



NEWS RELEASE

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LANSING, December 20. The Michigan Public Service Commission advanced natural gas customer choice for Michigan Consolidated Gas Company's natural gas customers, today approving the company's October 25, 2001 application for a voluntary, expanded natural gas customer choice program. The Commission also approved the use of deferred accounting for the recovery of gas customer choice implementation costs but found that rate recovery will be determined in a future rate case.

Under the expanded program, beginning April 1, 2002, up to 400,000 Mich Con natural gas customers will be eligible to participate in the program. Effective April 1, 2003, the number of eligible customer will increase to over 600,000, and on April 1, 2004, all of Mich Con's natural gas customers may select an alternative natural gas supplier. The expanded program will replace a Mich Con natural gas three-year experimental program which, in 2001, allowed 225,000 Mich Con customers to select an alternative supplier. The experimental program concludes on April 1, 2002.

Mich Con's expanded program, like its experimental program, is voluntary for its natural gas customers. Participating customers will be selected on a first come, first served basis. Today's order approves residential customer protections, solicitation requirements, supplier registration and code of conduct, and procedures for complaints between suppliers and the company.

"We are pleased that Michigan Consolidated Gas Company joins Consumers Energy Company in offering an expanded natural gas customer choice program to their natural gas customers," said Chairman Laura Chappelle. "By 2004, more than 95% of Michigan's natural gas customers will have the opportunity to select an alternate natural gas supplier." Mich Con, the Detroit-based subsidiary of DTE Energy Company, provides natural gas service to 1.2 million customers across Michigan.

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

Case No. U-13155
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(MPSC approves expanded Michigan Consolidated Gas natural gas customer choice program)
