

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter of the application of)	
CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY for)	
approval of a voluntary, expanded gas customer)	Case No. U-12680
choice program.)	
_____)	

At the October 24, 2000 meeting of the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing, Michigan.

PRESENT: Hon. John G. Strand, Chairman
Hon. David A. Svanda, Commissioner
Hon. Robert B. Nelson, Commissioner

ORDER APPROVING APPLICATION

On October 17, 2000, Consumers Energy Company (Consumers) filed an application for approval of a voluntary, expanded gas customer choice program (the expanded program).¹

Attached to the application are proposed tariffs and rates sheets that govern the implementation and operation of the expanded program. As proposed, beginning April 1, 2001, up to 600,000 of Consumers' gas customers will be eligible to participate in the expanded program. Beginning April 1, 2002, the number of eligible customers increases to 900,000. On April 1, 2003, all of Consumers' gas customers will be eligible participants in the expanded program.

¹ Pursuant to the December 19, 1997 order in Case No. U-11599, Consumers implemented a pilot gas customer choice program that allowed up to 300,000 of its customers to purchase gas from other suppliers. The pilot program commenced April 1, 1998 and is scheduled to terminate on March 31, 2001.

After reviewing Consumers' application and its proposed tariffs and rate sheets, which are attached to this order as Exhibit A, the Commission finds that they conform with the uniform terms and conditions that were approved by the Commission in its October 13, 2000 order in Case No. U-12550. Further, the Commission is persuaded that Consumers' application to implement and operate the expanded program is reasonable, and should be approved. Finally, because granting this application will not increase the rates and charges for any customers, the Commission finds that Consumers' application should be approved without the time and expense of a public hearing.

The Commission FINDS that:

a. Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 300, as amended, MCL 462.2 et seq.; MSA 22.21 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.51 et seq.; MSA 22.1 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; MSA 22.13(1) et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; MSA 3.560(101) et seq.; and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1992 AACRS, R 460.17101 et seq.

b. Consumers' application for approval of a voluntary, expanded gas customer choice program should be approved.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

A. Consumers Energy Company's application for approval of a voluntary, expanded gas customer choice program is approved.

B. Consumers Energy Company shall file, within 30 days, tariffs and rate sheets consistent with those attached to this order.

The Commission reserves jurisdiction and may issue further orders as necessary.

Any party desiring to appeal this order must do so in the appropriate court within 30 days after issuance and notice of this order, pursuant to MCL 462.26; MSA 22.45.

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

/s/ John G. Strand
Chairman

(S E A L)

/s/ David A. Svanda
Commissioner

/s/ Robert B. Nelson
Commissioner

By its action of October 24, 2000.

/s/ Dorothy Wideman
Its Executive Secretary

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MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman

Commissioner

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By its action of October 24, 2000.

Its Executive Secretary

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Suggested Minute:

“Adopt and issue order dated October 24, 2000 granting the application filed by Consumers Energy Company for approval of a voluntary, expanded gas customer choice program, as set forth in the order.”