Ben Holwerda appearing on behalf of
20 Commission Staff.

21 JUDGE MACK: Thank you. Commission Staff
22 is present here today, and any questions for them
23 regarding the proposed rules can be directed through
24 Mr. Holwerda.

25 Consistent with the September 9 of 2021
Penn Reporting, LLC - lori.penn@yahoo.com

1 Order and Notice of Hearing, this is the date and time
2 for the public to provide comment to the Commission on
3 the proposed rules either in person or remotely. The
4 Notice was published in the Grand Rapids Press, the
5 Mining Journal, and the Oakland Press. In addition,
6 written comment may be submitted to the Commission's
7 e-docket under Case No. U-20890 by close of business on
8 November 1, 2021.

9 At this point, I will note that no one
10 has appeared at the Commission's office to submit
11 comment. Is there anybody who is participating remotely
12 who would like to make comment on the rules?

13 I will note for the record that no one
14 has requested that they would -- to make comments.

15 At this point, let's go off the record.
16 I will come back on the record at 9:15 and see if anybody
17 appears or anybody remotely wants to make comment. So
18 we'll be in recess until 9:15.

19 (At 9:05 a.m., there was a ten-minute recess.)

20 JUDGE MACK: We are back on the record.
21 No one has appeared at the Commission's office to submit
22 comment. Is there anyone participating remotely who
23 would like to comment on the proposed rules?

24 I would like to note for the record that
25 no one has requested the opportunity to submit comment,
Penn Reporting, LLC - lori.penn@yahoo.com

1 so we will conclude this public hearing.

2 MR. TIDWELL: Actually, Judge, if you
3 don't mind me adding, for those that have been muted on
4 the phone, *6 to unmute.

5 JUDGE MACK: O.K. So let's note that.
6 If you want to submit comment and you are online, hit *6
7 and you can indicate a desire to submit comment.

8 And again, I will note no one has
9 requested the opportunity to submit comment, so we will
10 conclude this public hearing. We're off the record.
11 Thanks, everybody.

12 (At 9:16 a.m., the public hearing concluded.)

13 - - -

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lori Anne Penn (CSR-1315), do hereby certify that I reported in stenotype via Microsoft Teams the proceedings had in the above-entitled matter, that being Case No. U-20890, before Dennis W. Mack, J.D., Administrative Law Judge with Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules, for the Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan, on Wednesday, October 20, 2021; and do further certify that the foregoing transcript, consisting of Volume 1, pages 1-5, constitutes a true and correct transcript of my stenotype notes.

Lori Anne Penn

Lori Anne Penn, CSR-1315
Penn Reporting, LLC
lori.penn@yahoo.com

Dated: October 21, 2021

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter, on the Commission's
own motion, to promulgate rules
governing electric interconnection
and distributed generation and to
rescind legacy interconnection and
net metering rules.

Case No. U-20890

Volume No. 2

_____ /

PUBLIC HEARING

Proceedings held in the above-entitled matter
before Christopher Saunders, J.D., Administrative Law
Judge with MOAHR, at the Michigan Public Service
Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Highway, Lake Michigan
Room, Lansing, Michigan, on Wednesday, June 22, 2022,
at 9:01 a.m.

APPEARANCES:

MONICA M. STEPHENS,
Assistant Attorney General
7109 West Saginaw, Floor 3
Lansing, Michigan 48917

On behalf of the Michigan Public Service
Commission Staff

- - -

REPORTED BY: Lori Anne Penn, CSR-1315

I N D E X

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMENTS BY:

PAGE

Matthew Paul

10

- - -

1 Lansing, Michigan

2 Wednesday, June 22, 2022

3 At 9:01 a.m.

4 - - -

5 JUDGE SAUNDERS: Good morning. This is a
6 public hearing on the Michigan Public Service
7 Commission's own motion to promulgate rules governing
8 electric interconnection and distributed generation and
9 to rescind legacy interconnection and net metering rules.
10 This is Case No. U-20890. For the record, my name is
11 Christopher Saunders, I'm an Administrative Law Judge for
12 the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules,
13 and I will be conducting this public hearing today.

14 Now, present we do have Staff, and we do
15 have counsel present on behalf of Staff. So
16 Ms. Stephens, would you like to place your appearance on
17 the record, please.

18 MS. STEPHENS: Yes, your Honor. Good
19 morning. Monica Stephens on behalf of MPSC Staff.

20 JUDGE SAUNDERS: Thank you so much. As I
21 indicated before, the Commission Staff is present here
22 today, and any questions for them regarding the proposed
23 rules can be directed through Ms. Stephens.

24 Now, a public hearing in this matter was
25 previously held on October 20 of 2021, and on April 14 of
Penn Reporting, LLC - lori.penn@yahoo.com

1 2022, Consumers Energy Company and DTE Electric Company
2 filed a joint petition for rehearing. On May 12 of 2022
3 the Commission entered an order granting the petition for
4 rehearing. Additionally, on May 26 of 2022, the
5 Commission issued an order and notice of hearing setting
6 this as the date and time for the public to provide
7 comment to the Commission on the proposed rules. The
8 notice was published in the Mining Journal and the
9 Oakland Press. Additionally, written comments may be
10 mailed to the Commission or submitted to the e-docket
11 under Case No. 2- -- or strike that -- under Case No.
12 U-20890. Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m.
13 Eastern Standard Time on June 27 of 2022.

14 Now, we do have I know one individual
15 present who would like to make some comments. So, sir,
16 would you like to step forward and please make your
17 comments, and I'll ask you to identify yourself for the
18 record. Will you please give me your name, state and
19 spell your name, and then give me your affiliation,
20 please?

21 MR. PAUL: You bet, Judge. Thank you.
22 Matthew Paul, I'm with DTE Energy. Sorry.
23 M-a-t-t-h-e-w, last name P-a-u-l.

24 JUDGE SAUNDERS: Thank you so much.

25 MR. PAUL: Is it O.K. if I just sit here?

Penn Reporting, LLC - lori.penn@yahoo.com

1 JUDGE SAUNDERS: Oh, absolutely. Please,
2 Mr. Paul, have a seat. Would you like to go ahead and
3 proceed forward in terms of your comments?

4 MR. PAUL: Yes. Thank you, Judge.

5 JUDGE SAUNDERS: Thank you so much.

6 MR. PAUL: Good morning. My name is Matt
7 Paul and I am the Executive Vice President for
8 Distribution Operations at DTE Electric, or DTE, and I'd
9 like to thank all of you for providing me with the
10 opportunity to share with the Judge, the Commission,
11 Staff, and other shareholders, stakeholders, our
12 perspective and experience regarding the interconnection
13 rules and their potential impact on the safety and
14 reliability of electric service in Michigan. At DTE we
15 support the State of Michigan's MI Healthy Climate Plan
16 and appreciate the interest in exploring potential
17 interconnection rule changes that ensure safe, clean, and
18 reliable electric service for everyone. DTE is fully
19 committed to providing a positive customer experience for
20 all customers, and I'm proud to say that since 2010 we've
21 interconnected over 6,000 distributed energy resource, or
22 DER, projects to our distribution system. This morning I
23 would like to highlight our thoughts on a few significant
24 safety and reliability operational concerns that stem
25 from the revised rules regarding the interconnection of

Penn Reporting, LLC - lori.penn@yahoo.com

1 DERs.

2 DTE Electric serves over 2 million
3 customers in Southeast Michigan across a service
4 territory that covers over 7,600 square miles, with a
5 distribution system that includes over 31,000 miles of
6 overhead lines, and over 16,000 miles of underground
7 lines. Our employees live in the communities we serve,
8 and we do our very best to anticipate challenges and
9 deliver the energy everyone needs and wants with
10 excellent power quality and reliability.

11 At DTE we recognize that our customers
12 share our enthusiasm for clean energy, and we know that
13 many want to be more involved in their energy supply,
14 thus we strive to accommodate DER interconnection
15 requests as quickly and safely as possible. In that
16 spirit, I would like to provide the following comments on
17 the revised interconnection rules.

18 So the first area I'd like to speak of is
19 around our concerns that the revised rules pose
20 significant safety and reliability concerns. I'm going
21 to break that down into two areas; the first is
22 inadvertent exports.

23 The electric grid, and our customers who
24 depend on it, are very sensitive to even small changes.
25 Voltage levels and other power quality characteristics

1 need to be maintained within a narrow band at all times.
2 When DERs are exporting power back into the grid through
3 an interconnection, it is critical that the amount of
4 this reverse power flow is maintained within the tight
5 limits of the distribution equipment on the grid side of
6 the interconnection. Any reverse power flow above
7 prescribed limits is called an inadvertent export. It is
8 also critical that any disturbances from potential issues
9 with DER equipment, that could cause a higher than
10 allowed reverse power flow, occur for only a very short
11 amount of time, which under the former rules was measured
12 in milliseconds. The revised rules allow for potentially
13 repeated inadvertent reverse power flow for up to 32
14 seconds. With respect to grid equipment stability, 32
15 seconds is a very long time, and these power disturbances
16 could cause significant damage to grid or customer
17 equipment such as transformers or appliances, or even
18 cause equipment fires or arc flashes, any of which might
19 pose safety risks to our employees or to the public. The
20 inadvertent export definitions included in the revised
21 rules are inconsistent with industry standards and
22 practices and pose significant challenges to operating
23 the grid safely and reliably. Accordingly, DTE requests
24 that these definitions be removed from the rules.

25 The second area under the safety and

Penn Reporting, LLC - lori.penn@yahoo.com

1 reliability concern is around screening criteria.

2 As the owner and operator of the
3 distribution grid, DTE Electric is required to study and
4 assess the potential impacts of any customer attachment
5 or changes to the grid. These assessments have
6 historically been performed using industry accepted
7 screening criteria applied to each individual proposed
8 interconnection.

9 For DERs, which can introduce changes to
10 power flowing either to or from the grid, the
11 interconnection process was developed specifically to
12 ensure that utilities carefully assess the safety and
13 integrity impacts of the specific proposed DER
14 interconnection before approving the application. The
15 recent changes to the interconnection rules constrain
16 DTE's ability to perform a complete technical assessment
17 by limiting the screening criteria that utilities can
18 apply. Reducing the screening criteria may in some cases
19 lead to DER installations that cannot be reliably and
20 safely supported by the distribution grid, which in turn
21 can result in potentially dangerous overload conditions.
22 Accordingly, DTE requests that the rules allow for the
23 incorporation of additional screening criteria in order
24 to adequately assess safety and reliability for each
25 individual interconnection situation.

1 The second major concern I'd like to
2 communicate, second area of major concern is around our
3 view that it's really important that DER owners fund the
4 studies required to assess the safety and reliability
5 aspects associated with interconnecting to the grid so
6 that the financial burden of those studies is not borne
7 by the remaining customers or the non-DER-owning
8 customers.

9 As I mentioned earlier, it's critical
10 that DTE carefully assess the safety and reliability
11 impacts of all proposed DER interconnections. Connecting
12 DERs is technically complicated and requires significant
13 time and effort. The cost of any studies and any grid
14 upgrades needed to support DER interconnection should be
15 paid for by the DER owners. The revised rules, however,
16 set arbitrary caps which complicate the full and fair
17 cost recovery of these studies, which in turn risks
18 potentially shifting a portion of these costs from DER
19 owners to our remaining customers, including those
20 customers that may be least able to afford it.

21 DTE requests that the Commission simplify
22 and clarify these rules to ensure that DER owners fund
23 the full cost of the aforementioned studies.

24 This concludes my comments on behalf of
25 DTE. Thank you very much for this opportunity and for
 Penn Reporting, LLC - lori.penn@yahoo.com

1 your time and consideration.

2 JUDGE SAUNDERS: Thank you so much,
3 Mr. Paul.

4 All right. Is there anyone else present
5 who would like to make comments this morning? (No
6 response.)

7 O.K. Why don't we take a brief recess
8 off the record here.

9 (Recess from 9:11 a.m. until 9:28 a.m.)

10 JUDGE SAUNDERS: O.K. Back on the
11 record, and the record should reflect that we did take a
12 brief recess to just allow anyone else the opportunity to
13 arrive who might wish to make a comment. For the record,
14 I'll ask one more time, is there anyone else present who
15 would like to make a comment this morning? (No
16 response.)

17 O.K. Hearing no response, the record
18 should reflect that there is no one else present who
19 wishes to make a comment this morning, so we will
20 conclude this public hearing. We'll go off the record,
21 and thank you everyone for your participation today.

22 (Collective "Thank you".)

23 (At 9:29 a.m., the public hearing concluded.)

24 - - -

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lori Anne Penn (CSR-1315), do hereby certify that I reported in stenotype the proceedings had in the above-entitled matter, that being Case No. U-20890, before Christopher Saunders, J.D., Administrative Law Judge with Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules, at the Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan, on Wednesday, June 22, 2022; and do further certify that the foregoing transcript, consisting of Volume 2, pages 6-16, constitutes a true and correct transcript of my stenotype notes.

Lori Anne Penn

Lori Anne Penn, CSR-1315
Penn Reporting, LLC
lori.penn@yahoo.com

Dated: June 24, 2022