

SOUL OF WISCONSIN

Restoring Ratepayer Energy Priorities

December 2013

As electric customers, landowners, businesses, communities and local governments, we cannot allow utility-sponsored impact statements about *our* lands, *our* energy goals and *our* local economies to become the only official, public record in determining our energy future.

Since 2002, Midwest utilities have enjoyed the use of millions of electric customer dollars on “economic studies,” advertisements, public relations campaigns and community donations to further their interests.

However, many of us are unaware of the equal opportunities we have as electric customers. As “ratepayers,” we pay for every power plant, every transmission tower, every transformer and every wire. These payments give us the right to determine what future energy investments we want to make. Do we want to expand the profit-reach of utilities with 8, new, high-capacity transmission lines across WI? With electric use slowing dramatically, isn't it time to slash unnecessary waste and evolve to energy self-sufficiency? Both directions would deliver reliable power to our outlets, but the similarities stop there.

Only ratepayers' silence can defeat a generous and exciting energy future for Wisconsin that is waiting for our fulfillment. We can point fingers and see ourselves as victims or use our very real **power**.

The consideration of our investment options with the “Badger-Coulee” proposal is just beginning. Our first opportunity to act is *very short* and happens during a most hectic time of the year. For most of us, we need only to take 2-3 minutes and fill-out the enclosed Household Energy Priorities form and mail it to SOUL. On the flip side of the form, two people can **POWER-**

UP SOUL with a lifetime membership donation of any amount you can afford.

Residents near all potential corridors should do this and a little more. They need to list specific economic and environmental impacts they would experience from high voltage transmission expansion. Those with property adjacent to or within view of the high voltage transmission towers will want to factor in property value and business income losses, health and environmental concerns at distances much greater than 750 feet that utilities have “accounted for.”

The deadline for public impact statements is ~~expected in mid May 2014.~~

JULY 15, 2014

Utilities have already filed documents of the negative impacts they feel are necessary to address. It is the job of residents to make sure that *all* of the values of *our* lands, our families, our natural and cultural resources and our local economies prevail in the draft and final impact statement for the Badger-Coulee review.

Experience shows that 99% of such forms filed will be completed at potluck dinners, community gatherings, recycling centers- at face-to-face encounters.

SOUL will mail organizers materials for gatherings and provide folks to help. Call us at 608.625.2339 and start planning your local meeting right here:

<http://tinyurl.com/kvijfb7d>

See also June Newsletter

Landowner Input for the “Scoping Phase” of the Badger-Coulee Proposal

- A. Ask for a color **Map** of the town where you live. There is a set of aerial maps that show potential access roads to corridors that might cross your land. Make a “X” on the map where your **Residence or Business** is and clearly print your **Name** beside it.
- B. For all sensitive **Natural Resources** on your land, add letter labels to the map and write a description in the corresponding box below. Be sure to include or name all springs, ponds, dams, and caves. Label and describe wetlands, sinkholes, animal dens, amphibian (frog and toad) habitats raptor nests (including eagles), rare plants and animals and minimally disturbed forests and grasslands. Also include **Recreational Areas and places** where **Livestock** graze or are fed or housed.

Label	Description	Section No.
X	Residence/Business Name:	
A		
B		
C		
D		
E		
F		
G		
H		
I		
J		
K		

- C. Locate and describe sensitive **Cultural Resources** in the area such as museums, churches, cemeteries, historical sites, rest areas and places with folklore attached to them. Locate and describe all **Businesses** that would be adversely affected by the reduction in tourism that would accompany loss of natural appeal and beauty.

Label	Description	Section No.
N		
O		
P		
Q		
R		
S		
T		
U		
V		
W		
X		
Y		

Tips for an Effective Letter

Consider potential impacts of a high profile transmission system on you, your family members, your way of life, your business, your local economy and its local cultures.

Address your letter to: Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, Scoping Input for Docket 05-CE-142. Include your full mailing address either at the top or bottom of your letter.

1. Introduce yourself. Describe how long you have lived in the community and contributions you make to your community. Describe what first attracted you or your family to the area.
2. Are there very young or older persons in your family that might be more sensitive to electromagnetic fields? Are there places where people work or sleep that could be near the electromagnetic fields? Do you own animals that could be impacted?
3. Do you operate a business that would lose income? Explain why and estimate how much.
4. Consider recreational and cultural activities in your area that attract visitors and family members. Consider the roads that tourists use and the scenery they provide. Would tourists avoid these roads, over time, with high-profile transmission towers along them or within view? What businesses, by name, would suffer as a result of reduction in tourist numbers such as service stations, restaurants, hotels, gift shops, bed & breakfasts, convenience stores, grocery stores, hardware stores, sporting goods stores, drug stores, taverns, produce/fruit stands and campgrounds?
5. Name recreational sites that attract visitors for hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, canoeing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-county skiing, picnicking, and sports. Name museums, historic landmarks, libraries, schools, cemeteries, visitor centers, festivals and other cultural resources near you. Does your community receive a high percentage of income dollars as a result of the natural beauty that tourism and recreation attract to your community?
7. Describe, by name if possible, any retirees or other individuals you know who have moved into the area because of its visual beauty. Describe the potential impact on individuals and businesses moving and starting businesses.
8. Describe your family's use of the natural resources where you live whether for farming, logging, recreation or any other purpose.
9. Describe all unique plant or animal habitats including undeveloped and natural lands that support wild animals and unusual or rare plants. Describe any location (with section number) where waterfowl or raptors might collide with transmission lines.
10. Describe your interests in energy such as conservation and energy efficiency efforts and whether you plan to invest in rooftop solar or a small turbine.

To make your submission through SOUL of Wisconsin, make sure you include the following:

A. Your Household Energy Priorities Form; **B.** Your marked Map; **C.** The page with two charts of economic, cultural and natural sensitivities and **D.** Your signed letter. Mail to: SOUL of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 146 La Farge, WI 54639. Call your community helpers or 625-4949 with questions or email info@soulwisconsin.org

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
Re: Scoping Input for Docket 05-CE-142

Name _____

St Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Dear Commissioners and Agency Staff Persons,

Signature _____ Date _____

Scoping Input – Badger Coulee Docket 05CE142

Collected by SOUL of Wisconsin
for submission to WI Public Service Commission

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Household Energy Priorities

I am representing a household or business as: *(Check most appropriate)*

- An electric customer who does NOT pay much attention to bill amounts.
- An electric customer who pays attention to household electricity use.
- An electric customer who takes extra steps to not waste electricity.
- An electric customer who monitors use and produces power on site with solar or other capability.
- A renter who pays for electricity in fixed rent.
- A renter who would like better access to how much electricity I am using.
- A NON-electric customer because of religious practices.
- A NON-electric customer because we produce our power on-site.

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Mildly Disagree	Unsure or No Opinion	Mildly Agree	Strongly Agree
Our household is concerned about increasing electricity costs.					
Carbon emission from electricity generation is a concern.					
Our household would like to learn more low-cost solutions and rebate opportunities to cut energy costs.					
My utility could do a better job of helping electric customers find and eliminate needless waste.					
Our household would consider a free energy assessment if we received simple tips and investment ideas for cutting energy costs.					
Money spent by utilities on the electricity system should focus on energy investments located in Wisconsin					

Are you pursuing or would you like to pursue energy improvements to your household, farm or business?

If cost was identical, which utility investment option would you prefer? *SELECT ONLY ONE OF THESE BOXES*

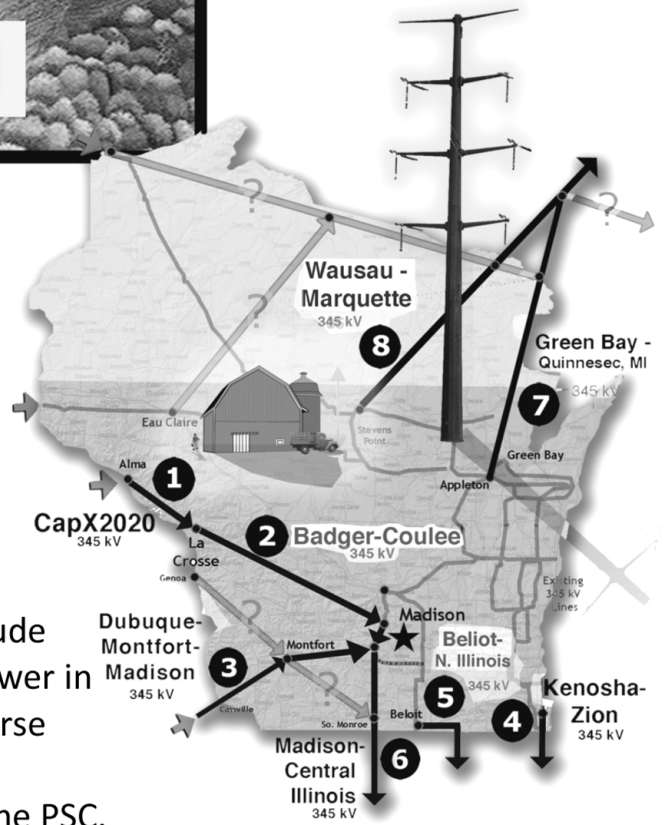
- Invest first in energy efficiency, then local power. Add grid infrastructure only to meet in-state reliability.
- Invest first in high-capacity transmission lines and new natural gas power plants.
- Other. Specify and rank the investments:

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail form to: SOUL P.O. Box 146 La Farge, WI 54639

SOUL OF WISCONSIN

SOUL's ability to defend Wisconsin communities and ratepayer energy priorities in coming years is heavily dependent on the size of our membership. A robust membership will help us qualify for more funding from the state for hiring experts. Please consider enrolling yourself, family members and friends for **Lifetime Memberships** for \$5 or any cash amount you can afford. Please consider signing the request to the WI PSC to include accelerated investments in efficiency and local power in non-transmission solutions. The form on the reverse side allows you to state your household's energy priorities which SOUL will record and send on to the PSC.



FILL OUT BOTH SIDES. MAIL TO: SOUL P.O. Box 146 La Farge, WI 54639 Info: 608.625.2339 info@soulwisconsin.org

1 or 2 Members

Name _____ Date _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email (print clearly) _____ \$5 [] Other Amt. _____

I support the request to the PSC (signature) _____

Name _____ Date _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email (print clearly) _____ \$5 [] Other Amt. _____

I support the request to the PSC (signature) _____

PSC REQUEST: I request that the Public Service Commission of WI ensure that an impartial study of all energy solutions for proposal 05ce142 becomes available for public evaluation. One option must include accelerated energy efficiency, expanded implementation of demand side management and improvements to low voltage transmission lines as needed for in-state reliability. Funding for all options should match the amount that Wisconsin ratepayers would assume over 40 years for MTEP11 development including appendixes A, B & C. The study should include impacts on in-state job creation, net regional carbon emission reduction and policies that could place limitations on distributed generation.