



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources



For Immediate Release
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PSC and DNR Issue Joint Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Proposed Coal Plants

MADISON – The Public Service Commission and the Department of Natural Resources are seeking comments on their joint draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Elm Road Generating Station proposed by We Energies in Oak Creek or Caledonia. We Energies is proposing to construct and place in operation 1,800 megawatts of coal-fired electric generation near its existing Oak Creek power plant.

The draft EIS is issued in compliance with the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA), and is required during the review processes of most power plant applications. WEPA requires state agencies to consider environmental factors when making decisions. The draft EIS provides decision makers, the public and other stakeholders with an analysis of the economic, social, cultural, and environmental impacts that could result from the construction of a new power plant and its associated facilities.

The Elm Road Generating Station proposal includes one 600 MW integrated gas-fired combined cycle plant and two 615 MW super critical pulverized coal plants. The proposal includes new coal-fire equipment, possible railroad modifications, construction of new cooling water intakes and discharge channels into Lake Michigan, a breakwater, and a harbor.

The draft EIS for this project provides analysis and information on the project costs and financing, the need for base load capacity in southeastern Wisconsin, alternatives to the proposed project, an overview of the proposed sites and technologies, air emissions, water resources, solid waste production and disposal, land resources, community impacts, and other issues. The draft EIS does not draw conclusions about the project or make recommendations.

The joint draft EIS is now available to the public at no cost. A copy of the draft EIS is now available on the Internet at <http://psc.wi.gov>. It is also available for viewing from municipal clerks' offices, public libraries, and DNR service centers in the project area.

(MORE)

The draft EIS contains a 16-page Executive Summary and may be requested from the PSC by contacting:

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The agencies urge interested persons to examine the draft EIS and comment in writing or by e-mail to the same address. The deadline for submitting comments on the draft EIS is June 13, 2003.

The PSC and DNR will also hold public meetings to gather comments on the draft EIS. The meetings will be held as follows:

Monday May 19, 2003	Tuesday, May 20, 2003
1:00-4:00 p.m. 6:00-9:00 p.m.	1:00-4:00 p.m.
Oak Creek Community Center	Eastside Community Center
8650 S. Howell Avenue	6922 Nicholson Road
Oak Creek, WI	Caledonia, WI

The agencies will consider the comments as they prepare the final EIS. The final EIS is expected to be issued this summer. The public will have additional opportunities to comment on specific DNR Air and Water program permits.

Approximately 30 days after the final EIS is issued the PSC will host a public hearing in the project area. Members of the public are strongly encouraged to attend the hearing and offer information or express their opinions on the project. By law, the Commission must base its decisions about the project on the record that is developed during the hearing process. Interests or concerns expressed outside of the hearing process or after the hearing is closed cannot be used by the Commissioners to make their decision. The record for the case, created through the hearing process, will later be reviewed by the Commission in deciding whether to approve, modify, or deny the project. At this time, the PSC hearing is expected to take place in fall, 2003.

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