



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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**For Immediate Release – May 9, 2007**

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## **PSC to Assess State and Regional Energy Plans** *Next Biennial Strategic Energy Assessment Process Begins*

MADISON – Today, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) kicked off an evaluation of the state’s energy system that will help in developing a more regional and coordinated approach to generation, transmission, energy efficiency and renewables planning.

“The regional energy market has substantially changed in the past couple years and the last Strategic Energy Assessment identified the need to address these changes,” said Chairperson Dan Ebert. “This SEA will provide an opportunity for the PSC and stakeholders to brainstorm and discuss how to improve energy policy development in Wisconsin.”

The PSC prepares a Strategic Energy Assessment biennially. The SEA evaluates the adequacy and reliability of the state and region’s current and future electrical system. Earlier this year, the Commission issued SEA-Energy 2012 which outlines key recommendations to help Wisconsin maintain a balanced energy policy, provide stability in energy rates and promote a cleaner, sustainable and diversified energy future. The Commission’s goal for this next assessment is to further explore these key issues and to focus on a framework for better planning and integrating energy generation and transmission.

To help accomplish these goals, the Commission is asking for input on four key areas:

1. Should a planning council be created to help coordinate transmission planning across state borders?
2. Would integrating baseload generation and renewable energy planning help reduce ratepayer costs and facilitate compliance with environmental law?
3. How should the Commission efficiently frame the state’s planning with the Midwest Independent System Operator?
4. How should the review of energy efficiency and renewable programs be incorporated into the overall planning process?

These key issues will be part of a discussion at a technical conference the Commission will host on June 1, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the PSC. Participants will have the opportunity to make presentations on the issues noted above and respond to questions posed by the Commissioners. The information from this conference will help provide a framework for the PSC to continue work on the next SEA, expected to be released in mid-2008.

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“Integrating generation and transmission planning is crucial for moving forward in energy planning for our state and the region,” said Commissioner Lauren Azar. “I am excited about the opportunity to participate in developing a new and workable planning process for Wisconsin and the Midwest.”

Documents associated with the Strategic Energy Assessment can be viewed on the PSC’s Electronic Regulatory Filing System at <http://psc.wi.gov>. Type case number 5-ES-104 in the boxes provided on the PSC homepage, or click on the Electronic Regulatory Filing System button.

As with past SEAs, the public will be encouraged to participate and provide comments throughout the process. Details on the technical conference, the timeline for development and how to get involved will be shared as process is made in the proceeding.

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