

**SERVICE DATE**  
**Mar 11, 2021**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN**

Roadmap to Zero Carbon Investigation

5-EI-158

**NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION**

**THIS IS AN INVESTIGATION** to consider the ongoing transition to zero-carbon electricity generation in Wisconsin.

In making all energy-related decisions, the Commission is required by Wis. Stat. § 196.025(1)(ar) to implement Wisconsin's Energy Priorities Law, which provides that, to the extent cost-effective, technically feasible, and environmentally sound the Commission shall prioritize energy conservation and efficiency and noncombustible renewable energy resources. To fulfill its statutory responsibilities, the Commission opens this investigation to obtain further information on ongoing changes in Wisconsin's electricity sector, and economic and environmental considerations that are contributing to increased deployment of zero carbon technologies for meeting customers' electricity needs.

The Commission's investigation will evaluate a wide range of topics, including but not limited to:

1. Wisconsin electric utilities' publicly announced goals to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, including the goals established by the state's five largest electric utilities to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions 100 percent by 2050.
2. Recommendations from the Wisconsin Energy Distribution and Technology Initiative (WEDTI) on opportunities to accelerate the clean energy transition and optimize the benefits of the transition for all customers.<sup>1</sup>
3. Recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change.<sup>2</sup>
4. Clean energy plan recommendations developed through Executive Order 38, which directs utilities and state agencies to work in partnership towards a goal of achieving 100 percent carbon-free electricity consumption in the state by 2050.

This investigation will help the Commission gather information needed to develop a roadmap to achieving zero carbon electricity that analyzes the full range of considerations and identify approaches to achieve the economic and environmental benefits the transition can provide, while maintaining adequate electric supply, reliability, and affordability for all customers.

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<sup>1</sup> WEDTI Final Report. Accessible at <https://www.m-werc.org/wedti-report>.

<sup>2</sup> Governor's Task Force on Climate Change Report. Accessible at <https://climatechange.wi.gov/Pages/Home.aspx>

The range of topics to be considered in this investigation include, but are not limited to:

1. Changes in utility-scale generation sources that reduce overall carbon emissions, including the retirement of existing carbon-emitting facilities and the deployment of new generation resources;
2. The increased deployment of customer-level distributed energy resources;
3. The increased availability and deployment of new technologies, such as battery storage and new grid technologies supporting electric system operations;
4. Customer programs and tariffs that support affordable energy access and help customers control their energy use and demand; and
5. The design and operation of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. wholesale markets and transmission system serving Wisconsin utilities and customers.

At a later date, Commission staff will seek comments from parties and members of the public. The request will include a timeline for submitting comments.

**DOCUMENTS.** All documents in this docket are filed on the Commission's Electronic Records Filing (ERF) system. To view these documents: (1) go to the Commission's E-Services Portal at <http://apps.psc.wi.gov>, (2) enter "5-EI-158" in the box labeled "Quick Single Docket Search," and (3) select "Documents." To receive electronic notifications when new documents are filed in this docket, go to ERF - [EZ Subscriptions](#) and follow the instructions to subscribe to this docket.

**INTERVENTION.** Any person desiring to become a party shall file a request for party status, known as a request to intervene, under Wis. Stat. § 227.44(2m) and Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.21 no later than 14 days from the date of service of this notice using the ERF system.

To file such a request, go to the Commission's E-Services Portal at <http://apps.psc.wi.gov>, click on the "ERF Upload Documents" link on the left side menu bar. On the next page, log on if you are a registered ERF user, create a new account if you do not have an existing account, or contact PSC Records Management staff at (608) 261-8521 or via e-mail at [PSCRecordsMail@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCRecordsMail@wisconsin.gov) for assistance.

A person desiring to become a party who lacks access to the internet shall make a request to intervene by U.S. mail addressed to:

Docket 5-EI-158 Intervention Request  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
P.O. Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

At the time of filing, the person making the request to intervene shall serve a copy of the request on existing parties. An existing party may respond to the request within 5 days of service. A party wishing to request intervenor compensation should do so as soon as practicable.

**WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT.** This is a Type III action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(3). The Commission will review the potential environmental effects of the project. Type III actions normally do not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement under Wis. Stat. § 1.11 or an environmental assessment

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.** The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this docket or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below. Any hearing location is physically accessible to individuals with disabilities. The Public Service Commission is located in the Hill Farms State Office Building, which is also physically accessible to individuals with disabilities through the entrances on the first floor. Parking for people with disabilities is available on the ground floor of the parking garage. There is also limited, free handicap visitor parking at the front of the Hill Farms State Office Building.

**CONTACT.** Please direct questions about this docket or requests for additional accommodations for the disabled to the Commission's docket coordinator Joe Fontaine at (608) 266-0910 or [Joe.Fontaine@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Joe.Fontaine@wisconsin.gov).

Commissioner Nowak dissents on the issuance of this Notice.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

By the Commission:



Steffany Powell Coker  
Secretary to the Commission

SPC:JF:cmb;jlt:pc DL:01785753