

S.O.U.L.



Save Our Unique Lands

SOUL
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Soul is a grassroots organization whose mission is to promote efficient and orderly management of power, based on the needs of Wisconsin, while protecting the natural, social and economic environments and citizens of Wisconsin.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 11, 2002 Mosinee, WI---- The American Transmission Company (ATC) today announced that the cost of the Arrowhead Weston line will more realistically cost at least \$396 million, more than double the original \$165 million approved by the Public Service Commission last year and a far cry from the \$125 million dollar figure publicly touted by the Wisconsin Public Service and Minnesota Power just three years ago.

“This is no surprise”, stated Tom Kreager, President of SOUL, “This transmission line proposal was poorly conceived and planned from the very beginning. The budget estimate that the utilities used to cost-justify this abomination was based on nothing more than pie-in-the-sky accounting. Their original cost estimate to the state resembles an Arthur Anderson’s spreadsheet for Enron.”

After review of the ATC updated cost estimate, it appears that ATC’s final number for Arrowhead-Weston could climb still higher, particularly if any attempt is made by the ATC to seize northern Wisconsin private or public lands.

SOUL contends it is irresponsible of the ATC to even ask the Public Service Commission to review the revised cost estimate-which would force Wisconsin ratepayers to finance the Enronization of Wisconsin’s energy market.

When the real costs for the Arrowhead to Weston transmission line are tabulated, the Public Service Commission will finally have to be honest with Wisconsin residents and select a cost effective and environmentally friendly alternative in place of the profit driven Arrowhead to Weston line. Possibly even an upgraded service line that was suggested by staff in the Environmental Impact Statement, but ignored by the Commission.

“SOUL has brought the truth to light and prevented construction of the largest mistake in the history of the Public Service Commission and given them a chance to finally make the right choice for Wisconsin”, Kreager said. “The citizens of northern Wisconsin can be proud of the stand they have taken. Just like the Packers at halftime, they are dominating the game and a force to contend with.”

SOUL will actively participate in any future hearings to ensure that all relevant information is part of the new decision making process. Common sense and honesty can once again guide energy policy in Wisconsin instead of utility lobbyist contributions.

For More Information Please Contact:

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