



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

For Immediate Release
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Public Service Commissioners Statements on the Final Order Of Phase 2 of Wisconsin Energy Corporation's Power the Future Proposal

"All of the modeling done by Commission staff indicates that there is a need for more baseload coal generation to serve the growing residential and commercial demand for electricity in southeast Wisconsin.

I agree with the Commission's approval of two of the three units proposed by Wisconsin Energy Corporation. However, I would have postponed construction until 2010 and 2012, and would have relied on other alternatives, including more conservation measures, in the meantime.

I also agree with the Commission's decision not to approve the third integrated gasification combined cycle unit. I wish this technology were more viable today because it holds great promise for improved efficiency and lower environmental impacts. Unfortunately, it is not yet cost-effective to build and is not readily commercially available now. I look forward to the time when it is a real option for Wisconsin.

The financial package approved today raises concerns in two areas. First, because the terms set by the Commission will be locked into the rates for homeowners and businesses for the next thirty years, I believe that we have an obligation to be especially vigilant in keeping costs down to the greatest extent possible. I believe that the financial terms that have been approved are more generous than necessary to attract investors and will unduly burden future ratepayers. Second, this is the largest energy generation construction project in Wisconsin's history. In view of the size of the project, the enormous cost, and the attendant uncertainties of a venture of this magnitude, I would prefer that the Commission reserve the right to review the financial terms at the end of five years to ensure that they are still in the best interests of Wisconsin citizens.

With those exceptions, I agree with the fundamental finding of the Commission that there is a need for baseload generation to ensure a reliable energy system to fuel economic development and to meet the growing needs of the people who live and work in southeast Wisconsin."

Burnie Bridge, Chairperson
Public Service Commission
November 10, 2003

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“The addition of new coal-fired power plants reaffirms our commitment to fuel diversity and provides the regulatory certainty needed to ensure that Wisconsin’s baseload capacity needs are met. Our decision today ensures reliable cost-effective generation will be constructed over the next decade and respects our environmental values.”

Robert Garvin, Commissioner
Public Service Commission
November 10, 2003

“Since 1997, We-Energies’ total growth has been documented to be at least 2.5 percent. These new baseload generation units will help to ensure that Wisconsinites can continue to have access to low-cost electricity without imposing an undue adverse impact on our environment. When these plants are built, and We-Energies completes other environmental improvements, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and mercury emissions will all be reduced by more than 50 percent at the same time generation goes up by more than 50 percent to meet our growing economy.”

Ave Bie, Commissioner
Public Service Commission
November 10, 2003