

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

October 4, 2002, Wausau, WI---- Wisconsin's energy companies met power demands without major interruptions this summer, thanks to careful planning and huge reserve margins of available capacity. In fact Wisconsin Public Service did not have to interrupt their voluntary interruptible customers once this summer.

With the announcement of Weston IV 500 MW plant in addition to the 2800 MW of additional generation planned by WE Energy there can be no doubt that there ever was a need for the controversial Arrowhead Weston transmission line! The combined output from the four Weston generation plants alone will meet the needs of over 900,000 people. This ensures reliable electric supplies because Census information for the year 2000 indicates Marathon County's population was only 126,031 people and the expected population growth predicted by the Division of Housing and Intergovernmental Relations, part of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, is an approximate average of 3.1 percent in each of the 5-year periods between 2000 and 2020.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's Final Environmental Impact Statement confirms this; "with sufficient generation additions, no increase in transfer capability is required". With the addition of in-state generation the need to import energy can be reduced to levels even below our current levels.

SOUL has always promoted new generation in industrial sites, near the point of use and with Weston IV the need for the Arrowhead line is moot. WPS could have proposed Weston IV four years ago, then it would have been nearing completion. Instead they choose a path to foster electrical deregulation with the potential of huge profits.

"This is further proof that there never was a need for the Arrowhead line! If we had an Advance plan process in place at the time when Arrowhead was proposed we would never have had to waste so much time and energy on a poorly conceived knee jerk solution to a perceived crisis. Instead we would have entered the 21st century with a sensible approach using modern technology to ensure reliable and cost effective electricity for all" SOUL President Tom Kreager stated. SOUL looks forward to playing a continued active role when it comes to planning for the State's future needs.

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