



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Daniel R. Ebert, Chairperson
Mark Meyer, Commissioner
Lauren Azar, Commissioner

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

For Immediate Release – March 22, 2007

Contact: Amanda Wollin, (608) 266-9600

PSC Performs Own Studies on Proposed Construction Projects

Need for separate study in Dane County not necessary

MADISON – Today the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) denied Dane County and the City of Madison’s request for an independent study on the need for new transmission facilities in the Dane County area.

“One-hundred years ago, the Wisconsin Legislature created the PSC, an independent state agency, to ensure the state has a safe, reliable and affordable energy infrastructure and that the public’s best interest is protected,” said Chairperson Dan Ebert. “PSC staff is dedicated to energy planning and is constantly reviewing transmission needs at the local, state and regional levels. The staff has the technical expertise and professionalism to perform the thorough, comprehensive and independent analysis that the city and county requested.”

In February 2007, Dane County and the City of Madison filed a petition with the PSC requesting that the Commission order an independent study to examine transmission needs in Dane County. They asked the Commission to look at options to meet energy demands and to examine the need for new transmission lines in the area.

The Commission has the authority to approve, deny or modify any proposed electric construction project. The Commission, in today’s decision, explained that the PSC follows a process outlined by state law for every case. First, the Commission must determine if there is a need for a proposed transmission line and consider alternatives, including different energy sources, route options and energy efficiency and conservation measures. Under state statutes, the Commission must also consider individual hardships, engineering, economic, safety, reliability and environmental factors during its review process.

“The PSC has a long history of having an open process and encouraging those who may be affected by Commission decisions to get involved,” said Commissioner Mark Meyer. “Dane County residents who voted in support of an independent transmission study can rest assured that the Commission will look at every possible alternative and will consider the comments, suggestions and testimony provided for each case when making decisions on upcoming proposals.”

(MORE)

Members of the public and organizations are encouraged to participate in cases before the Commission. There are a number of ways to get involved with a case, including testifying at public hearings, submitting comments through the PSC's website or becoming an intervenor to a case. Financial assistance is also available for organizations and individuals who choose to become an intervenor. For more information on how to get involved in a case before the Commission, please visit the PSC's public involvement and intervenor web page at: <http://psc.wi.gov/consumerinfo/publicinvolvement/intervenor.htm>.

(END)