

CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD

For Immediate Release
July 28, 2003

More information:
Steve Hiniker (608) 251-3322

CUB EXPERT SAYS ARROWHEAD FLAWED *Alternate Transmission Project Technically Superior*

An expert in electric transmission planning hired by the Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) to compare the controversial Arrowhead (Duluth-Weston) Transmission line with the King-Weston alternative has concluded that the Arrowhead proposal is flawed and would not perform as well as a far cheaper alternative.

In testimony filed today with the Public Service Commission, Larry Theile, an electrical engineer with more than 25 years in electric transmission planning (including 18 years with the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation) stated that the Arrowhead transmission line connects with several lower voltage lines in Minnesota that limits its performance, and that the King-Weston line is “the superior choice from the standpoint of technical performance.”

The cheaper King-Weston alternative provides better electrical service, especially in the event of an outage on the Eau Claire-Arpin line. The Eau Claire-Arpin line is the state's only high voltage connection to the west and the need for a back up to this line is a major reason to construct a new high voltage line to the west.

According to CUB's expert, the Arrowhead line requires cumbersome manual operating procedures to avoid problems while the King-Weston line is free of such restrictions.

The CUB expert also answered claims that the King-Weston line is “too close” to the existing Eau Claire-Arpin transmission line. The engineer pointed out that the King -Weston northern route alternative is separated by about 15 miles from the existing high voltage line – the same distance separating parallel high voltage lines in southeastern Wisconsin.

CUB has repeatedly argued in favor of the King-Weston line as an alternative to the Arrowhead line because it saves at least \$100 million, it has far fewer adverse impacts on the environment, it is 60 miles shorter – making it less susceptible to storm damage, it traverses existing right-of-way for its entire route – causing far fewer landowner impacts and it could be constructed much sooner than Arrowhead because it has fewer problems with challenges on new property easements and condemnation.

“The Public Service Commission made a tremendous and costly mistake when it approved Arrowhead two years ago. With this new evidence, the PSC has a golden opportunity to reverse that decision and make the right choice for Wisconsin,” said Steve Hiniker, Executive Director of CUB.

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