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Letter: Say no to Consumers Energy plan

by James Clift | Policy Director | Michigan Environmental Council | Lansing

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The Public Service Commission (PSC) is about to make a decision on whether to approve the renewable energy plan submitted by Consumers Energy pursuant to the clean energy legislation passed last year by the state legislature. The PSC should say no to Consumers' pathetic plan.

Consumers Energy's plan asks permission to pay over 17 cents a kilowatt hour for renewable energy (mostly wind). In comparison, Detroit Edison's estimate is under 12 cents a kilowatt hour. That difference is huge when you consider that the total plan costs exceed \$5 billion. The lower costs that DTE is projecting would save Consumers Energy ratepayers almost \$2 billion over the life of the plan. It is also important to note that both utilities agree that 12 cents a kilowatt hour is cheaper than building a new coal-fired power plant.

To make matters worse, Consumers Energy has proposed that residential ratepayers pay for 65 percent of the renewable energy surcharge, even though they only account for 35 percent of energy use. The attorney general agrees with the environmental community that this is not fair. The PSC should say no to this plan, and send Consumers Energy back to the drawing board to devise a plan that is fair, reasonably priced and designed to put Michigan's manufacturing base back to work.