

From: Rich Fein
To: Planning, Mariana Melin-Corcoran
Cc: Steve Christensen
Subject: Regarding DTE electric capacity for 805 Oxford Rd
Date: Friday, May 8, 2026 1:37:01 PM

Attention Ann Arbor Planning Commission:

At the April 7 Planning Commission meeting, you considered the special exception use application for the Kappa Delta sorority at 805 Oxford Road. At that meeting, the petitioner's project team stated that DTE told them that it didn't have enough electric capacity to serve an all-electric building, specifically insufficient capacity to power an all-electric kitchen in combination with all electric heat.

Please note that this contradicts a response provided to me by DTE's Planning and Engineering team, stating that:

- a. DTE has sufficient capacity to supply the building for both electric heat and electric cooking.
- b. DTE has not communicated with representatives of the petitioner that there is insufficient capacity.

DTE confirmed this by email. The email stream is copied at the end of this letter, the most recent messages posted first. I have highlighted the key statements.

The petitioners' comments regarding lack of capacity were made at least twice. For your convenience and recollection, here are the links to the comments in the meeting video – at time stamps [1:41:20](#) and [1:43:30](#).

I do not know how to interpret this discrepancy, but I wanted to bring it to your attention. DTE's so-called capacity problems appear to be less common than some developers may claim.

Thank you for considering these facts. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. I imagine that Derrick Sanborn with DTE would be happy to discuss capacity issues with you as well, since he gave me permission to share his comments.

Regards,

Rich Fein

Chair – Efficiency & Electrification Action Team
Citizens’ Climate Lobby – Ann Arbor Chapter
503.341.9798

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”
- African Proverb

From: Derrick R Sanborn
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 1:31 PM
To: Rich Fein
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: 805 Oxford

Hey Rich,
The Engineering and Planning team met to review site constraints and customer communications. The circuit and site can accommodate all anticipated loads, including kitchen stove demand. Additionally, our team has not communicated any information to external parties that would suggest otherwise.

Derrick Sanborn | DTE Electric
DO RCO Planning & Engineering, Southwest Region
C: (248) 938-2363
E:
Derrick.Sanborn@dteenergy.com

From: Rich Fein
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 12:50 PM
To: Derrick R Sanborn
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: 805 Oxford

Thanks for checking into this Derrick.

Rich Fein

503.341.9798

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- African Proverb

Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 7:35 AM
To: Rich Fein
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: 805 Oxford

Good Morning Rich,
Sorry I missed your call later on Friday. I looked at the project and the system as it sits right now can handle the new project. I'm circling back with my team today to better understand how the conversation with that project went, and why the site contact would have stated they needed gas stoves. Once our conversations are complete I will send an additional update.

Derrick Sanborn | DTE Electric
DO RCO Planning & Engineering, Southwest Region
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Derrick.Sanborn@dteenergy.com

From: Derrick R Sanborn
From: Rich Fein
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2026 4:52 PM
To: Derrick R Sanborn
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: 805 Oxford

Hi Derrick,

Following up to my voice mail, I was just wondering if you had any further info or insights on why the architects for Ann Arbor sorority building a new building at 805 Oxford would claim that DTE didn't have enough electric capacity to use electric cooking in their kitchen.

Rich Fein
503.341.9798

From: Rich Fein
Sent: Tue 4/14/2026 9:03 PM
To: Derrick R Sanborn
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: 805 Oxford

Thanks for looking into this. We would be interested in learning what you find out.

It seems that if there is enough capacity for electric heat pump space heating, there would be enough capacity for cooking also. But in an Ann Arbor Planning Commission meeting, the architects stated that DTE doesn't have the electric power to support an electric kitchen at this time. Perhaps there was a misunderstanding????

FYI – while I stated that the building has a max occupancy of 75, as stated in the attached planning department report, it houses only 47 beds.

We look forward to anything you might find.

Rich Fein

503.341.9798

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