



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

For Immediate Release
April 24, 2003

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Commission Begins Review of Revised Arrowhead Weston Cost Estimate

MADISON – The Public Service Commission today at its open meeting adopted an order outlining the scope of the re-opening of the Arrowhead Weston transmission line case and issued a notice of prehearing conference. American Transmission Company, Wisconsin Public Service, and Minnesota Power have applied to construct a 210-mile 345 kilovolt transmission line linking the Arrowhead substation near Duluth, Minnesota with the Weston substation near Wausau, Wisconsin.

The Commission authorized construction of the Arrowhead Weston line, subject to conditions, on October 30, 2001. After receiving a revised cost estimate from the applicants, the Commission reopened the Arrowhead Weston case on December 17, 2002 and requested comments on the scope of the reopening.

In its order today, the Commission said that it would accept testimony in the re-opened case on the following issues:

- Cost estimates for Arrowhead Weston and four other extra high voltage transmission line alternatives identified in the 1999 Wisconsin Reliability Assessment Organization report and the Commission record for this case.
- Other cost-effective and technically feasible solutions that would resolve the reliability concerns that were identified in the Arrowhead Weston case.
- Cost benefit analysis on whether Arrowhead Weston continues to be a reasonable choice compared with other identified solutions.

The Commission will hire a consultant to provide independent analysis of the cost estimates of Arrowhead Weston and other transmission alternatives. A prehearing conference, to determine schedule and other administrative matters, has been set for May 16, 2003. Hearings are likely to take place in late summer.

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