



## **EYE ON THE INDUSTRY**

**Monthly Notes on Issues  
Affecting Wisconsin Consumers**

**Cold fission?** The planned sale of WE Energies' **Point Beach Nuclear Plant** to Florida's **FPL Energy** generates little heat compared with the 2005 sale of Wisconsin's only other functioning nuke, at **Kewaunee**, to Virginia's **Dominion Resources**; Kewaunee opponents even claimed impropriety in regulatory approvals, later dismissed, but the Point Beach deal is staying relatively quiet. **Merger nears** as interested parties intervening in a case reach agreements with Green Bay's **WPS Resources** and Chicago-area **Peoples Energy**. The plan would create **Integrus Energy Group** and add a N.E. Illinois natural gas distribution system, oil and gas production, and marketing to WPS Wisconsin and Michigan utility operations. A federal okay has already been received. **Freeze back on?** At press time, the **Illinois House** approved a three-year reimposition of the 1997 rate freeze after its January expiration brought 26 to 55 percent electric rate hikes. Consumer advocates applaud the re-freeze; **Commonwealth Edison** warns that the IL restructuring law forcing it to "buy high and sell low" puts the utility on a path to **\$4 million** daily losses and eventual bankruptcy, just like **California's** PG&E.