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MPSC Gives Consumers Energy, Detroit Edison Until May 7 to Make Filings on Handling of Retail Open Access Implementation Costs, U-12358 and U-12892

April 28, 2004

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) today issued orders requiring Consumers Energy Company and the Detroit Edison Company to make initial filings at the MPSC regarding the handling of their Retail Open Access implementation costs.

The Michigan Court of Appeals on April 1 found that the MPSC should not have deferred indefinitely implementation costs that the companies are entitled to recover. The Court ordered the MPSC to convene hearings and to issue orders that provide for full recovery of Consumers' 1999 implementation costs and Detroit Edison's 2000 implementation costs, which had previously been reviewed and approved by the Commission.

In U-12358, the MPSC ordered Consumers Energy to make a filing in this docket by May 7 that indicates whether the company chooses to recover approved implementation costs in Case No. U-13715, a securitization case, or in this proceeding.

In U-12892, the MPSC ordered Detroit Edison to make a filing in this docket by May 7 that indicates whether the company chooses to recover approved implementation costs in Case No. U-13808, a general rate case, or in this proceeding.

If the companies choose to recover approved implementation costs through the dockets opened today, the MPSC intends to authorize recovery of such implementation costs through use of surcharges on all customer classes that coincide with the expiration of the Public Act 141 rate caps. The rate cap on large manufacturing and commercial customers expired Jan. 1, 2004. The rate cap on small manufacturing and commercial customers will expire on Jan. 1, 2005. The rate cap on residential customers will expire on Jan. 1, 2006.

The MPSC is an agency within the Department of Labor & Economic Growth.

Cases Nos. U-12358, U-12892

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