



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 23, 2022

Contact: Katrina Hamann, [katrina@michiganej.org](mailto:katrina@michiganej.org), Eli Day, [eli@wethepeoplemi.org](mailto:eli@wethepeoplemi.org)

### **MPSC's unprecedented ruling on DTE rate increase is a testament to community organizing**

DETROIT – In January 2022, DTE Energy asked the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) for permission to increase residential electricity rates by 8.8 percent. Communities organized to oppose the rate increase, particularly Black and brown communities who DTE [underserves](#) with outdated, unreliable infrastructure. **On November 18, 2022, the MPSC approved only a 0.78% rate increase – the greatest reduction in a utility rate hike request in at least a decade.**

The ruling is a testament to organized community opposition. More than 850 people filed powerful comments in the rate case docket (U-20836), [calling out](#) DTE's greedy profiteering, ruthless shutoff policies, and deteriorating service. Dozens of organizations called for a public hearing on the rate case; at the subsequent hearing in August, more than 200 people signed up to share 2-minute testimony with Commissioners Dan Scripps, Tremaine Phillips, and Katherine Peretick. We commend the MPSC for hearing from impacted communities, and ruling on behalf of the public.

At the same time, we know that any rate increase at all is too much. Energy bills are unaffordable, and DTE has already begun to shut off households struggling to afford rising gas bills as temperatures fall.

Most Michiganders want healthy, thriving communities powered by clean energy that is reliable and affordable. But for decades, profit-driven corporations like DTE energy and the politicians they pay for have distracted us with lies while they shovel profits to executives, pollute our air, cut off our service, neglect our infrastructure, and rob our communities to make themselves richer. We have the power to change this, and last week's decision was just a small window into the possibilities that lie on the other side of organized public pressure. Together, we will continue holding DTE accountable by fighting for reliable, affordable energy for all.

#####

*The Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition (MEJC) works to achieve a clean, healthy, and safe environment for Michigan residents most affected by inadequate policies. We build power and unity within our community, so we all can thrive. [www.michiganej.org](http://www.michiganej.org)*

*We the People Michigan is building a multiracial, working-class movement to rewrite the rules, and make Michigan a place where everyone flourishes and every community thrives for generations to come, no exceptions. <https://wethepeoplemi.org/>*