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Consumers Energy
Count on Us

A CMS Energy Company

General Offices:
One Energy Plaza Tel: (517) 788-0550
Jackson, MI 49201 Fax: (517) 788-3141

*Washington Office:
1730 Rhode Island Ave. N.W. Tel: (202) 776-3340
Suite 1007
Washington, DC 20036 Fax: (202) 776-3355

Writer's Direct Dial Number: (517) 788-0664
Writer's E-mail Address: Adam.Smith@cmsenergy.com

LEGAL DEPARTMENT
CATHERINE M REYNOLDS
Senior Vice President
and General Counsel

MELISSA M GLEESPEN
Vice President, Corporate
Secretary and Chief
Compliance Officer

SHAUN M JOHNSON
Vice President and Deputy
General Counsel

H Richard Chambers
Eric V Luoma
Shelley J Ruckman
Kimberly C Wilson
Assistant General Counsel

Ashley L Bancroft
Robert W Beach
Don A D'Amato
Robert A. Farr
Gary A Genesch, Jr.
Kelly M Hall
Gary L Ketterhorn
Charles P Knowles
Mary Jo Lawrie
Jason M Milstone
Rhonda M Morris
Deborah A Moss*
Mirče Michael Nestor
James D W Roush
Scott J Sinkwitts
Adam C Smith
Jenna M Thayer
Brel A Teteraitis
Anne M Uitvlugt
Attorney

VIA FACSIMILE
(231) 223-7117

September 19, 2016

RECEIVED
11:45 a.m.
SEP 19 2016
BY: GLH

Peninsula Township Planning Commission
Attn: Ms. Michelle Reardon, Director of Planning & Zoning
13235 Center Road
Traverse City, MI 49686

Re: Comment on Proposed Amendment No. 191 to Peninsula Township Zoning Ordinance
New Section 4.1.3(6), Order of Processing Permits for Use of Land

Dear Planning Commission Members:

I am an attorney for Consumers Energy Company, and recently received the notice of public hearing regarding Amendment No. 191 to the Peninsula Township Zoning Ordinance. Consumers Energy appreciates the opportunity to submit this comment to the proposed amendment.

As with the entirety of its service area across the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, Consumers Energy is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable energy to our customers in Peninsula Township. Depending on the circumstances, this can require Consumers Energy to upgrade, enhance or otherwise improve its infrastructure on relatively short notice to continue providing this essential public service.

Amendment No. 191 would generally limit any owner of one or more parcels in Peninsula Township to only one pending application under the Zoning Ordinance at any given time. Given the broad scope of Consumers Energy's infrastructure within the township, it is entirely possible that the company might require more than one request at any particular point in time. Therefore, Consumers Energy is concerned that the proposed language could impede its ability to make timely improvements to its system as necessary to continue serving Peninsula Township residents and businesses.

To avoid this result, Consumers Energy proposes amending the proposed language for new Subsection (6) to include the additional text shown in **bold underline**:

(6) Order of Processing Permits for Use of Land: **Except for any applications or requests from a Public Utility, any** ~~Any~~ parcel or parcels under the same ownership shall only be allowed to have one (1) application pending at any time for any permit for the use of any parcel or parcels which requires the application of the regulations under this Zoning Ordinance.

[the remaining subparts of the proposed addition to remain the same]

I believe that this addition will allow for necessary utility work to proceed in a timely manner while not impacting the new subsection's applicability to routine applications and permits.

Again, Consumers Energy appreciates the Planning Commission's consideration of this request in connection with the public hearing on September 19, 2016. If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at your convenience.

Best regards,

Adam C. Smith (517) 788 0639

Cc: DWDeyoung (via email)