



The numbers are there...so why's it so hard to build electric infrastructure needed for reliability? Spring **polling** by a Madison public affairs firm finds strengthening Wisconsin generation and transmission is supported by a 3–1 ratio. More specific questions: Support for building **generation** locally? **Yes, 60%**; Support for building **transmission** locally? **Yes, 63%**; Support for adding gas **pipelines** locally? **Yes, 65%**. Support doesn't fade significantly until hypothetical projects are within **1 mile** of a respondent. None of this will accelerate the proposed **Duluth–Wausau** transmission line; regulatory review reopened over increased cost estimates will probably take most of 2003, pushing a decision two years past the Wisconsin **Public Service Commission's** initial approval. Ditto for the **Chisago–Apple River** line to unclog transmission between NW Wisconsin and the Twin Cities. The **PSC** approved the project four years ago but now says the "best case" for final Minnesota and federal approvals is May 2005. Putting stakes in perspective, Chancellor **John Wiley** of UW–Madison, struggling to build an on-campus cogeneration plant, tells a forum on the siting issue that if the UW's lights go out, costs will reach \$800,000 per hour.