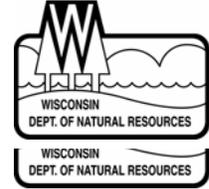




## Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



For Immediate Release  
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### **PSC and DNR Issue Final Environmental Impact Statement On We Energies' Proposed Coal Plants**

MADISON—The Public Service Commission and the Department of Natural Resources released the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) today on a proposal by Wisconsin Energy Corporation to construct and operate 1,800 megawatts of coal-fired electric generation near its existing Oak Creek power plant.

The Agencies' goal with the 800-page document is to provide the public with information and encourage public discussion. The final EIS is not designed to draw conclusions or make recommendations. It provides an analysis of the impacts of the proposed construction as laid out in the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act.

Last April, the two agencies issued a draft EIS. It analyzed many different aspects of the proposed construction, including the need for the project, costs and financing alternatives and environmental and community impacts. Since that time, they have collected comments from the public, decision makers and other stakeholders on the draft. Almost 300 comments were submitted and considered in the development of the final EIS. Some of the comments, along with responses from PSC and DNR staff, are included in the third volume of the final EIS.

Changes were made in the final EIS as a result of the comments, additional analyses by PSC and DNR staff and new information and modifications provided by the applicants. One major modification is a new chapter in the final EIS that describes another site layout proposed by the applicants in May. There is a new analysis of the thermal pollution effects of the proposed coal units' discharge into the water and additional information about air pollutants.

The final report also provides comparisons of additional alternatives. It considers the cost of major pollutants, the potential for conservation efforts, the possibility of unlimited wind power and the retirement of Oak Creek Units 5 and 6 in 2012.

Technical public hearings will start on September 4 in Madison. At the technical public hearings, intervenors, applicants and other parties will have opportunities to further address issues laid out in the final EIS through cross examination, testimony and exhibits.

Public hearings are scheduled for September 17-19 in Oak Creek and Racine. Through the public hearings, citizens can come forward and further address issues on the proposed project that they feel impacts them and their families, neighbors and communities.

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The final EIS and the testimony at the technical and public hearings will all be part of an extensive record that is developed for the three Commissioners to review as they consider all the different aspects of the proposed project. By law, the Commissioners must have a final decision on whether to approve, modify or deny the project on November 10, 2003.

In addition, there are 23 different permits or state agency approvals identified that Wisconsin Energy Corporation must obtain before construction of the project can proceed. The DNR will hold public hearings on the air and water permits.

A copy of the final EIS is available on the Internet at <http://psc.wi.gov/electric/cases/ptfElmRd/ind-ptfElm.htm>. It can be viewed at municipal Clerks' offices, public libraries and DNR service centers in the project area, too. The final EIS contains a 15-page Executive Summary which is available on the PSC Website or by contacting:

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