

June 26, 2026

Dear Heather Shaw:

RE: Case No. 01613104

Thank you for taking the time to contact the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) regarding your utility concerns. The MPSC appreciates hearing from residents like you and takes your concerns very seriously.

The MPSC staff has contacted Consumers Energy on your behalf. A Consumers Energy representative has explained that the utility requested easement rights are based on its determination of what is reasonably necessary to protect, operate, maintain, and preserve the safety, integrity, and reliability of its high-voltage electric infrastructure. Falling trees and branches are the single largest cause for power outages on Consumers Energy's electrical system. The requested easement dimensions are consistent with Consumers Energy's long-standing standards for high-voltage distribution (HVD) easements of this nature.

At the time the line was rebuilt, the primary focus was completing the infrastructure upgrades as quickly as possible. Consumers Energy continuously evaluates factors affecting system reliability and has identified the need for additional vegetation management rights on this line to bring them up to HVD standards.

Consumers Energy recognizes that property owners may have concerns regarding tree removal and vegetation clearance. These HVD easements are intended to support the safe and reliable operation of the electric grid to the benefit of all customers and are consistent with Consumers Energy's reliability obligations. Consumers Energy has evaluated the circumstances and does not have another reasonable alternative for this HVD line that would meet the applicable safety, operational, and reliability needs.

Thank you for contacting the MPSC and allowing me to assist you. If you should have any other energy-related concerns in the future, you may contact the utility company at their toll free number, the MPSC at the address below, toll-free at 800-292-9555 or via e-mail at LARA-MPSC-complaints@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Compliance and Investigation Section
Michigan Public Service Commission