

## **ENERGY RELIABILITY PLAN:**

### **Regulatory Reform in Transmission and Power Generation Siting and Renewed Commitment to Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Sources**

September 9, 2003

After August's East Coast blackout, Governor Jim Doyle issued an Executive Order calling on the Department of Natural Resources and the Public Service Commission to reform the process to site electricity transmission in the state while continuing to protect the environment and public interest. Today, the agencies will sign a cooperative agreement aimed at improving the regulatory climate, providing for timely permitting and removing hurdles to investment and upgrades in Wisconsin's electric transmission grid and power generation.

In addition, Governor Doyle announced the formation of the Energy Conservation & Renewables Task Force, essential components of a sound energy policy for Wisconsin.

#### **Improve the Regulatory Climate:**

- The DNR and the PSC will work together with applicants at the front end of the construction process to help them develop the data needed to more quickly determine that the application is complete.
- Improved communication and coordination will follow the process right through to the construction phase where the DNR and PSC will monitor the construction of the project to provide applicants with agency consultation as the concerns or problems arise.
- A new energy permitting unit will be formed at the DNR work closely with the PSC staff on the siting process and have more involvement on the PSC Certificate of Public Convenience and Need process. Centralizing staff removes the inconsistencies that could develop between the various DNR regions during the permitting process.

#### **A Timely Permit Process:**

- Coordinating review process will cut the regulatory review process for transmission lines, power generation and other lateral energy projects in half.
- The DNR and the PSC will determine completeness of the application at the same time to tie the start of the DNR permit process with the start of the PSC Certificate of Public Convenience and Need (CPCN) process.
- Several legislative changes are recommended including one to provide pre-application authority for the PSC to get information about property along the proposed route and the other to revise existing DNR permitting procedures for utility construction projects.

#### **Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Sources:**

- The Energy Conservation & Renewables Task Force, chaired by Attorney Lee Cullen, will work on solutions that make sound business sense, help reduce Wisconsin's dependence on out-of-state energy and help ratepayers save money.
- At a time of unprecedented need to build additional generation and transmission in Wisconsin, it is clearly time to restore Wisconsin's leadership role in energy conservation and use of renewable energy sources like sun, wind and biomass.