



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Phil Montgomery, Chairperson  
Eric Callisto, Commissioner  
Ellen Nowak, Commissioner

610 North Whitney Way  
P.O. Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

August 29, 2014

Mr. Patrick Fuller, Chief Clerk  
Wisconsin State Assembly  
17 West Main Street, Room 401  
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Annual Report to  
the Legislature Regarding the preparation of Environmental  
Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments

Dear Mr. Fuller:

Enclosed is a copy of the annual report the Public Service Commission (Commission) shall submit to the legislature as provided for in Wis. Stat. § 1.11(2)(j). It reports on the number and type of proposed actions requiring the preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement by the Commission between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact our Environmental Coordinator, Kathleen Zuelsdorff, at (608) 266-2730.

Sincerely,

  
Phil Montgomery  
Chairperson

PM:KZ:jlt:DL: 00941937

Enclosure:  
Annual Report to the Legislature

# **REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**

**Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements  
Prepared between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014  
by the**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN**

**As provided for by Wis. Stat. § 1.11(2)(j)**

**August 29, 2014**

Submitted by: Kathleen J. Zuelsdorff  
Environmental Analysis and Review Specialist  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

## **Background**

1991 Wisconsin Act 273 created Wis. Stat. § 1.11(2)(j), which requires the submission of annual reports to the legislature regarding an agency's preparation of environmental assessments (EA) and environmental impact statements (EIS). The statute requires that all agencies of the state shall:

**Annually, no later than September 15, submit a report to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution under s. 13.172(2), including the number of proposed actions for which the agency conducted an assessment of whether an impact statement was required under par. (c) and the number of impact statements prepared under par. (c).**

This report covers activities by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014.

## **Environmental Assessments**

Commission staff prepared an EA on one proposed action to determine whether an EIS was necessary under the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA), Wis. Stat. § 1.11. This environmental document was prepared cooperatively with staff of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Office of Energy, as required under Wis. Stat. § 196.025(2m)(b). For this action, it was determined that preparation of an EIS was not warranted.

The joint application from Wisconsin Power and Light Company, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, and Madison Gas and Electric Company was for authority to upgrade and replace coal pulverizers and steam turbines at Columbia Energy Center Units 1 and 2.

## **Environmental Impact Statements**

Commission staff also prepared and issued a draft and final EIS for the West Central Natural Gas Pipeline Project proposed by Wisconsin Gas LLC. This 75-mile gas pipeline would connect to a Viking natural gas pipeline in Eau Claire County and run south to Tomah in Monroe County, with potential delivery points in Augusta, Hixton, the town of Alma, Black River Falls, Warrens, and Tomah. The draft EIS was issued in December 2013 and the final EIS in March 2014.

## **Ongoing Activities**

Commission staff is currently reviewing applications from the American Transmission Company LLC for two high-voltage transmission line projects. Both require preparation of an EIS. The draft EIS for the Badger-Coulee 345 kV transmission line was issued in August 2014 and the draft EIS for the North Appleton to Morgan 345 kV transmission line will be issued in September 2014.

Applications for two large new electric generation plants are also expected to be filed within the next six months.

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