



EYE ON THE INDUSTRY

Monthly Notes on Issues
Affecting Wisconsin Consumers

Hard fall....Autumn must have been a bleak season for any remaining enthusiasts of **electric utility restructuring**—also known as “deregulation” except by those who’ve noticed that in important ways it’s *intensified* regulation. Multiple studies released in November and early December question the execution of restructuring if not the concept itself: A study for the **American Public Power Assn.** cites “no reliable and convincing evidence that consumers are better off as a result of restructuring of the U.S. electric power industry.””**Delaware** lawmakers mull a proposal to study a retreat to the former regulatory model; publicly owned utilities receive a think-tank study saying initial legislation and implementation decisions led to “an economically unsustainable system for both producers and consumers of electricity in **Michigan**; and the **Electricity Consumers Resource Council** (ELCON), a major national organization of large industrial power users, produces a paper calling restructured power markets uncompetitive, suggesting “if today’s organized markets cannot be fixed...a return to traditional regulation” should be explored.