



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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PSC Supports Governor's Call to Streamline Transmission Siting Process

MADISON – The Public Service Commission supports Governor Jim Doyle's call today for a streamlined and coordinated process between the Public Service Commission and the Department of Natural Resources in their procedures for approving electric transmission and generation construction.

The PSC and the DNR have two separate and distinct processes for applicants who want to build transmission lines. "It makes good business sense to explore ways to align the process for applicants," PSC Chairperson Burnie Bridge explained. "Our current levels of scrutiny on the impact of projects on ratepayers and the environment will remain the same as we move to coordinate our processes."

At a press conference today, the Governor announced his Executive Order to the two agencies to develop a more efficient and streamlined process for companies applying to construct transmission and power generation by September 5th. The Governor called last week's power outage on the East Coast a wake up call for Wisconsin to deal with its constrained electric transmission system.

"The lack of any meaningful coordination between the two agencies has concerned me for sometime now," PSC Commissioner Bert Garvin said. "The PSC and the DNR need to better coordinate our regulatory processes when considering applications to construct energy infrastructure in Wisconsin."

Noting that last week, Wisconsin's transmission system held when the lights went out on the East Coast," PSC Commissioner Ave Bie said. "It doesn't mean that Wisconsin doesn't have reliability challenges. Moving the DNR permitting process and the PSC certification process for transmission construction into better alignment is a good start in helping to address those challenges."

Bridge said the PSC will focus on the Governor's directive and work closely with the DNR over the next two weeks to develop a plan and recommendations on implementing it.

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