

Understanding the Stakes: DTE and Consumers Energy Rate Hikes

Consumer Reports is urging the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) to reject excessive increases from DTE and Consumers Energy, and instead require Michigan's largest monopoly utilities to keep costs under control, improve reliability, and protect households from unfair costs.

Background

- Michigan electricity prices have risen 17% over the past three years.¹
- Michigan utilities can request rates increases from the MPSC as often as every 12 months, and repeated requests have become commonplace:
- Consumers Energy has requested a rate increase every year for the past six years.²
- DTE has requested five rate increases in the past seven years. DTE has now said it would pause new general rate cases for two years if regulators approve a proposed data center power-supply agreement.³

In April and June 2026, DTE and Consumers Energy requested regulators to approve substantial new rate increases. They are also seeking a higher authorized return on equity—the profit rate they are allowed to earn on certain investments paid for by customers, which would push household electric bills even higher.

What the Proposals Could Mean for Consumers

- Electric bills could rise by more than 9% under both proposals—an estimated \$155-\$180 more per year for a typical customer.⁴
- For an average \$150 electric bill, DTE currently is estimated to take 16.7%, or \$25, as profit. Consumers Energy takes 13.9%, or \$20.⁵
- DTE is seeking an additional \$474 million from customers,⁶ while Consumers Energy is seeking approximately \$456 million more.⁷

DTE and Consumers Energy are Highly Profitable Monopolies

DTE and Consumers Energy's parent company, CMS Energy, are already highly profitable:

- DTE reported \$1.5 billion⁸ in profit last year, while CMS Energy reported more than \$1 billion.⁹
- Executive compensation is also substantial: CMS paid its CEO \$10.5 million,¹⁰ while DTE paid its outgoing CEO \$14.2 million.¹¹

- Both utilities are asking regulators to authorize a 10.25% return on equity (up from the current 9.9%, and well above the national average for utilities), increasing the return shareholders can earn on qualifying utility investments.¹²

Consumer Reports: Michigan Consumers Deserve Better

Consumer Reports is urging the MPSC to reject excessive rate increases and put affordability first.

CR is calling on regulators to:

- Protect households from rate increases that outpace inflation.
- Scrutinize utility spending and reject unnecessary or overly expensive investments.
- Require large new electricity users, including data centers, to pay their fair share rather than shifting costs onto households.
- Prioritize energy efficiency and other proven, lower-cost solutions that can reduce waste, manage growing electricity demand, and lower costs.
- Hold utilities accountable for delivering reliable service before asking customers to continually pay more.

Make Your Voice Heard

Michigan consumers have a right to weigh in on decisions that could increase their electric bills.

Sign Consumer Reports' petition to [Consumers Energy](#) or [DTE](#) and share your story about how rising electricity costs are affecting your household.

You can also submit a public comment directly to the Michigan Public Service Commission:

- DTE Electric customers: [Case U-22046](#)
- Consumers Energy customers: [Case U-22070](#)

On the appropriate case page, click "Submit Comment" next to the case number, accept the terms and conditions, enter your contact information and comment, complete the spam-filter question, and click Save to submit.

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