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ROBERT L. COWLES

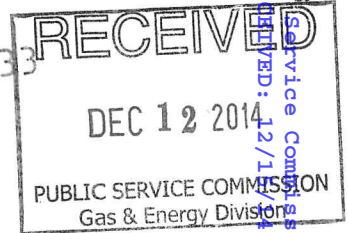
Wisconsin State Senator
2nd Senate District

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December 10, 2014

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
PO Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

RE: Docket 9400-YO-100 (Acquisition of Integrys Energy Group by Wisconsin Energy Corp.)

I am writing today in support of the motion by various stakeholder groups to extend the schedule in this docket in order to give the Public Service Commission (PSC) more time to consider the issues before the Commission in the docket and to give the public and stakeholder groups more time to gather information and ask questions that may arise as a result of this proposed acquisition.

If the acquisition is approved, Wisconsin Energy and its subsidiaries will be the sole providers of electric and natural gas service to the majority of residents and businesses located in my district. The proposed acquisition would make significant changes to the regulatory landscape in Wisconsin, and the Commission must exercise its regulatory authority in the interest of protecting Wisconsin's residents and businesses by ensuring that the acquisition is thoroughly reviewed. In order to accomplish this goal, I believe it is appropriate and necessary for the Commission to extend the docket schedule and take a longer look at the complicated issues involved.

Wisconsin had been a state with lower-cost energy than many of our neighbors. Unfortunately, rate increases in Wisconsin have grown faster than our neighbors and we now find ourselves with the second highest energy rates in the Midwest. This has put a strain on our residential and business customers, particularly in the energy-intensive manufacturing sector, many of which I represent. Billions of dollars of capital and infrastructure expenditures will occur if the proposed acquisition is approved. This proposal needs to be carefully studied and considered in order to avoid further rate increases that will only serve to continue to erode our competitive position in the regional and global market.

The proposed acquisition of Integrys by Wisconsin Energy is possibly the largest, most complicated case the PSC has ever had before it. The effects of the decision will be felt by residential and business customers in my district for years. The PSC needs to take its time in order to get the decision right. I respectfully request the Commission approve the interveners' request to extend the docket schedule.

Sincerely,



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State Senator
2nd Senate District

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