



# THE INVESTOR'S VOICE

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## WUI MEMBERS HELP DEFEAT CUB'S SECRET BUDGET PORK

In the last stages of the budget process, the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) managed to slip in a secret earmark providing them with a \$300,000 per year giveaway. CUB claims to represent utility ratepayers. But, in the dark of night, they attempted to grab \$300,000 from ratepayers to pad their own budget. CUB already has access to \$750,000 of ratepayer money to reimburse it for the cost of legal challenges to utilities, challenges that cost ratepayers additional money to defend against. Money grabs, pork and late-night earmarks do not paint a glamorous picture of an organization that talks about open government and claims to be a fiscal watchdog. Wisconsin Utility Investors will continue to closely follow CUB's spending and activities.



Congratulations to WUI Members who responded to the WUI PowerLines Alert and contacted the Governor's Office within the two days available to convince him to veto the CUB money grab. Thank you also to Governor Doyle for listening to Wisconsin citizens and ratepayers instead of a Madison based special-interest group with its nose already in the public trough. To join other WUI members who receive instant Alerts about serious issues in Madison, go to [www.wuiinc.org](http://www.wuiinc.org) and sign up for PowerLines. WUI has proven once again that citizens can make a difference.

## EARMARKS TAINT BUDGET PROCESS

Despite being faced with a record deficit that has caused the legislature to raise taxes and fees by \$2.1 billion to balance the budget, millions have been added for earmark projects designed to buy needed budget votes. In addition to the CUB money grab reported above, the legislature added a \$500,000 upgrade for an opera house, \$50,000 for a shooting range and \$46,000 for a town's recycling bins. While raising taxes to eliminate the \$6.6 billion two-year deficit, Assembly Democrats added \$36.7 million in regional give-aways, according to a Legislative Fiscal Bureau summary.

Five of the projects - including the \$500,000 for the Oshkosh Opera House, \$500,000 for an Aldo Leopold Climate Change Classroom and Laboratory and \$125,000 for the Phillips Library in Eau Claire - have not been recommended by the state Building Commission which is supposed to approve construction and maintenance spending. The shooting range is in Eau Claire, and the recycling bins are for the Town of Wrightstown.

Some of the so-called earmarks don't cost money, but overturn limits on the number of liquor licenses allowed in communities. The Assembly-passed budget would award a new liquor license in the Madison suburb of Monona and allow three more liquor licenses in St. Francis.

# STATE BUDGET DEAL INCLUDES BOTH SPENDING CUTS AND INCREASED TAXES

A late June \$62 billion budget deal hammered out in conference committee between Assembly and Senate legislators includes spending cuts and more than \$2 billion in new taxes and fees.



Governor Jim Doyle

Overall spending in the state budget will increase by approximately 6.8 percent  
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL BUREAU

Under the budget, most state agencies will be cut 6 percent, and all state employees will be furloughed for sixteen days over the next two years. About fourteen hundred employees will be laid off, and a two percent pay increase for state workers will be rescinded.

In order to close the State's \$6.6 billion shortfall, the budget includes increased fees on phones, cigarette taxes and an income tax increase on households with incomes over \$300,000. Overall spending in the state budget will increase by approximately 6.8 percent, according to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

# DANE COUNTY POWER LINE APPROVED AFTER LONG STRUGGLE

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin has finally approved a major power line proposed by the American Transmission Company (ATC). State regulators say they agree with American Transmission Co. that Dane County needs more electricity to make sure there's enough power coming through to keep the lights on in coming years.



The three-member Commission has given unanimous preliminary approval to ATC's plan to build a 32-mile, 345-kilovolt transmission line across the county from west of Middleton to the Town of Christiana. The line will skirt the Madison Beltline rather than cross through rural western and southern parts of the county. It will be built entirely above ground. Opponents of the line have argued for the much more costly alternative of burying it underground.

Four of Wisconsin's five investor-owned utilities share a major ownership interest in ATC. Their success is vital to WUI members and to Wisconsin's citizens and economy.

# WIND ENERGY BILL APPROVED BY ASSEMBLY ENERGY COMMITTEE

Assembly Bill 256, introduced by Rep. Jim Soletski (D-Green Bay), regulating wind energy siting in Wisconsin, has passed out of the Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities on a 10-2 vote. Under current law local governments are not allowed to place any restrictions on the installation of wind energy systems. AB 256 would require the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) to issue rules establishing common standards for local governments. The bill states that the PSCW rules must specify the restrictions that a local government may include, such as setback distances, visual appearances, electrical connections to the power grid, and

interference with radio, telephone or television signals. Under the bill, if a local government decides to regulate a wind energy system, its regulations cannot be more restrictive than PSCW's rules.



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## XCEL ENERGY FILES PLAN FOR INCREASED ENERGY CONSERVATION



Xcel Energy plans to help customers save money by using less energy with a comprehensive series of new and expanded programs under its proposed 2010–2012 Conservation Improvement Program (CIP). The proposal, filed Monday (June 1, 2009) with the Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES), will guide the company's electric and natural gas conservation and load management efforts

for the next three years. Xcel Energy's proposed CIP represents energy consumption savings of 1,121 gigawatt hours, energy demand (load) savings of 320 megawatts, and 2,446,081 dekatherms of natural gas energy savings over three years. The energy savings that will be achieved over the plan's duration is enough to meet the electric needs of 138,000 homes in one year and the natural gas needs of 27,000 homes in one year. The plan's total budget is more than \$280 million

## XCEL ENERGY'S NSP-MINNESOTA CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

Northern States Power Co. (NSP)-Minnesota, an Xcel Energy company, is celebrating its 100th anniversary. The utility company began electricity service to Minnesota customers in 1909. In recognition of this milestone, June 15, 2009, has been proclaimed "Northern States Power Day" in the state of Minnesota and in the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Anniversary celebrations are being conducted at NSP service centers and power plants throughout Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The history of NSP begins with Thomas Edison's protégé Henry Marison Byllesby who, in 1902, established H.M. Byllesby and Company. The Chicago-based conglomerate owned steamships, streetcars and utility companies from West Virginia to California. In 1909, Byllesby came to Stillwater, Minnesota, and established Consumers Power Co. The organization had 19 employees, 29 miles of electric lines serving 771 customers and 11 miles of gas mains serving 484 customers. In future years, Byllesby would acquire additional properties and reorganize the company. In 1916, the company's name was changed to Northern States Power Co.

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### CLOSES ON PURCHASE OF ENERGY FACILITY

Wisconsin Power and Light Company (WPL), a subsidiary of Alliant Energy Corporation, has closed on the purchase of the Neenah Energy Facility, an existing 300 megawatt, simple cycle, natural gas-fired electric generating facility located in the Town of Neenah, Wisconsin. This purchase will replace the output previously obtained through a purchased power agreement with Calpine's RockGen facility, which terminated on May 31, 2009.

The Neenah Energy Facility was previously owned by Alliant Energy Resources, LLC, a non-regulated affiliate of WPL. The company received approvals from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin in April 2008 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in September of 2008 to purchase the facility.

WPL is purchasing the facility for approximately \$92 million, the net book value of the plant and related assets.

### BEGINS REMOTE METER READING PROGRAM

Wisconsin Power and Light Company (WPL), an Alliant Energy company, will be installing Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) in the Berlin and Winneconne, Wisconsin, areas and surrounding communities over the next several months. AMI uses remote two-way wireless communication to retrieve detailed customer energy usage information. Once fully operational, AMI will provide the ability to read meters without having to visit the customer's property on a regular basis.

Alliant Energy has contracted with VSI Meter Services to perform the majority of the installations. Those crews will be working throughout the next several months. Electric meters will be replaced, which may cause a brief interruption in electric service. For Alliant Energy gas customers, gas meters are being retrofitted in place with an AMI module which should not cause an interruption in gas service. Meters will continue to be manually read until the new AMI system has been tested and is fully operational in these areas.

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## UPPCO REACQUIRES HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT LAND IN SETTLEMENT

Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO), a subsidiary of Integrys Energy Group, has reached settlement of a lawsuit filed against it by Naterra Land. Terms of the settlement were not disclosed and are confidential, but they did include a provision by which UPPCO bought back land it sold to Naterra in December, 2005. The company said UPPCO has no current plans for the non-project land at Bond Falls (960 acres), Boney Falls (150 acres) and Cataract Basin (250 acres) but will assess its options. In the meantime, it will continue to pursue the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) process with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

## ALLIANT ENERGY SELECTED FOR GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Interstate Power and Light Co. (IPL), an Alliant Energy company, has been named one of fourteen Iowa organizations and businesses that will receive Environmental Excellence Awards from Iowa Governor Chet Culver later this summer. The awards are the premier environmental honors in Iowa, recognizing leadership and innovation in the protection of Iowa's natural resources. The awards program recognizes comprehensive environmental programs by organizations and businesses along with special project awards in water quality, air quality, waste management, habitat restoration/development and energy efficiency/renewable energy. Alliant Energy was selected from nearly 40 nominations in two new award categories: Environmental Education and Disaster Recovery.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

2009 WUI ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS | SEPTEMBER 17TH

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