

wui Legislative/Regulatory **Update**



A bimonthly publication for the members of the Wisconsin Utility Investors.

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WISCONSIN ALLIANT CUSTOMERS TO RECEIVE A RATE FREEZE

Wisconsin customers of Alliant Energy will see no increase to base electric and natural gas rates through 2020 under a proposal filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW). Customer rates will drop for the remainder of 2018 due to bill credits following a separate PSCW decision.

“The rate freeze is a win for customers,” according to John Larsen, President of Alliant Energy Corporation. “We’ve worked hard to hold the line on costs through 2020. It’s important to us to deliver cleaner power to families and businesses while keeping rates down.”

The company reached agreement on the proposal with significant input and collaboration from the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) and Wisconsin Industrial Energy Group (WIEG). If approved by the PSCW, the plan would be in effect 2019-2020. A decision is expected later in 2018. No rate increase proposed for 2019-2020. The proposal reflects Alliant Energy’s efforts to lower operational and fuel costs, along with expected tax savings from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Included are investments for making electricity from cleaner and renewable sources. Alliant Energy’s retail electric rates are among the lowest in Wisconsin.

AMERICAN TRANSMISSION COMPANY BUYS LAND FOR SUBSTATION

American Transmission Company has bought land to build a proposed electrical substation for the \$10 billion manufacturing complex Foxconn Technology Group is building in southeast Wisconsin. It has purchased 33 acres of land in Mount Pleasant for \$2.4 million. ATC plans to build a new substation east of the Foxconn complex and connect it with high-voltage power lines. The utility plans to have new lines run between Kenosha County and Racine County. Foxconn is expected to use about 200 megawatts of electricity, six times more than the next-largest factory in the state according to ATC. The Taiwanese company plans to make advanced liquid-crystal-display panels for commercial and consumer uses, including televisions. ATC needs to win approval of the project from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. Work on the substation and the \$117 million electric transmission lines could begin in the fall.

XCEL ENERGY REDEVELOPS BUTTERFLY AND BEE HABITAT

Xcel Energy is giving monarch butterflies, honey bees and other pollinators new life by redeveloping a dry prairie in Eau Claire. As part of National Pollinator Week, prairie enthusiasts, Xcel Energy employees, staff from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and children from the summer program at the Eau Claire Indoor Sports Center helped plant milkweed and other pollinator-friendly plants on two-acres of property near Xcel Energy’s Wisconsin headquarters in Eau Claire. The event was part of a week-long national effort to recognize the importance of pollinators.

ALLIANT ENERGY INVESTING TO KEEP COSTS LOW

Alliant Energy’s Wisconsin energy company has filed plans with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) to build a wind project that will lower energy costs for Wisconsin customers starting in 2020. The proposed project will be located in North Central Iowa which has consistently strong wind resources. Customers will benefit directly from fuel-free renewable energy that provides long-term cost stability. The cost to build new wind projects has decreased significantly over the last several years. This is largely the result of continued technological advancements that improve turbine efficiency. This project would add 150 megawatts of wind energy, enough to power an additional 70,000 homes. The company’s Wisconsin customers already benefit from low-cost wind through Alliant Energy’s ownership in three wind farms.

Register early for the 2018 WUI ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS held this year at the Harley-Davidson Museum® in Milwaukee on September 13. Go to our website: www.wuiinc.org for more details.

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WEC ENERGY GROUP HONORED FOR PUERTO RICO POWER RESTORATION

The Edison Electric Institute (EII) has presented WEC Energy Group with the association's special 2018 Emergency Assistance Award for its contributions to the emergency power restoration mission in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria. The devastating Category 4 hurricane made landfall in Puerto Rico September 20, 2017.

MGE ENERGY ANNUAL MEETING SPOTLIGHTED CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

The MGE Energy Annual Meeting highlighted clean energy investments, and new technologies. Nearly 1,800 shareholders gathered for the MGE Energy 2018 Annual Meeting during which they heard from company leadership on how Madison Gas and Electric (MGE), is harnessing the power of new technologies to reach clean energy goals. President and CEO Jeff Keebler said MGE is committed to reducing carbon emissions 40 percent by 2030 and at least 80 percent by 2050, a target consistent with the U.S. Mid-Century Strategy for Deep Decarbonization (MCS). The MCS is the U.S. strategy for meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius.

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WUI REGIONAL MEETINGS HIGHLIGHT RENEWABLES, TRANSMISSION AND ENERGY FORECASTS

WUI 2018 Regional Meetings were held recently in Madison and Oshkosh. They addressed how Wisconsin Utilities are incorporating renewable energy into a cost-benefit energy portfolio and how renewables impact the consumer and investor. An overview of the Strategic Energy Assessment (SEA) draft was presented at the Madison meeting by Martin Day, Administrator of the Division of Energy Regulation at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) and the same information was presented at the Oshkosh Regional by Holly O'Higgins, SEA Docket Coordinator for the Division of Energy Regulation at PSCW. Attendees in Madison were treated to an Alliant Energy Solar project presentation and on-site tour led by Dave Sinner, Project Manager II – Customer Centric Generation. Robert Bartlett, Director of Public and Community Affairs and Zack Hill, Senior Resource Development Coordinator of Alliant Energy, presented Alliant Energy's plan to incorporate renewables. In Oshkosh attendees learned about the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission line project by Director of Environmental and Local Relations, Gregory Levesque of American Transmission Company (ATC).