

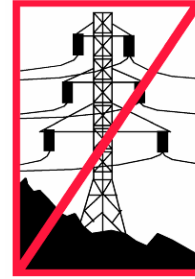
Save Our Unique Lands (SOUL)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Save Our Unique Lands (SOUL) - proclaims Last Chance for Democracy Day Thursday, November 13th. The last round of Public Hearings for the Arrowhead-Weston transmission line project will be held in Ladysmith, Wisconsin at the Veterans Memorial Association, 608 Summit Avenue starting at 3:00 PM. A rally and gathering in opposition to the line will precede the hearings. Tom Kreager of SOUL said, "This may be a historic event and the last time a comprehensive public hearing is held on a project of this sort. The legislature and the Governor are caving in to corporate pressure with legislation on the siting and construction of electric generating facilities and transmission lines and "streamlining" that may drive public input into extinction."

Pending legislative proposals for future projects will erode local ordinance authority, expand eminent domain powers for corporations, limit analyses to the project proposed and a single alternative, both proposed by the utility. Streamlining threatens to eliminate legitimate local government and private property rights and interests. Senate Bill (SB) 300 and Assembly Bill (AB) 632 on siting and construction of facilities and lines do not include any long term planning for Wisconsin energy generation and transmission nor any planning or requirements for demand side management that would promote increased energy efficiency for residential and industrial customers. The only real planning going on in the legislature at the urging of utility special interests is the plan to eliminate public input and environmental and consumer protections. Legislators have plenty of real work to do if they want to improve Wisconsin's energy future. Their plan - to take a couple of months off.

This is the last of the second series of Public Hearings on the Arrowhead-Weston line project and was triggered by a mistaken cost estimate that drove the price from \$165 million to over \$400 million dollars. SOUL sees the project as not only likely to bring increases in long term rates but increases in imported energy from Canada as well as increased mercury for Wisconsin lakes that are downwind of the coal fired plants in the Dakotas that would also feed the line.

SOUL invites the public to come to the public hearing on Thursday afternoon and partake in the citizen-input process before it is gone. People can testify either orally or by simply filling out a written form. The VFW will have food and drinks available and room available to warm up and listen to the testimony of others.

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