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Public Service Commission Announces Decision in Wisconsin Public Service Corporation Rate Increase Request, Saving Ratepayers Millions

[Madison, Wis.] – Today, Chairperson Phil Montgomery, Commissioner Eric Callisto, and Commissioner Ellen Nowak agreed to cut rates for the vast majority of Wisconsin Public Service Corporation customers.

In their initial application Wisconsin Public Service Corporation requested an electric rate increase of \$60 million or six percent above their current rate. That same application requested an increase to the natural gas rate of \$14 million of four percent.

The decision made by the Commissioners today instead froze rates for large industrial customers. At the same time, rates for residential customers and many business customers have been decreased by up to two percent.

Chairperson Phil Montgomery:

“While we understand and respect Wisconsin Public Service Corporation’s original request for an increase to rates, the analysis shows us that there is no need to dive deeper into the ratepayer’s pockets at this time,” said Phil Montgomery, Chairman of the Public Service Commission. “It is imperative that we look out for the best interests of the ratepayers of Wisconsin, and today we did just that.”

Commissioner Eric Callisto:

“Our decision today represents a fair compromise,” said Commissioner Eric Callisto. “The Commission always welcomes the opportunity to avoid rate increases, and today’s result strikes a good balance between the financial health of the utility and fair treatment of its ratepayers.”

Commissioner Ellen Nowak:

“Today, while difficult decisions were made, most ratepayers of Wisconsin Public Service Corporation will see an overall decrease in rates,” remarked Ellen Nowak, Commissioner at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. “This is a step in the right direction toward improving the economy and ensuring that the hard earned money of the people of Wisconsin stays where it belongs, in their pocket.”

2013 marks the second year in a row that rates for the customers of the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation have stayed at exactly the same level or have been reduced.

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