



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Burneatta Bridge, Chairperson
Robert M. Garvin, Commissioner
Mark Meyer, Commissioner

610 North Whitney Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

For Immediate Release – January 26, 2005
Contact: Linda Barth or Stephanie Marquis
(608) 266-9600

PSC Seeks Public Comment on Environmental Concerns for New Water Pipeline Proposal

MADISON – The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) is seeking public comment in order to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Central Brown County Water Authority (CBCWA) proposal to build a new water pipeline. The comments will help the PSC identify issues to be evaluated in the Environmental Assessment.

CBCWA has filed an application to construct approximately 65 miles of new water main ranging in size from 12 to 48 inches in diameter. The proposed pipeline would be located within existing road right-of-way, except for 1½ miles which would be located on private property.

About 30 miles of 48-inch water main would extend northward out of Manitowoc to the town of Ledgeview, generally following County Highway R. From that point, approximately 35 miles of smaller water main would connect into the water systems of CBCWA's member communities.

Construction of the water main would require excavation of a trench up to 11 feet deep and up to eight feet wide. One traffic lane may be closed for short periods in the construction area.

The proposed water main would cross a number of waterways and roadside wetlands. The PSC is working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to evaluate the potential effects of the proposed project which will be included in the Environmental Assessment. This includes the impact on natural resources, land use, historic and cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, and other unique or rare resources.

Public comments are due to the PSC by Friday, February 4, 2005. Anyone interested in providing comments for the Environmental Assessment should include docket number 05-CW-101 on their correspondence and send it to:

Michael John Jaeger
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854
michael.jaeger@psc.state.wi.us

(MORE)

CBCWA is a joint local water authority whose members are Allouez, Bellevue, De Pere, Howard, Lawrence and Ledgeview, all located within Brown County. The CBCWA communities currently use groundwater for their water supply needs. Ground water levels have steadily decreased with population growth in the area and levels of radium in the water have begun to exceed drinking water standards.

The CBCWA members are under consent orders from the DNR to either replace the existing groundwater supplies with water from a different source or to install treatment facilities to remove radium. December 2006 is the deadline for the CBCWA member communities to adequately address their water quality problems. The CBCWA member communities intend to purchase treated Lake Michigan water from Manitowoc Public Utilities. The proposed pipeline would allow CBCWA to deliver the treated water from Manitowoc.

The documents associated with CBCWA's application can be viewed on our Electronic Repository System at <http://psc.wi.gov/>. Click on ERF System, select Search Electronic Repository System and enter docket number 05-CW-101.

(END)