



# Wisconsin Utility Investors, Inc. Legislative/Regulatory Update

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## **WISCONSIN VOTERS SPLIT ON LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE RACES**

Voters in Wisconsin's November election again confirmed their independent thinking by reelecting Democrat Governor Jim Doyle while narrowly rejecting Democrat Attorney General candidate Kathleen Falk in favor of Republican J. B. Van Hollen. They also retained a Republican majority in the State Assembly while electing a Democrat majority in the State Senate for the first time since 2002. Doyle is the first Democrat to win reelection since Pat Lucey in 1974. He held a 53-45 percent margin over challenger U.S Representative Mark Green. In the hotly contested 8th Congressional District, Democrat Steve Kagen defeated Assembly Speaker John Gard.

## **NEW LEADERSHIP FOR BOTH HOUSES OF THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE**

In the Assembly, Republicans have elected Mike Huebsch of Onalaska to succeed John Gard as Speaker. He has served as Assembly Majority Leader and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance and is a twelve-year veteran of that house. Scott Fitzgerald has been elected Majority Leader. Fitzgerald also serves as a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. Mark Gundrum will be Assistant Majority Leader. Democrats reelected Jim Kreuser and Jon Richards as Minority and Assistant Minority Leaders. Tony Staskunas was elected Caucus Chair.

Senate Democrats have named Judy Robson as their leader for the 2007 session. She has been minority leader and has been in the Senate since 1999. Before that she served in the Assembly from 1987 to 1999. Dave Hansen, former grade school teacher, truck driver and union steward, was chosen assistant majority leader. He was first elected to the Senate in 2000. Fred Risser, the longest serving member of the Legislature, will once again serve as Senate President. He has been a legislator since 1956. Caucus Chair will be Mark Miller, while current Caucus Chair Jeff Plale has been named Assistant Caucus Chair. Spencer Coggs will act as Caucus Sergeant-at-Arms. Senate Republicans will be led by Scott Fitzgerald who has been serving as Co-chair of the Joint Committee on Finance. Joe Leibham, a former State Representative and Sargento Foods manager, will be Assistant Republican Leader. Glenn Grothman will serve as Caucus Chair.

## **ELECTION CHANGES LIKELY TO IMPACT LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY AGENDAS**

Election results will give the Governor's veto pen a rest. He had vetoed many legislative initiatives including a number of tort reform items sought by business. The new Senate leadership is likely to lead to greater lawmaking gridlock and make it more difficult to enact pro-business legislation. It will also become more difficult to block undesirable administrative rules proposed by state agencies. Under rulemaking procedures, committees may hold hearings on proposed rules from agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources and reject them by sending the rules back to the agencies. On a more positive note, a number of unfortunate environmental lawsuits initiated or joined in by former Attorney General Peggy Lautenschlager are likely to be rejected by incoming Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen. Former Public Intervenor Kathleen Falk had indicated she would have continued Lautenschlager's practice of suing businesses as nuisances even though they were meeting all environmental rules and regulations.

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## **XCEL'S MANAGER OF REGULATORY POLICY TO ASSUME NEW MADISON ROLE**

Dave Donovan, Excel Energy's Manager of Regulatory Policy in Wisconsin, has moved from the company's Eau Claire office to Madison, effective November 1. He has worked for the company since 1992 in a variety of positions, most recently as manager of Governmental and Regulatory Affairs. Donovan has a broad background in natural sciences. He holds a Master of Science degree in Forest Management and has experience in economic development as a member of the Eau Claire Area Economic Development Corporation, Chairman of the Eau Claire County Industrial Development Agency, Chairman of the Town of Washington and supervisor on the Eau Claire County Board.

## **SAWYER COUNTY RECEIVES \$1 MILLION FROM THE AMERICAN TRANSMISSION COMPANY**

Sawyer County, Wisconsin, has received a total of \$1,063,766 from the American Transmission Company as reimbursement for the county's role in construction of the Arrowhead-Weston Transmission line. The county has until April 1, 2007, to indicate how the funds will be spent. They must be used for environmental programs outlined by Wisconsin's Division of Energy. The funds can only be used for conservation or wetland projects unless otherwise approved by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

**THE WUI BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF WISH YOU  
A MERRY CHRISTMAS OR HAPPY HANUKKAH AND A  
VERY ENJOYABLE AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**

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