



**Foiled again....**The drive to overturn Wisconsin's utility holding-company law suffers a third rebuke, as a federal court rules, among other things, that **Alliant Energy** can't take advantage of the law to form a holding company and then argue the law's unconstitutional; Alliant was expected to appeal. **Duluth–Wausau** transmission line opponents **SOUL** and **Wisconsin's Environmental Decade** are also set back as a Marathon County court denies their petition to join a lawsuit by the **Citizens Utility Board (CUB)**. Lawyer **Ed Garvey** gripes, but the action results from his firm blowing two deadlines. **Unusual allies**, CUB and the **Wisconsin Industrial Energy Group** have squawks about **WE Energy's** new power plant plans: **WE** would add almost 3,000 megawatts and replace old coal units with natural gas, clean-coal technology, but the groups dislike the financial details, claiming the **Public Service Commission** is rushing approval. The PSC says it has legal deadlines to meet. **Competitors wanted....**Rhode Island lawmakers adjourn without acting on a bill to stimulate electricity markets. A 1996 restructuring law failed to attract competitive suppliers. Meanwhile in **Texas**, where there are plenty of competitors, rates are beginning to increase anyway.—*Dave Hoopman, Wisconsin Federation of Co-ops*