

# CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD

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## **BLACKOUT PROVES ARROWHEAD WRONG FOR WISCONSIN**

Federal investigators have singled out operational errors as the root of last week's massive east coast electricity blackout, highlighting the need for a transmission system that is efficient and relies less on complex operational oversight. The proposed Arrowhead Transmission Line (Duluth-Wausau) is less efficient and requires more operational oversight than a cheaper alternative, the King-Weston line.

According to federal investigators, a series of operator errors led to the largest blackout in American history. System operators at MidAmerican Energy, and in New York State mishandled transfers of electricity that cascaded into a disaster that led to a loss of electricity in the eastern U.S. and Canada.

CUB Executive Steve Hiniker said that any improvements to the electric transmission system should allow for the efficient transfer of power and require the least human oversight possible. The King-Weston transmission line is more efficient than Arrowhead and would require less operator oversight according to technical experts hired by CUB to review the two projects.

"Clearly, reliability is a top concern for consumers. A King-Weston Transmission line would give Wisconsin a higher degree of reliability for far less money than the monopoly utility favored Arrowhead transmission line," said Hiniker.

"At a time when electric customers are looking for reliable sources of energy while wanting to keep rates in check, it is clear that the King-Weston line is far better than Arrowhead. It costs less, it performs better and would be easier to build than Arrowhead. It's time for the PSC to stand up for customers and reject Arrowhead and get on with the business of building a reliable and affordable transmission system for Wisconsin," concluded Hiniker.

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