



September 30, 2024

Summer Strand, Chairperson
Wisconsin Public Service Commission
4822 Madison Yards Way
Hill Farms State Office Building - North Tower, 6th Floor
Madison, WI 53705

RE: Joint Application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company and Wisconsin Gas LLC for Authority to Adjust Electric, Natural Gas, and Steam Rates 5-UR-111

Dear Chairperson Strand:

Building Advantage writes to share with the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) our support of the joint application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company and Wisconsin Gas LLC and their authority to adjust electric, natural gas, and steam rates 5-UR-111.

Building Advantage is a joint labor and management council representing union general contractors, sub-contractors, and building trades unions in Southeast Wisconsin. We represent and work for hundreds of employer building contractors and thousands of building trades members and their unions, on issues of mutual concern and interest for both labor and management. We work on issues of business development, workforce development, advocacy, real estate developer engagement, and real estate financing of development projects on behalf of our members.

The application for rate increases from the WEC Energy Group and others is in part needed as the company is making significant investments to ensure that the Southeast Wisconsin area, which Building Advantage serves, is well positioned to meet the energy needs of the owners and developers who are building projects and putting our contractors and union members to work. On the Microsoft project alone, there are thousands of union construction members making great wages and benefits who will be working on that project for years to come.

The union construction industry is thrilled to see that the WEC Energy Group is planning to meet the energy needs of these large projects by strengthening the energy grid. Their investments in continuing to build a reliable power grid will help companies expand and grow which means more jobs for the union contractors and union members we represent.

The investments in the power grid include a significant amount of funds that are being spent to build a robust renewable energy infrastructure. Building Advantage's member contractors support this and are working on these projects at the Paris Solar Farm and elsewhere helping our community move to a renewable energy future. We all want to see our community and country move to a cleaner and renewable future and support the WEC Energy Group's efforts to build new utility scale renewable energy facilities that employ our union contractors and members.

As we move to a renewable energy future, we must continue to meet the energy needs that are before us and invest in critical backup power when the sun is not shining, and the wind is not blowing. That includes energy transition strategies like natural gas generating facilities which are replacing coal facilities during the transition to a cleaner energy future for our community. Having quick start gas plants available for those times when zero carbon generation cannot meet customers energy needs is key. With this transition, it's important to be mindful that all partners remain committed to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and are well on our way to do so.

Conclusion

Building Advantage encourages the PSC to approve the joint application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company and Wisconsin Gas LLC and their authority to adjust electric, natural gas, and steam rates 5-UR-111. Thank you for considering.

Best,

Chris Mambu Rasch
Executive Director | Building Advantage
crasch@buildingadvantage.org
414-469-5333 cell