



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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August 18, 2023

RE: DTE Customers with Inside Meters

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) required DTE Gas Company (DTE) to develop a meter move-out program and in 2011 DTE began a program to move gas meters from the inside of homes to the outside. Inside meters prohibit DTE's access to perform maintenance and conduct required state and federal safety inspections. Lack of access creates safety concerns related to emergency response, corrosion, damage, tampering, and theft. Commission employees have investigated fires and explosions at locations with inside meters where there were injuries and/or property damage related to these issues.

In 2018, in case U-18999, DTE stated that there were 127,593 inside meters that had an overdue meter assembly check (MAC), to which the Commission responded:

This violates state and federal regulations and may constitute a safety and reliability risk. Because this is a serious and compounded problem, the Commission finds that it is imperative that the company devote significant capital resources and overhaul customer outreach and education programs to resolve this issue. While compliance with the regulations addressed through MAC inspections is no doubt important, the Commission stresses the need to move meters out of homes to improve access, safety, and long-term compliance with the assembly check requirements.

Allowing DTE access to the meters for required inspections and replacement will help to make sure you, your family, and neighbors are safe. Lack of required safety inspections and denied access can allow safety concerns to remain and require the utility to send letters demanding access. If DTE cannot gain access, Rule 460.2372 allows a gas utility to cut service when there is a hazardous condition or access is refused. If your service is cut because access is refused, you can be required to pay the cost to reconnect the service.

Thank you for support and cooperation with these important safety programs.

Sincerely,

David J. Chislea, Director
Gas Safety and Operations Division