



The Investor's Voice



August 2019 | Vol. 17, No. 3

A Bimonthly Publication of the Wisconsin Utility Investors Inc.

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REGISTER NOW!

2019
WUI
ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Thursday, September 19
Wade House, Greenbush, WI
9:30am - 1:30pm

** Free tour of museum included following meeting!*

WISCONSIN GOVERNOR EVERS SIGNS STATE BUDGET



Governor Tony Evers

On July 3, 2019, Gov. Tony Evers signed into law the 2019-21 state budget as 2019 Act 9. The governor used his partial-veto authority to change 78 provisions adopted by the Legislature.

The final budget includes bipartisan priorities such as a middle class tax cut, water quality initiatives, expansions to dental care access, other health care initiatives, and increased education and transportation funding.

WEC ENERGY GROUP REPORT HIGHLIGHTS FUTURE SPENDING PLANS

WEC Energy Group, which has millions of customers in Wisconsin, plans to spend more than \$14 billion in the next four years on improving delivery of natural gas, electricity, and other areas.

That's from the company's 2018 Corporate Responsibility Report, which profiles projects being pursued in its service area, covering parts of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Illinois. It includes an update for an ongoing modernization effort at Wisconsin Public Service which first began in 2014. This project aims to improve reliability mainly in heavily forested rural areas.

The first phase of the project was completed last year, after WPS installed more than 1,000 miles of underground circuits to replace overhead lines. The company also added automation equipment on 400 miles of lines. That first phase included \$220 million in investment, the report shows.

The second phase of the project, which started last year, will add 1,000 more miles of underground circuits at a cost of \$210 million. WPS aims to finish that phase by the end of 2021.

Between 2019 and 2023, the company plans to funnel \$14.1 billion into a number of areas, with more than half of that going toward natural gas and electric distribution infrastructure. The company plans to spend \$5.1 billion on natural gas distribution and \$2.5 billion on electric distribution. WEC plans to spend a further \$2.5 billion on generation capacity, \$1.5 billion on other infrastructure projects and \$1.1 billion on technology.

**By the end of 2021,
over 2,000 miles of
underground circuits will
have replaced overhead
lines to improve
reliability.**

*WEC Energy 2018 Corporate
Responsibility Report*

SUBSTATION FIRES IMPACT ELECTRIC SERVICE IN MADISON

American Transmission Company (ATC) is leading an investigation and cleanup following a pair of substation fires July 19th. The first fire occurred around 7:40 a.m. at the Blount Street substation, which contains electric transmission equipment belonging to ATC and electric distribution equipment belonging to MGE. Shortly after, another fire broke out in the ATC portion of



MGE Substation Fire, Madison, WI, on Friday, July 19, 2019. Photo Credit: Channel 3000 Viewer submission, Adam+Fire+4

the East Campus substation, which the utility companies said is electrically connected to the first substation. No MGE equipment was damaged in the second fire. Officials said evidence shows the first fire started in a piece of transmission equipment owned and operated by ATC. Some MGE equipment also was damaged in the fire. MGE said its distribution system was intact and operational at the time of the explosion and fire. MGE de-energized the substation to enable firefighters access to put out the fire, resulting in an outage to some MGE customers. Service was restored to all impacted customers the same day.

MGE is working with ATC to understand what occurred and to ensure a reliable, resilient electric grid. A spokesperson for the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin said in a statement, "MG&E and ATC are currently performing their post-incident investigation. When that is complete, the Commission will review the results and the events surrounding the outage to see if there is a need for further involvement."

PEOPLE

ALLIANT ENERGY NAMES COOKE VICE PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Alliant Energy announced that Diane Cooke has been named Vice President of Human Resources. In her role, Diane will lead the company's human resources area and serve as the top safety executive. Her responsibilities include employee and labor relations, talent acquisition and workforce planning, organizational development, training and culture, and diversity and inclusion. Diane reports to the Chairman.



Diane Cooke

WISCONSIN UTILITIES DEAL WITH MID JULY STORMS

In mid-July, communities, particularly in northern Wisconsin, had to deal with serious damage caused by storms and high winds that toppled trees and damaged powerline. Utility crews from around the state helped replace poles, lines and restore power.

Gov. Tony Evers declared a statewide state of emergency directing all state agencies to provide assistance and authorized the National Guard to assist local authorities as needed. Power was restored to more than 150,000 Wisconsin Public Service and We Energies customers. Stevens Point was one of the hardest hit areas with more than 28,000 We Energies and WPS customers experiencing outages. In the Green Bay area, power was out for 18,000 customers.

WE ENERGIES REACHES SETTLEMENT ON SOLAR SURCHARGE

We Energies has agreed to drop a proposal to bill homeowners and small businesses an added charge on those that generate their own power from solar systems. The Milwaukee-based utility and Renew Wisconsin reported they had reached a settlement over the surcharge that We Energies had proposed as part of a larger rate case that is now before the Public Service Commission.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



\$25M IN ENERGY REFUNDS

This fall, many state residents will receive a piece of more than \$25 million in energy refunds as a result of lower-than-expected energy prices in 2018. The refunds, approved by the PSC, affect four of Wisconsin's largest utility providers. The PSC sets electricity rates one to two years in advance based on fixed expenses — such as power plants and wires — as well as the estimated cost of fuel. State law says if the projections are more than 2 percent higher than the actual costs, utilities must refund the difference with interest. In the event actual costs exceed the estimates by more than 2 percent, utilities can pass those costs on to ratepayers.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMS APPROVED

The PSC has approved several renewable energy programs for Madison Gas & Electric and Alliant Energy, including community solar, customer-hosted renewables and shared solar. Alliant's customer-hosted renewables pilot project authorizes the company to install solar panels and/or battery storage systems on customer property for a hosting fee. Utilities have opposed third-party providers offering so-called "rent-a-roof" programs.

2019 WUI ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

Schedule

9:30am - Registration begins. Enjoy coffee and continental breakfast at the Wade House state Historic site. Visit various booths representing our Energy Partners, Wisconsin Utility Companies, and WUI.

10:00am - Speakers

- Representatives of investor-owned utilities in Wisconsin will discuss company progress and initiatives.
- WUI leaders report on accomplishments of the past year and goals for the future.

Noon - Lunch will be served.

1:30 pm - Door prize drawings.

Following the meeting, all members are welcome to tour the Carriage House Museum Free of Charge. Horse drawn carriage rides will also be available for a reduced fee of \$6 per person payable day of event on-site.

Cost & Confirmations

The event is **FREE** to WUI members and guests of members who are considering membership! Confirmation will contain address and a map for those who register by phone or mail. On-line registration will produce an email confirmation with the same information provided.

Please Note: Handicap parking is available and an elevator is available to bring you to the lower level where the meeting and museum are located.

Wade House Carriage Museum & Wisconsin Historic Site
W7965 State Hwy 23, Greenbush, WI

REGISTER NOW! RSVP ON BACK. SPACE IS LIMITED!



REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

- Utility Updates & Presentations
- Industry Trade Booths
- Complimentary Carriage House Museum pass
- Horse-drawn carriage ride tour of Historic site for \$6/person
- Door Prizes & More!





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Madison, WI 53703-3397

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**ANNUAL
MEETING
OF MEMBERS**
Details Inside!

REGISTRATION



2019
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**ANNUAL
MEETING
OF MEMBERS**

Options for Registration:

- Online at www.wuiinc.org
- By phone at (608) 310-5316
- Return form via mail to WUI, 10 E. Doty Street, Suite 500, Madison, WI 53703

RSVP: Registration deadline is September 13, 2019.

Contact the WUI offices 608-310-5316 or info@wuiinc.org with any questions.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

GUEST(S) _____

OPTIONAL: I would like to register for a horse drawn carriage ride to view the historic grounds including a working sawmill and black smith shop. (\$6 discount tickets payable on site Sept. 19 with pre-registration.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

*Confirmations will be sent by mail at least one week in advance to all who register by mail or phone.
Online registrations will receive an immediate email confirmation.*



THE INVESTORS VOICE
is published bimonthly for the
members of the Wisconsin
Utility Investors.

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