

Michigan Public Service Commission Townhall

**Re: Opportunities to expand public participation in
MPSC decision-making**

With

Dr. Paul Isely and Nishaat Killeen

Members of the Utility Consumer Participation Board

And

Michael Moody

Division Chief, Special Litigation Division
Michigan Dept. of Attorney General

Our Mission

To **serve the public** by
ensuring safe, reliable, and
accessible **energy** and
telecommunications services
at reasonable rates



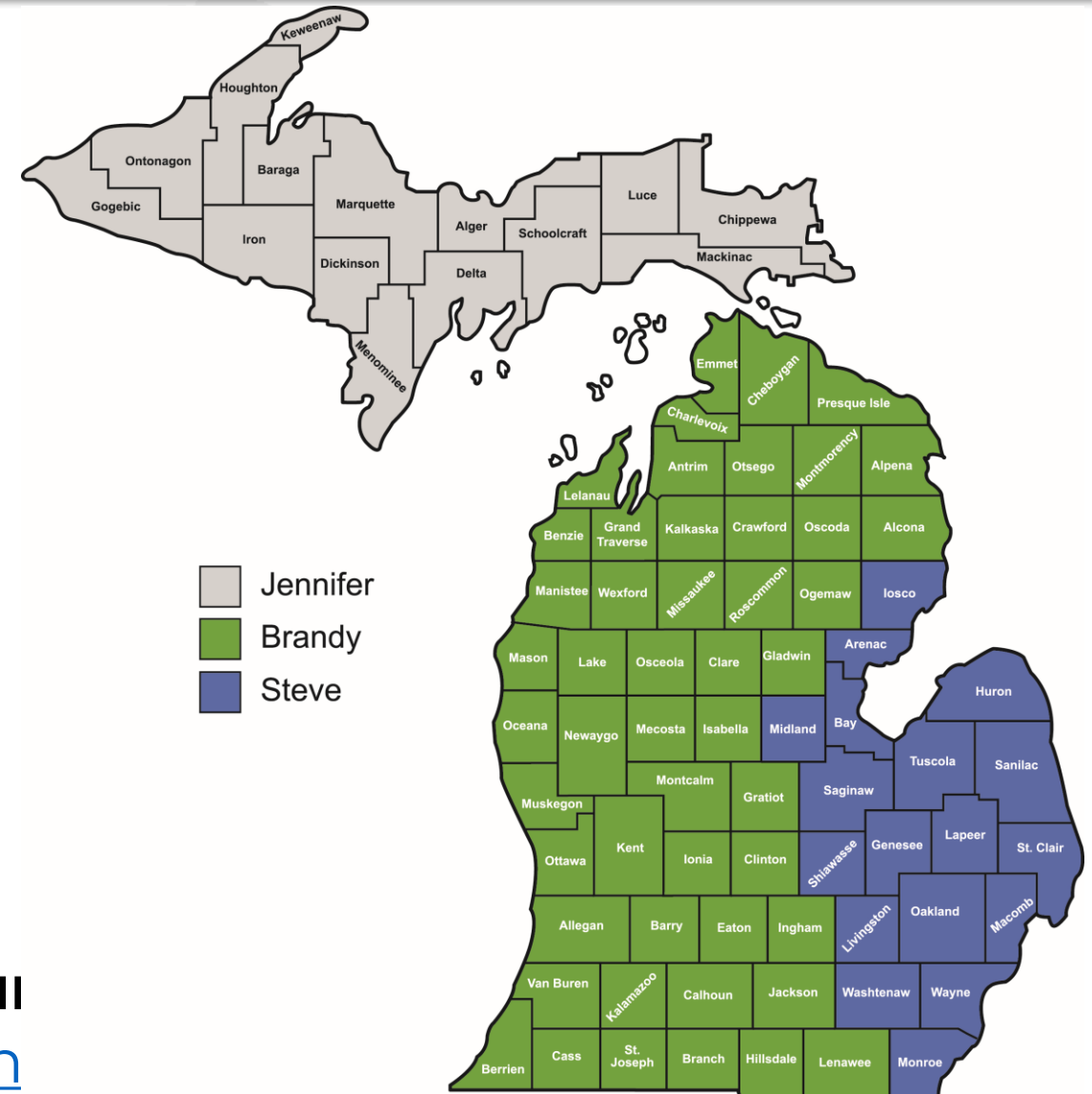
MPSC Outreach, Engagement, & Public Participation

MPSC Outreach, Engagement, & Participation Opportunities

- ❑ **Goal:** To expand opportunities for informed, meaningful participation by members of the public
- ❑ **Guiding Principles:**
 - Building and maintaining trust
 - Ensuring transparency
 - Increasing Commission visibility and access

Our Outreach and Engagement Team

- ❑ Outreach & Engagement Team members work with Community-based organizations and facilitate our Community Partner Network
- ❑ Each Community Liaison has a designated territory for which they are responsible.
 - **Jennifer Brooks**, Outreach Coordinator, Tribal & Community Liaison
 - ❑ The UP
 - **Brandy Quinn**, Community Liaison
 - ❑ South Central, South West, West, Mid., and Northern MI
 - **Steve Kimbrell**, Community Liaison
 - ❑ Southeast MI, Metro Detroit, the Thumb, and Saginaw Bay



Reach out to our team of Commu

LARA-MPSC-External-Affairs@michigan.gov

Opportunities for Participation in the Commission's decision-making processes

Public Engagement Session

Examples:

- Outage Townhalls
- Assistance related listening sessions
- Participation Townhall

Comment Dockets

Examples:

- Low Income Energy Assistance Fund, Funding Factor
- COVID Response Docket
- Distribution Plans
- Integrated Resource Plan – planning parameters and filing requirements
- Rate case filing requirements

Contested Case Proceedings

Examples

- Rate cases
- Integrated Resource Planning
- Siting
- Cost Recovery and Reconciliations

Workgroups, Collaboratives, Technical Conferences

Examples:

- Energy Affordability & Accessibility Collaborative
- MI Power Grid Initiative
- Resilience Technical Conference

Rulemakings

Examples:

- Service Quality Rules
- Customer Standards & Billing Practices
- Interconnection & Distributed Generation Standards

The Contested Case Process

Application & Notice

- Pre-filing announcement (in some cases)
- Application filed or the Commission initiates case on its own motion
- Notice of prehearing conference issued

Intervention & Prehearing

- Petitions to intervene are filed;
- Prehearing conference
- Audit & discovery commences

Testimony & Cross-Examination

- Staff & Intervenor Testimony filed
- Rebuttal Testimony filed
- Evidentiary hearing & Cross examinations

Briefing

- Briefs & reply briefs filed

Proposal for Decision

- ALJ issues proposal for decision (PFD)
- Exceptions to PFD and replies to exceptions are filed

Order & Appeals

- Commission issues final order
- Rehearing & appeals

A Rate Case Timeline: MPSC Case No. U-21389

Consumers Energy Electric Rate Case, MPSC Order issued March 1, 2024

5/1/23 (Day 1) – Application Filed

Application & Notice

- Pre-filing announcement (in some cases)
- Application filed or the Commission initiates case on its own motion
- Notice of prehearing conference issued

5/26/23 (25) – Prehearing Conference

Intervention & Prehearing

- Petitions to intervene are filed;
- Prehearing conference
- Audit & discovery commences

8/29/23 (120) – Testimony Due
9/19/23 (141) – Rebuttal Testimony
10/9/23 (161) – Cross Examination

Testimony & Cross-Examination

- Staff & Intervenor Testimony filed
- Rebuttal Testimony filed
- Evidentiary hearing & Cross examinations

11/2/23 (185) – Briefs Due
11/16/23 (199) – Reply Briefs Due

Briefing

- Briefs & reply briefs filed

12/21/23 (234) – Proposal for Decision
1/10/24 (255) – Exceptions
1/23/24 (268) – Replies to Exceptions

Proposal for Decision

- ALJ issues proposal for decision (PFD)
- Exceptions to PFD and replies to exceptions are filed

3/1/24 – Commission Order
Deadline (10 months)

Order & Appeals

- Commission issues final order
- Rehearing & appeals

The Contested Case: Who can Participate?

❑ Intervention by Right

- The Company, its staff and its legal representation
- MPSC Staff and staff attorneys
- Attorney General



❑ Permissive Intervention

- Intervenors who have a direct interest in the case may file a petition to intervene
- Common intervenors include:





Michigan Department of the Attorney General: Special Litigation Division Michigan's Consumer Advocate



MI DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

Detroit:
Cadillac Place, 10th Floor
3030 W. Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48202
313-456-0240

Lansing:
G. Mennen Williams Bldg.
525 W. Ottawa St.
Lansing, MI 48909
517-335-7622

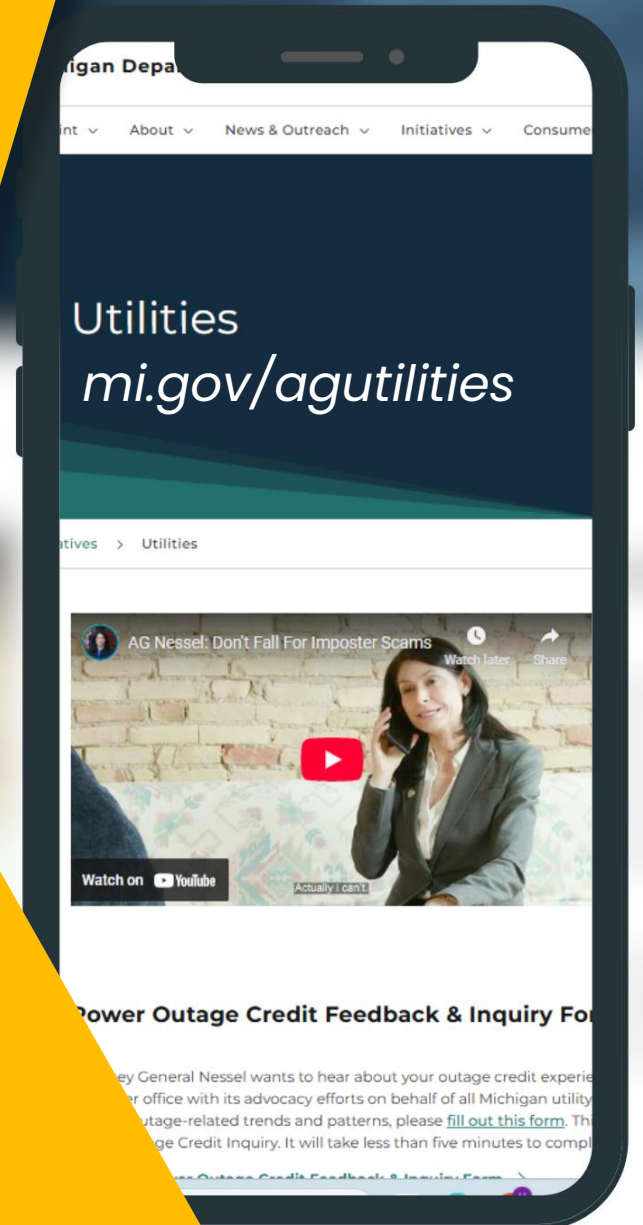
Utilities

Attorney General Dana Nessel is an advocate for utility customers in Michigan. AG Nessel intervenes in electric and natural gas cases to fight for affordable and reliable service.

Since taking office, the Attorney General has helped save Michigan consumers more than \$3.7 billion by intervening in utility cases before the MPSC.

CASES:

- U-21585 Consumers Energy
- U-21806 Consumers Energy
- U-21534 DTE
- U-21291 DTE
- U-21565 Northern States Power Company





CONTACT

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY
GENERAL



517-335-7622




agpress@mi.gov



mi.gov/ag





The Michigan Utility Consumer Participation Board

Enabling participation before the MPSC

UCPB

THE UCPB EXISTS TO REVIEW AND APPROVE
GRANT APPLICATIONS TO SUPPORT
INTERVENTION IN REGULATORY
PROCEEDINGS....

TO ENSURE EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION OF
THE INTERESTS OF RESIDENTIAL RATEPAYERS

WHO

- ▶ Nonprofit organizations
- ▶ Local units of government
- ▶ With members who are ratepayers in Michigan
- ▶ Residential Ratepayer Focus

WHAT

- ▶ Fund intervention in Act 304 and 341 proceedings
 - Gas supply plan review and cost recovery and reconciliation (GCRC)
 - Power supply plan review and cost recovery and reconciliation (PSRC)
 - General rate cases (RC)
 - Integrated resource plans (IRP)
 - Certificates of necessity (CN)
 - Capacity charge and state reliability mechanism
 - Securitization and financing order
 - Energy waste reduction (EWR)
 - Energy optimization (EO)
 - Renewable energy plan (REP)

HOW

michigan.gov/lara/about/ucpb

1. There is a standing request for proposals (RFP) on the board's website. Proposals are handled on a rolling basis in board meetings held every other month.
2. Proposals must be received 3 weeks ahead of the meeting date
3. You will work with LARA on your application.
4. The board reviews the written proposal, the grantee makes a short oral argument for their grant, and the grantee is available for questions at the meeting. The board will then vote to approve the grant request, partially approve the grant request, or decline the request.
5. LARA-UCPB@michigan.gov

RECENT EVOLUTION – CONSUMER INTERESTS

- ▶ Originally Rates for Residential Consumers

NOW ADDS

- ▶ Utility Service
- ▶ Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- ▶ Public Health
- ▶ Equitable Access to Energy Efficiency
- ▶ Weatherization
- ▶ Efficient Electrification Measures
- ▶ Clean Energy Tech
- ▶ More.....

TO BEGIN

- Visit the UCPB website, where we have all the information you need.
 - Some of the documents we have are currently being updated.
- Attend our next meeting virtually or in person. Our next meetings are on June 9 and August 11, 2025. Minutes are published to our website.
 - We ask that all new grantees give a 10 minute presentation when their first grant application is brought to the UCPB for a vote.
- The grant application deadline for the August meeting is July 21.
- If you are interested in applying, you'll want to get set up in SIGMA early.

MPSC Draft Participation Framework

Draft Participation Framework

- ❑ Evaluate opportunities for:
 - Contested Case Proceedings
 - Rulemakings and Informal Proceedings (workgroups, technical conferences, and comment dockets)
 - Public Hearings and Comment Opportunities
 - Community Based Educational Townhalls
 - Community Meetings
- ❑ Including the following approaches:
 - Meaningfully integrating comments into evidentiary record
 - Publicizing engagement opportunities with sufficient advance notice and through accessible channels
 - Developing helpful avenues to request meetings

Breakout Groups

We're going to split into three discussion groups to discuss the participation framework ideas.

- ❑ Each group will include two of our panelists, a Commissioner Advisor, Community Liaison, and other MPSC Staff members.
- ❑ We have a series of questions we hope to hear your thoughts on, but welcome other comments.
- ❑ We'll return to the larger group for closing comments.

Discussion Questions

1. We promoted tonight's hearing through social media channels, press releases, and sharing information with Community-based organizations. How did you hear about tonight's hearing? Are there other avenues you believe we should pursue that could expand awareness of meetings like this one?
2. Are the guiding principles identified the right ones? Are there any that you think are missing?
3. Understanding the different proceedings and other opportunities for public engagement, what feedback do you have on the draft participation framework that was presented tonight?
4. Given the weight of comments and requirements relating to contested case proceedings, how should the Commission balance options to make it easier to submit comments relative to the role of formal intervenors?
5. What are some key actions that would lead you to trust an organization like the MPSC? What are actions that might cause you to NOT trust an organization?
6. Are there topics on which you would like the Commission to focus for future engagement opportunities?

Next Steps

- ❑ Follow the MPSC on social media to find the draft framework on our website when it's ready: [Michigan.gov/mpsc](https://michigan.gov/mpsc)



**Reach out to our team of Community Liaisons
to stay updated:**

LARA-MPSC-External-Affairs@michigan.gov