

124 West Allegan Street, Suite 1000
Lansing, Michigan 48933
T (517) 482-5800 F (517) 482-0887
www.fraserlawfirm.com

Jennifer Utter Heston
jheston@fraserlawfirm.com
(517) 377-0802

February 24, 2021

Ms. Lisa Felice, Executive Secretary
Michigan Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Hwy.
Lansing, MI 48917

RE: MPSC Docket No. U-20940

Dear Ms. Felice:

Enclosed herewith for filing in the above-referenced matter, please find the *Entry of Appearance in an Administrative Hearing, Petition of Retail Energy Supply Association for Leave to Intervene and Certificate of Service*.

If you have any questions or concerns with the enclosed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Fraser Trebilcock Davis & Dunlap, P.C.



Jennifer Utter Heston

JUH/ab
Enclosures
cc: All counsel of record

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ENTRY OF APPEARANCE IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

This form is issued as provided for by 1939 PA 3, as amended, and by 1933 PA 254, as amended. The filing of this form, or an acceptable alternative, is necessary to ensure subsequent service of any hearing notices, Commission orders, and related hearing documents.

General Instructions:

Type or print legibly in ink. For assistance or clarification, please contact the Public Service Commission at (517) 284-8090.

*Please Note: The Commission will provide **electronic** service of documents to all parties in this proceeding.*

THIS APPEARANCE TO BE ENTERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING:

Case / Company Name: _____ Docket No. _____

Please enter my appearance in the above-entitled matter on behalf of:

1. (Name)
2. (Name)
3. (Name)
4. (Name)
5. (Name)
6. (Name)
7. (Name)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

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Date _____

<input type="checkbox"/> I am not an attorney
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Michigan Bar # is P- _____
_____ Bar # is: _____
(state)

Signature: _____

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STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter of the application of)
DTE GAS COMPANY for authority to)
increase its rates, amend its rate schedules) Case No. U-20940
and rules governing the distribution and)
supply of natural gas, and for miscellaneous)
accounting authority)
_____)

PETITION OF
RETAIL ENERGY SUPPLY ASSOCIATION
FOR LEAVE TO INTERVENE

NOW COMES the Retail Energy Supply Association ("RESA"),¹ by and through its attorneys, Fraser, Trebilcock, Davis & Dunlap, P.C., and hereby submits its petition seeking leave to intervene in the above-entitled action pursuant to Rule 410(1) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, R 792.10410(1). In support of this petition, RESA states as follows:

1. RESA is a broad and diverse group of retail energy suppliers who share the common vision that competitive retail energy markets deliver a more efficient customer-oriented outcome than a regulated utility structure.

2. RESA members are licensed to sell natural gas to retail customers in Michigan: Interstate Gas Supply, Inc. ("IGS"), Just Energy Michigan Corp. ("Just Energy"), and Constellation NewEnergy-Gas Division, LLC ("CNEG"), are licensed Alternative Gas

¹ The comments expressed in this filing represent the position of the Retail Energy Supply Association (RESA) as an organization but may not represent the views of any particular member of the Association. Founded in 1990, RESA is a broad and diverse group of retail energy suppliers dedicated to promoting efficient, sustainable and customer-oriented competitive retail energy markets. RESA members operate throughout the United States delivering value-added electricity and natural gas service at retail to residential, commercial and industrial energy customers. More information on RESA can be found at www.resausa.org.



Suppliers (“AGS”). IGS, Just Energy, and CNEG, currently serve Gas Customer Choice (“GCC”) and End Use Transportation (“EUT”) customers on the DTE Gas Company (“DTE Gas”) system.

3. This docket involves an application by DTE Gas for authority to increase its rates for the distribution of natural gas and for other relief. In its application, DTE Gas seeks to increase rates by approximately \$195 million based on a calendar year 2022 projected test year, plus continued approval of a revenue decoupling mechanism and an infrastructure recovery mechanism.

4. Additionally, DTE Gas proposes changes to its EUT service tariff. As part of its EUT tariff amendments, DTE Gas seeks to increase its monthly Customer Charge and its Transportation Rates.

5. RESA members have direct and vital interests in the issues raised in this docket. RESA members are both DTE Gas customers and GCC and EUT suppliers participating in the DTE Gas transportation market. RESA members have direct interest in the rates, terms and conditions proposed by DTE Gas. RESA members clearly have a direct financial interest in the GCC and EUT program rates, terms and conditions of service.

6. There are several legal bases for standing to intervene in a proceeding before the MPSC. The first is standing as of right. This Commission has repeatedly applied the two-prong test for standing as of right set forth in *Association of Data Processing Service Organizations, Inc. v Camp*, 397 US 150; 90 S. Ct. 827; 250 L.Ed. 184 (1970), which has been applied to utility matters in *Drake v The Detroit Edison Co*, 453 F Supp 1123 (WD Mich, 1978). As set forth in *Association of Data Processing*, the two-prong test consists of a showing that: (1) the petitioner would likely suffer injury in fact (i.e., its interests are endangered or at issue);

and (2) the petitioner's interests that are allegedly endangered are within the zone of interests to be protected or regulated by the statute under consideration. See, e.g., *In re Michigan Consolidated Gas Co*, MPSC Case No. U-10150 (December 8, 1992).

7. RESA satisfies the "injury in fact" test, because proposed changes to DTE Gas' EUT program will impose costs on RESA members. RESA members will incur a direct financial impact as a result of changes in DTE Gas' tariffs.

8. The second prong of the two-pronged test for standing as a matter of right is a showing that the prospective intervenor's interest falls within the "zone of interests" to be protected or regulated in the context of the case. The rates, terms, and conditions of DTE Gas' EUT program is of interest to RESA and have been placed in issue by DTE Gas in this case. The rates, terms, and conditions of DTE Gas' EUT program falls within the zone of interests to be regulated by the MPSC in this case, and RESA's interest in fair and reasonable rates, terms, and conditions fall within the zone of interests to be protected in this case.

9. Having demonstrated that its interests satisfy the two-pronged test for standing as a matter of right, RESA respectfully submits that it is entitled to intervene in this case as a matter of right.

10. Even if it were determined that RESA does not have standing as a matter of right, it would be entitled to intervene under the MPSC's discretionary intervention standards. "[T]he Commission's discretion to grant leave to intervene is broader than the two-prong test. As recognized in prior Commission orders, the requirements for standing before the Commission are not as strict as those applied by the courts. Unlike a court of law, an administrative agency can allow intervention whenever the resulting delay will likely be outweighed by the benefit of the intervenor's participation." *In re Michigan Consolidated Gas*

Co, MPSC Case No. U-10150, p 5 (December 8, 1992) (finding that discretionary intervention was appropriate, and “a detailed discussion of the two-prong test is unnecessary”).

11. Indeed, the two-pronged test does not apply when granting permissive intervention. “The granting of permissive intervention without satisfying the two-pronged test is a long-established Commission practice.” *In re DTE Gas Co*, MPSC Case No. U-17332, p 4 (May 13, 2014).

12. Discretionary intervention is appropriate where public policy warrants a party’s involvement because a prospective intervenor can provide useful information to the Commission or a unique perspective on the issues to be resolved. See, e.g., *In re Mascotech Forming Technologies, Inc.*, MPSC Case No. U-11057 (June 5, 1996); *In re MCI Metro Access Transmission, Inc.*, MPSC Case No. U-10610 (November 30, 1994); and *In the matter, on the Commission’s own motion, to investigate the appropriateness of instituting a surcharge to assist in the funding of the Gas Technology Institute*, MPSC Case No. U-14561 (October 18, 2005). The Commission has held that a proper case for permissive intervention exists when a proposed intervenor “could be expected to bring helpful information to the Commission’s attention that might not otherwise be available.” *In re International Transmission Co*, MPSC Case No. U-16200, p 4 (October 14, 2010).

13. “Permissive intervention has also been granted where a proceeding ‘raises novel questions and important policy issues’ and the intervenor will ‘bring a unique perspective’ to the case.” *In re DTE Electric Co*, MPSC Case No. U-17319, p 10 (March 6, 2014), quoting, MPSC Case No. U-11057, pp 2-3 (June 5, 1996).

14. RESA is a large and diverse group of retail energy suppliers operating in competitive retail energy markets across 16 states. RESA has a proven track record of

successful retail competition development activities and promoting vibrant and sustainable retail energy markets for residential, commercial and industrial customers. RESA's breadth of diverse retail energy market experiences make it particularly well-suited to bring new and helpful information to the MPSC that might not otherwise be available.

15. RESA members are active participants in DTE Gas' GCC and EUT programs, specifically. RESA members have valuable insight into the operation of the GCC and EUT programs, and can offer important insights into the implications of various recommendations concerning DTE Gas' programs going forward. RESA members have direct knowledge of the impact of proposed tariff changes on AGS entities operating on DTE Gas' system and on the customers they serve.

16. Thus, RESA has significant interests in this case, offers a unique perspective, and is capable of providing information useful to the Commission. RESA has demonstrated that it warrants intervention in this case both as of right and on a permissive basis.

17. Notice should be taken of the fact that this same RESA has previously participated as an intervenor in numerous cases involving DTE Gas' rates and tariffs, including MPSC Case No. U-20642, and predecessor Michigan Consolidated Gas Company's general rate cases in MPSC Case Nos. U-18999, U-16999 and U-16400, as well as previous DTE Gas GCR plan proceedings, Case Nos. U-20816, U-20236, U-20210, U-18412, U-18152, U-17941, U-17691, U-17332 and U-17131.

18. Further, RESA was granted intervention as a party in numerous other proceedings involving GCC and EUT issues, such as Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation's general rate case, Case No. U-17880 (daily balancing requirement on gas transportation customers and GCC tariff changes); Consumers Energy Company's general rate cases, Case

Nos. U-20650, U-20322, U-18424, U-17882, U-17643 and U-16418; Consumers' GCR proceedings, MPSC Case Nos. U-20814, U-20234, U-20209, U-17693 and U-17133-R; SEMCO's transportation balancing tariff case, MPSC Case No. U-15953; and SEMCO's general rate cases MPSC Case Nos. U-20479 and U-16169.

19. It is the position of RESA that the EUT program proposals should be carefully examined and revised as necessary to assure that the rates, terms, and conditions are just and reasonable, as required by law.

20. RESA reserves the right to take different positions if, and when, this case proceeds to full hearings and following a full review of the testimony filed in this case and responses to discovery, as may be relevant and appropriate. RESA further reserves the right to take other positions and/or seek other relief based on any further proposals that may be submitted by other parties in this case.

21. The relief that RESA seeks in this proceeding is an order approving only those rates, terms and conditions of service that are just, reasonable and lawful. RESA reserves the right to seek other relief based on a review of the filings and/or discovery responses in this proceeding.

22. RESA's interests, as set forth above, are not adequately represented by the present parties and, therefore, it would be detrimental to the public interest to deny this Petition to Intervene.

23. Because the issues set forth above are of great significance to RESA and to the public, a denial of this Petition would result in a miscarriage of justice.

WHEREFORE, RESA hereby respectfully requests that this Honorable Commission grant it Leave to Intervene in the above-entitled proceedings as a full party of record.

Respectfully submitted,

FRASER TREBILCOCK DAVIS & DUNLAP, P.C.
ATTORNEYS FOR RETAIL ENERGY SUPPLY ASSOCIATION

Date: February 24, 2021

By: 

Jennifer Utter Heston (P65202)

Business Address:

124 W. Allegan, Ste. 1000

Lansing, MI 48933

Telephone: (517) 482-5800

E-mail: jheston@fraserlawfirm.com



STATE OF MICHIGAN

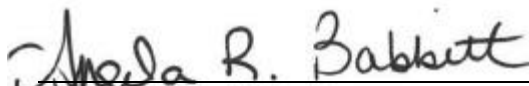
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_____)

Case No. U-20940

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Angela R. Babbitt hereby certifies that on the 24th day of February, 2021, she served the *Entry of Appearance in an Administrative Hearing, Petition of Retail Energy Supply Association for Leave to Intervene* and this Certificate of Service on the persons identified on the attached service list via electronic mail.



Angela R. Babbitt

Service List for U-20940

Administrative Law Judge

Honorable Sally Wallace
Michigan Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Hwy.
Lansing, MI 48917
wallaces2@michigan.gov

Counsel for DTE Gas Company

Paula Johnson-Bacon
Lauren D. Donofrio
Jon P. Christinidis
David S. Marquera
Andrea E. Hayden
DTE Gas Company
One Energy Plaza, 1635 WCB
Detroit, MI 48226
paula.bacon@dteenergy.com
Lauren.donofrio@dteenergy.com
jon.christinidis@dteenergy.com
david.maquera@dteenergy.com
andrea.hayden@dteenergy.com
mpscfilings@dteenergy.com

Counsel for Attorney General

Joel King
525 W. Ottawa St
PO Box 30755
Lansing, MI 48909
Kingj38@michigan.gov

Counsel for MPSC Staff

Daniel E. Sonneveldt
Michael Orris
Heather M.S. Durian
Monica M. Stephens
Michigan Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Hwy.
Lansing, MI 48917
sonneveldtd@michigan.gov
orrism@michigan.gov
durianh@michigan.gov
stephensm11@michigan.gov
mayabbl@michigan.gov

Counsel for Detroit Thermal, LLC

Arthur J. LeVasseur
Fischer Franklin
24725 W. 12 Mile Road, Ste. 230
Southfield, MI 48034
levasseur@fischerfranklin.com

Counsel for Verso Corporation

Timothy J. Lundgren
Laura A. Chappelle
Varnum Law
201 N. Washington Square, Ste. 910
Lansing, MI 48933
tjlundgren@varnumlaw.com
lachappelle@varnumlaw.com

Counsel for Citizens Utility Board of Michigan (CUB)

John R Liskey
John R. Liskey, PLLC
921 N. Washington Ave
Lansing, MI 48906
john@liskeypllc.com