



## Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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# Commission Awards Intervenor Compensation in Arrowhead-Weston Case

MADISON - The Commission today awarded a total of \$175,280 to three groups to submit expert testimony in the reopened Arrowhead-Weston case. American Transmission Company, Wisconsin Public Service, and Minnesota Power have applied to construct a 210-mile 345 kilovolt transmission line linking the Arrowhead substation near Duluth, Minnesota with the Weston substation near Wausau, Wisconsin.

The Commission authorized construction of the Arrowhead-Weston line, subject to conditions, on October 30, 2001. After receiving a revised cost estimate from the applicants, the Commission reopened the Arrowhead Weston case on December 17, 2002. Hearings on the revised cost estimate are tentatively scheduled for September.

Under state law, the Commission may award Intervenor Compensation to a participant who would be impacted by a proposal, and who proposes to make a significant, relevant, non-duplicative contribution to the record of the case that would not be possible without compensation. Intervenor Compensation is authorized up to a fixed amount by the state legislature and is funded by ratepayers. In deciding whether to award Intervenor Compensation, the Commission must balance the benefits of an Intervenor's proposed contribution to a case with ratepayers' interests. The Commission must also reconcile the total amount of pending requests in each fiscal year with the maximum funds authorized for this use by the legislature.

The awards the Commission made are as follows:

**Clean Wisconsin (Formerly Wisconsin Environmental Decade)** received \$23,530. Clean Wisconsin proposed to provide expert testimony from an environmental perspective on lower voltage upgrades, recently authorized or constructed generation, and other alternatives.

**Citizens' Utility Board** received \$75,750. CUB proposed to address the adequacy of the proposed line as well as other transmission line alternatives.

**Save Our Unique Lands** received \$76,000. SOUL proposed to address the performance of the proposed line, changes in peak loads and generating capacity, and economics of the project.

The Commission reduced the awards in order to avoid duplicating analysis that will be performed in the case and to ensure that the funds awarded did not exceed the funds available.

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