

# CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD

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## **CUB SAYS PSC MAKES COLOSSAL MISTAKE RE-APPROVING ARROWHEAD – WESTON TRANSMISSION LINE**

The Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) today denounced the Public Service Commission's (PSC) decision to re-approve the Arrowhead – Weston (Arrowhead) transmission line at today's formal meeting discussing the controversial proposal.

“The Commission made a colossal mistake re-approving a transmission line that provides inferior reliability at nearly triple the cost, has unprecedented public opposition, and will cause the greatest environmental harm of any transmission line alternative studied,” said Charlie Higley, Executive Director of CUB.

The Commission originally approved the construction of the line in October 2001, at an estimated cost of \$166 million. The utilities proposing to construct the line now estimate its cost to be \$420 million. The line will run from the Arrowhead substation in Minnesota to the Weston substation near Wausau. The PSC approved the line despite the objections of thousands of landowners, and CUB's expert testimony citing the availability of a less costly and technically superior transmission alternative.

“The PSC violated the public trust today by failing to discard Arrowhead in favor of pursuing the King-Weston transmission line which would provide Wisconsin with the superior transmission reliability it needs at less cost to the economy and the environment,” stated Higley.

According to CUB's expert testimony filed by Larry Theile, an electrical engineer with more than 25 years in electric transmission planning, Arrowhead connects with several lower voltage lines in Minnesota that limits its performance, and that King-Weston is “the superior choice from the standpoint of technical performance.”

CUB proposed King-Weston as the best transmission alternative to Arrowhead because the line would: provide superior technical performance; cost 25% less; be 50 miles shorter than Arrowhead by connecting to the King substation near St. Paul; and cause less environmental impact by avoiding the woodlands and wetlands of northwestern Wisconsin.

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