

UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

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April 10, 2024

Secretary Jennifer Granholm
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

In Re: UWUA Support for DTE Electric's Grant Application for Department of Energy Grid Resilience and Innovative Partnerships (GRIP) Funding

Madame Secretary,

On behalf of the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA), I am pleased to offer support for DTE Energy's application for the "Grid Transformation in Disadvantaged Communities of Southwest Detroit" project. DTE Energy's project will fundamentally rebuild the electric infrastructure in southwest Detroit to the most robust construction standards. This will lead to transformational change in reliability, resiliency, and safety. This project serves more than 15,000 customers, living in several of Detroit's disadvantaged communities as identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).

Through our national organization and UWUA Local 223, we have a long-standing relationship representing DTE employees conducting underground and substation work. The southwest Detroit grid transformation project will support union jobs for our members and other represented employees in the skilled trades. Local 223 will be directly involved in upgrading substations and performing underground cable and conduit enhancement work. This project will directly support safety, jobs, and reliability by converting DTE's aged ungrounded delta 4.8kV circuits in southwest Detroit to 13.2kV. This will transform reliability and resiliency by reducing the risk of power disruptions from severe weather or equipment failures. The project will provide increased load capacity for new residential customers and businesses, enabling future deployment of Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) and electrification in disadvantaged communities. DTE will also deploy remote monitoring and control technologies to improve resiliency and better incorporate growing adoption of clean technology.

We are committed to supporting Local 223 to deliver the necessary union workforce to complete the underground and substation work in a safe, timely and effective manner. We also support continued collaboration with DTE on workforce attraction, safety, and training initiatives. This project lays the groundwork for scaling up these types of grid modernization investments in the future to provide a robust pipeline for union jobs and bring direct customer, community, and environmental benefits.

Sincerely,

James T. Slevin
National President
Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO