



Down to the wire....WE Energies says it needs to know by May 15 whether the Wisconsin **Supreme Court** will allow it to proceed with the biggest power-plant project in state history. Two new units on an existing plant site are needed for system reliability, but litigation is now costing the utility **\$150k daily** in delay damages to the contractor. A decision later than May 15 risks losing contracted prices on materials, raising costs, WE says. **Suing the EPA**, Wisconsin officials contend federal power-plant emission curbs won't go far enough to protect the public from **mercury**. Controls for other emissions already capture about 40 percent. The Wisconsin-only rule says cut 75 percent of the remainder; the feds say 70. Factoring the existing capture, the dispute is over getting 82 percent v. 85 percent of original mercury content, though most of what's deposited here originates outside Wisconsin and litigation will **delay the federal rule**. State-mandated **renewable-energy** requirements are "triggering a new era in project finance," says *Global Energy Decisions*, predicting 52,000 megawatts of new renewables added over the next 15 years, mainly (40,000 mw) wind. The price: \$53 billion.