

Michigan just contracted 2.4 GW of new data-center load. Your capital plan is where it gets built.

Hyperscale data centers, a first-of-its-kind nuclear restart, a hard 2040 clean-energy deadline, and years of reliability complaints are all landing on the same project list at once. Every one of them reshuffles what gets built, when, and at what cost. Invizion helps electric utilities re-sequence a capital portfolio in a click — and defend every decision to the MPSC and their boards.

2.4 GW¹ New data-center load DTE Electric has already contracted — 1 GW for Google and 1.4 GW for an Oracle campus in Saline Township.	\$8.81B² DOE conditional loan guarantees to DTE for new solar, wind, and battery storage.	805 MW³ Palisades — the first U.S. nuclear plant ever to restart after closure, backed by a ~\$1.5B DOE loan guarantee.	50% by 2030⁴ Michigan's renewable-energy standard under the 2023 clean-energy law, rising to 60% by 2035.
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THE MICHIGAN LANDSCAPE

Four forces are moving your project list at once

None of these is theoretical, and none of them waits for your next budget cycle. Together they mean the capital plan you approved last year may already be the wrong plan.

DEMAND — LOAD GROWTH

Gigawatts of data-center load, arriving on contracts

DTE Electric has signed agreements for roughly 2.4 GW of new data-center load — about 1 GW for a Google site and 1.4 GW for an Oracle campus in Saline Township — deals it expects to drive nearly \$9 billion in system investment through 2045¹

That demand stacks onto a grid that produced about 124 million MWh in 2024, now led by natural gas⁵ Michigan's Lower Peninsula clears through MISO, so every large new load competes for the same interconnection and capacity as everyone else's⁶

RELIABILITY — OUTAGES & SCRUTINY

Rebuilding trust after years of long outages

Reliability is Michigan's sore point, and regulators are watching. DTE put more than \$900 million into electric reliability in the first half of 2026 alone, and says smart-grid technology avoided over 49,000 outages and cut outages about 60% in one March storm¹¹

Consumers Energy is spending on a parallel track — more than \$90 million across 1,001 reliability projects in 2026 — as both utilities work to shorten and reduce the frequent outages customers and the MPSC have pushed back on⁷

GENERATION — THE TRANSITION

Coal out, nuclear back, clean in — on a deadline

Consumers Energy stopped burning coal in 2025, ending coal generation roughly 15 years ahead of its original plan⁸ while DTE's 3,400-MW Monroe plant — one of the largest in the country — closes two units in 2028 and the rest by 2032⁹

Filling the gap: the 805-MW Palisades plant is restarting, a U.S. first,³ as the 2023 clean-energy law drives utilities toward 60% renewables by 2035⁴ and Michigan's five-year solar pipeline tops 8,300 MW.¹⁰

CAPITAL — GRID & CLEAN BUILD

Record capex, and a 2040 clock on top of it

DTE spent a record \$4.3 billion in 2025 and plans more than \$6 billion in 2026, including a \$1.6 billion battery-storage program of about 1.5 GW — and DOE has offered it up to \$8.81 billion in loan guarantees for new clean generation and storage¹²

Michigan's 2023 law — 100% clean energy by 2040, with new state authority to site large solar and wind — turns each of these into a permitted, scheduled capital commitment that has to fit alongside the reliability backlog¹¹

WHO RUNS MICHIGAN'S GRID

Two large investor-owned utilities, plus municipals and cooperatives

Michigan's Lower Peninsula grid is dominated by two MPSC-regulated investor-owned utilities — DTE Electric and Consumers Energy — alongside a smaller IOU, municipal systems, and generation-and-distribution cooperatives. The pressures are shared; the accountability path differs.

Investor-owned utilities

Rates & capital recovery regulated by the MPSC

DTE Electric ~2.3M electric customers · Southeast Michigan & the Thumb²

Consumers Energy Electric service across much of the Lower Peninsula's 68 counties⁸

Indiana Michigan Power (AEP) Southwest Michigan · operates the 2.2-GW Cook nuclear plant¹²

DTE also owns the 1,150-MW Fermi 2 nuclear plant in Monroe County¹³ and is running a record capital budget — over \$6 billion planned in 2026.¹

Public power & cooperatives

Governed by boards & members, not MPSC rates

Wolverine Power Cooperative G&T co-op · PPA for ~two-thirds of Palisades' output³

Great Lakes Energy / Cherryland Distribution cooperatives

Lansing Board of Water & Light Municipal utility · state capital

Every capital dollar has to be defensible

Whether you answer to the Public Service Commission or a co-op board, the question is the same: why this project, why now, why at this cost?

Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) regulates rates, capital recovery, and Integrated Resource Plans for DTE Electric and Consumers Energy.⁴

DTE's electric rate case filed in April 2026 seeks about \$474.3 million, with a final MPSC decision expected in late February 2027 — capital recovery is not automatic.¹

The 2023 renewable-energy standard requires 50% renewables by 2030 and 60% by 2035, shaping every utility resource plan.⁴

State siting authority now lets the MPSC permit large solar and wind projects, overriding local zoning — a structural change for the clean build-out.¹¹

The money is moving — can your plan absorb it?

Michigan utilities have more grid and clean-energy capital available than they've had in a generation. The constraint is readiness: which projects qualify, which are shovel-ready, and how the timing lines up.

DOE loan guarantees to DTE: up to \$8.81 billion (conditional, 2025) for new solar, wind, and battery storage.²

Palisades restart: backed by a ~\$1.5 billion DOE loan guarantee plus \$300 million in state support — the first U.S. nuclear restart.³

DOE GRIP program: \$7.6 billion nationally across 105 projects for grid resilience and modernization — a pool Michigan utilities compete for.¹⁴

Michigan solar: about \$4 billion invested to date, with 8,367 MW projected over the next five years.¹⁰

MICHIGAN'S GRID, IN BRIEF

Questions Michigan utility leaders are asking

Short, sourced answers — the same facts we dig into with utilities looking at their capital programs.

How fast is Michigan's electricity demand growing?

DTE Electric alone has contracted about 2.4 GW of new data-center load (roughly 1 GW for Google and 1.4 GW for an Oracle campus in Saline Township), expected to drive nearly \$9 billion in system investment through 2045; that load has to interconnect through MISQs¹⁶

What's happening to Michigan's coal plants?

Consumers Energy ended coal generation in 2025, about 15 years ahead of its original plan, and DTE's 3,400-MW Monroe plant closes two units in 2028 with the remainder by 2032.⁸⁹

Is the Palisades nuclear plant really restarting?

Yes. The 805-MW Palisades plant, owned by Holtec, is the first U.S. nuclear plant to restart after closure, backed by a roughly \$1.5 billion DOE loan guarantee and \$300 million in state support, with Wolverine Power Cooperative contracted for about two-thirds of its output.³

Does the MPSC set my utility's rates?

The Michigan Public Service Commission regulates rates, capital recovery, and resource plans for investor-owned utilities such as DTE Electric and Consumers Energy. Municipal systems and cooperatives are governed by their own boards.⁵⁴

What clean-energy targets must Michigan utilities hit?

Michigan's 2023 law sets a renewable-energy standard of 50% by 2030 and 60% by 2035, on the way to 100% clean energy by 2040 — and gives the state new authority to site large solar and wind projects.⁴¹¹

How does Invizion help Michigan electric utilities plan capital?

Invizion is scenario-based capital portfolio optimization for utilities. It lets you model how a data-center load surge, a DOE loan, a coal retirement date, or a reliability mandate reshuffles your whole project list, re-sequence the portfolio automatically, and keep a defensible record of every decision for the MPSC or your board.

REFERENCES

Sources

Every figure in this briefing is tied to a primary or authoritative source.

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ABOUT INVIZION

Capital program optimization for utilities

Invizion is a purpose-built capital lifecycle management platform for utilities. It integrates budgeting, CIP, scenario analysis, and funding-source tracking in one system — so utilities can re-sequence a capital portfolio in a click and demonstrate audit-ready, defensible decisions to regulators, boards, and rating agencies.

See how utilities keep capital plans current and defensible with Invizion.

Explore Invizion →