

MTERA FACT SHEET

On Michigan's Integrated Resource Planning Process And What Tribes Need to Know

What is an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)?

The State of [Michigan's Public Service Commission \(MPSC\)](#) requires investor-owned utilities (IOUs) like DTE Energy, Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO), Xcel Energy and Consumers Energy to file IRP's and update them every five years. An **Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)** is a long-term plan that a utility files with the state, outlining how it will meet customer energy needs over the next 20+ years. This process only applies to IOUs (like UPPCO and Xcel). Electric cooperatives and municipal utilities follow different rules—but this still sets a statewide planning precedent. IRP's include projections for:

- Electricity demand
- Energy generation (e.g., solar, wind, gas)
- Grid reliability
- Environmental regulations
- Demand response and electrification

How does this Impact Tribes?

While **Tribal Nations aren't directly regulated**, this process affects how utilities invest and prioritize resources **on or near Tribal lands**, including:

- Whether utilities support or obstruct **Tribal solar and microgrid projects**
- If and how **environmental justice** and Tribal interests are considered
- Access for Tribal energy projects to **interconnect with the electric grid**, incentives, and distributed energy

Why should Tribes submit a comment and get involved?

- Comments from Tribal Nations, members, and organizations can:
 - Push for Tribal consultation and sovereignty recognition in utility planning
 - Ensure distributed solar and storage are included fairly in modeling
 - Demand better attention to energy justice and community needs
 - Influence how utilities treat tribal electrification, EVs, and energy security

Even if your Tribe is served by a co-op or municipality, participating in and showing up for this process sends a message that **Tribal voices matter in clean energy planning.**



Email: contactus@mtera.org
Website: www.mtera.org

How to Submit Comments

Comments on the draft planning requirements must be submitted by **October 31, 2025**.

Email to: LARA-MPSC-Edockets@michigan.gov and be sure to include in the Subject line: **Case No. U-21867. In your comment letter, be sure to include** who you are and who you represent (e.g., Tribal Nation, community org) and be clear on your requests or concerns. Feel free to utilize the template comment letter created by MTERA (see below).

Public Hearings

Come learn more and offer direct comments to the MI PSC on **October 27, 2025**, 6:00–7:30 PM at the Oakland Community College, Building F, Room F123, 2900 Featherstone Rd., Auburn Hills, MI

MTERA is here to help!

We represent Midwest Tribes building clean energy futures. Reach out if you want help crafting a comment, attending hearings, or understanding how this process could impact your Tribe.

Visit MTERA's website at www.mtera.org to download the comment template letter, MTERA's comment letter, and this fact sheet.

- Read the full notice from the State of Michigan [here](#).
- Read the full IRP document [here](#).

Contact Andy Bessler, MTERA Director of Policy and Advocacy, at andy.bessler@mtera.org or 703.517.0416 if you have questions or would like support.