



EYE ON THE INDUSTRY

Monthly Notes on Issues
Affecting Wisconsin Consumers

Starting over...Higher new-cost estimates for the embattled Duluth-Wausau **transmission project** have opponents celebrating and backers asking the **Public Service Commission** to repeat its regulatory review process. Fresh hearings loom, required by law since accounting changes and expenses to appease opponents have roughly doubled the project cost. **Tighter regulations coming soon?** A DNR rule mandating a 90-percent cut in power plant mercury emissions couldn't pass muster with the **Natural Resources Board**—technology doesn't exist to accomplish the reduction—but new Governor—**James Doyle** gets to appoint five of seven board members in just four months because several were never confirmed by the Senate. Doyle has pledged to eliminate mercury emissions. **Six months and out** for Ontario, where the government pulled the plug on electric restructuring late last year after a brief experiment saw both prices and taxes rise. The **incredible shrinking wholesale market** has lost at least half its volume since the Enron collapse and other scandals, according to one D.C. consultant's estimate, suggesting the '90s explosion in bulk electricity trades was largely speculation by middlemen hoping to cash in, not a response to actual power needs.