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Public Service Commission Cuts We Energies, WPS Rate Case Requests

MADISON – The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) took up the We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS) rate cases and made decisions that better protect customers by cutting spending that provides no customer benefit, authorizing resources to help reduce electric outages, and improving customer assistance programs.

The PSC is the state agency responsible for the regulation of public utilities in Wisconsin. In April 2026, We Energies and WPS filed rate case applications with the PSC. The PSC's Bureau of Energy Rates and Financial Analysis conducted a comprehensive audit of the utilities' financial records to determine the actual cost of providing service to customers. During the proceedings, PSC staff, the applicants, and intervenors submitted evidence, including expert testimony and exhibits, representing their positions on the core issues of the cases. The PSC also held public hearings and collected public comments in each case that became part of the official records.

The Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial body whose decisions are bound by state law. The Commission engages in evidence-based decision-making and issues final orders reflecting its decisions. Prior to the November 5th open meeting, the commissioners independently reviewed the records in full to come to a just and reasonable decision in each case.

At the open meeting, the commissioners took up numerous issues in the rate cases with each issue representing one piece of the metaphorical rate case puzzle. The commissioners did not take up the applications on a "yes" or "no" vote. For many of the issues, the applicant and intervenors were in alignment. The decision matrices, which guide the commissioners' discussion on the rate case issues, are available here: We Energies decision matrix, WPS decision matrix.

The commissioners discussed each issue in the rate cases during the open meeting and made significant modifications to the utilities' initial application to better protect utility customers. Notably, the Commission:

- Reduced the utility's profit margin and made other adjustments that significantly reduce the revenue the utility would end up collecting from customers.

- Eliminated We Energies Board of Director expenses from being included in customer rates.
- Approved forestry management plan and required reporting to reduce outages and improve electric service
- Made changes to the utilities' Earnings Sharing Mechanism to increase the amount of overearnings that can be refunded to customers. The Commission also authorized the return of more than $25 million to We Energies customers.
- Made improvements to the We Energies customer assistance program, the Low-Income Forgiveness Tool (LIFT), to ensure more customers could participate by expanding eligibility, and providing greater clarity about program enrollment. Additionally, the PSC required the utility to connect customers to energy efficiency programs in order to save energy and money on their utility bills.

In April 2026, the PSC took up the We Energies' tariff to serve data centers and made a decision that protects existing customers and improves public transparency into the energy-related costs data centers will pay. The action taken by the Commission on the Very Large Customer and Bespoke Resources tariff was a positive first step to ensure existing We Energies customers are insulated from costs caused by data centers. This rate case proceeding furthers the Commission's work to protect existing customers from data centers by making additional modifications to accounting practices and equipping the PSC with tools to review and make future adjustments to protect non-data center customers.

A full recording of the open meeting is available on the PSC's YouTube channel. Below are public statements made by commissioners during the open meeting:

- "Rising energy costs have placed severe financial strain on households, significantly compounding broader affordability pressures. We three commissioner have repeatedly and publicly critiqued the existing regulatory framework that got us to this point—highlighting gaps and insufficiencies, lamenting the lack of tools and teeth, singling out areas of obsolescence and incongruity. On the heels of the historic election that occurred earlier this week, today is an especially opportune moment to emphasize that the time to mobilize, organize, and advocate for substantive changes to the PSC's legal framework begins now," said **PSC Chairperson Summer Strand.**

- "It is not acceptable for any Wisconsinites to go without the heat, light, or water they need to maintain their health, safety, dignity, and basic quality of life. I do not believe we can ignore the cumulative impact of years of increases simply because each individual increase can be explained by a particular investment or expense," said **PSC Commissioner Kristy Nieto**.

- "I believe we will be making decisions relevant to these unique VLC customers that will uphold the strong protections that we put in place earlier in our tariff decisions," **said PSC Commissioner Marcus Hawkins.**

Background on We Energies Rate Case Application

In April 2026, Wisconsin Electric Power Company and Wisconsin Gas LLC (dba We Energies) submitted a joint application to adjust electric, steam, and natural gas rates. All documents related to this proceeding are available under Docket 5-UR-112 on the PSC's Electronic Records Filing (ERF) System. The Commission's Final Order will be posted to ERF in the coming weeks once it's available.

Background on Wisconsin Public Service Corporation Rate Case Application

In April 2026, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation submitted an application to adjust electric, steam, and natural gas rates. All documents related to this proceeding are available under Docket 6690-UR-129 on the PSC's Electronic Records Filing (ERF) System. The Commission's Final Order will be posted to ERF in the coming weeks once it's available.

Additional Background on the PSC

The PSC is a quasi-judicial body composed of three full-time Commissioners who make decisions in cases related to utility operations, rates, and construction projects. In each case, the Commissioners are responsible for independently reviewing the application and the full record of evidence, analyzing and weighing the evidence, and ultimately reaching a decision that complies with state law.

Disclaimer

This document is being made available to assist in the reporting of the Public Service Commission's decisions and ensure public transparency of PSC proceedings. This document provides an overview of the preliminary decision(s) verbally made in the Public Service Commission's open meeting. This document is not intended to modify, supplement, or be a substitute for the Commission's orders. The Commission's Final Order is the official action of the Commission and will be available in the coming weeks.

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