



They'd rather be wrong, but independent consultants now confirm **American Transmission Company** was right, estimating the transmission line linking **Duluth** and **Wausau** will cost about \$396 million, not \$170 million as projected by **Minnesota Power** and **Wisconsin Public Service Corp.** Opponents say build on a less costly route from the Twin Cities, but that means crossing more working farmland and back yards. Regulation of **mercury emissions** will be aired in legislative committees this month as **DNR** rulemaking nears its conclusion; Wisconsin won't be the first to regulate, as **Connecticut** enacted law requiring a 90-percent cut by 2008, though only one power plant is affected. Meanwhile, an **Environmental Protection Agency** official says no amount of regulation will achieve federal water-quality standards, since 40 percent of mercury deposited in the U.S. comes from foreign sources. **Enron Corp.**, for all practical purposes the inventor of the electric restructuring movement, suffered a "death penalty" at the hands of federal regulators who have banned it from trading electricity and natural gas in the U.S. at market rates. It's Enron's punishment for market manipulation during the **California** energy crisis of 2000–01.