



AB 441: Clarification of PSCW Power Plant Construction Permitting Process

The chairmen of the Assembly and Senate Energy Committees and others have introduced a bill designed to clarify permitting procedures which led to a lawsuit in the We Energies "Power the Future" Oak Creek power plant project. Under current law, a plant cannot be constructed without a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the State Public Service Commission (PSCW). This bill clarifies the process of issuing such a certificate. WUI strongly supports this effort and encourages members to let their legislator know of their support. The bill had a hearing in the Assembly Energy and Utilities Committee Tuesday, May 31.

AB 437: Removing Obstacles to the Construction of Essential Transmission Lines

Under present law, utility condemnation powers do not apply to property owned by the state, counties or municipal governments. This narrowly worded measure would allow for the condemnation of state, county or municipal property for the construction of electric transmission facilities if the PSCW has determined that they are essential. WUI strongly supports this bill. Please contact your legislator.

SB 164: Attempting to Make Identity Theft More Difficult

This bill requires entities possessing certain personal information about individuals to notify them if the information has been accessed without authorization. The intent of this measure is commendable; however, in its current form, it will create useless paperwork and confusion for utilities, banks and many other businesses because of requirements that have little or nothing to do with protecting customers. All major business organizations are working with the author, Senator Ted Kanavas (R-Brookfield), to clarify and correct these problems.

AB 100: Governor's 2005-2007 Budget Bill Contains Skim from Public Benefits Fund

As previously noted, the Governor has proposed using \$53 million from the state's Public Benefits Fund to help balance the state's general purpose budget. The funds, paid in from a special assessment on customer's utility bills, are intended for energy efficiency projects and low-income energy assistance. The provision was also in the previous state budget. Over the past three fiscal years, more than \$55 million has been diverted from energy conservation and efficiency funds to the General Fund. WUI has joined with a coalition of customer and business groups in opposing the transfer. The state's investor owned utility association (WUA), while not a part of the coalition, has also sent a letter objecting to the proposal.

continued...

**LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY
UPDATE**

The Legislative/Regulatory Update is published bimonthly for the members of the Wisconsin Utility Investors.

June 2005
Volume 3, Number 3

2004-05 Board of Directors

Chairman, Don Gardner
Vice-Chair, Arlene Logan
Secretary, Carlyle Fay
Treasurer, Thomas Cassidy
Assistant Treasurer, Roger Cole
Ralph Baeten
John Hanson
William Huegel
Arthur Kriewaldt
Richard Krueger
Robert Logan
Kenneth Merkel

Executive Director

Kenyon Kies

H. R. 809 & S. 7: Federal Bills Would Make the Dividend Tax Reduction Permanent

The 2003 federal law reducing the top individual tax rate on dividends and long term capital gains is set to expire and should be permanently extended this year. Two bills have been introduced to accomplish this. WUI urges Congress to enact these measures.

Other Wisconsin Bills of interest to Utility Shareholders

AB 205: Recreates the Office of Public Intervener - WUI Opposes

AB 245: Increases Shared Utility Taxes for Wind Farms - WUI Supports

AB 278: Various Provisions including Nuisance Lawsuit Language, Expert Witness Reforms, and other items - WUI Supports

AB 304: Seeks to Prohibit "Revolving Door" employment for PSCW Commissioner and certain other PSCW Employees - No position

SB 110: Seeks to Set Unrealistic Renewable Energy Standards - WUI Opposes

Wisconsin Utility Investors

10 East Doty Street
Suite 500
Madison, WI 53703-3397

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 2783

Wisconsin Utility Investors
10 East Doty Street
Suite 500
Madison, WI 53703-3397
P: 608 663.5813
F: 608 283.2589