



NEWS RELEASE

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MPSC Grants Application by Alpena Power Company to Refund \$45,862 to Customers

July 23, 2003

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) today granted Alpena Power Company the authority to refund \$45,862.05 to its customers. The refund returns to customers an 18 cents per meter per month surcharge collected for consumer education activities. The company applied seeking authority for the refund on July 8, 2003.

The MPSC in October 2001 approved a settlement agreement filed by the CHOICE Advisory Council that, among other things, constituted the basis for collection of an 18 cents per meter per month surcharge for consumer education activities from certain electric utilities, including Alpena Power Company. However the MPSC subsequently, in an April 17, 2003 order, suspended further collection of the surcharge and directed each affected utility to file a report on amounts collected or expended during 2003. It also required each utility to file an application on how it intends to use the funds to promote green power or to show how it will refund the funds to its customers.

Alpena Power Company filed its application seeking authority to refund the above amount because, although it has a fuel mix comprised of green power, it does not currently have a green power program. The company proposed to refund the entire amount collected from its customers with a one-time credit, applied during the first billing month after the MPSC's approval, of \$2.88 per meter for all existing customers who have a meter.

The MPSC granted Alpena Power Company's application, noting that the company's proposal returns the surcharge through an administratively efficient method and that, by acting quickly, virtually all customers that paid the surcharge will receive a refund.

The MPSC is an agency within the Department of Consumer and Industry Services.

Case No. U-12133

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