



No apologies.... Four electricity providers accused by California regulators of market manipulation during the 2000–2001 energy crisis say regulators are wrong. The **Public Utility Commission (PUC)** says **Dynegy, Reliant, Mirant, and Duke Energy** withheld power, helping cause blackouts and driving up prices. The companies say they withheld nothing and at the times in question, their plants were under control of the state’s **Independent System Operator**, not them. More transmission fights brewing? **Wisconsin Public Service Corp. (WPS)**, planning a new power plant near Wausau, says it will also need a new high-voltage line from there to Green Bay, at least 90 miles—in addition to the embattled 230-mile line WPS is trying to build between Wausau and Duluth. A rough ride for Minneapolis’ **Xcel Energy**. As its non-utility power-marketing unit **NRG** teeters near bankruptcy, employees charge the **Northern States Power (NSP)** affiliate quit preventive maintenance and doctored outage records. The Minnesota PUC investigates, and Wisconsin regulators say no problems were reported with NSP here. **Ontario** electric restructuring is not looking so good. After five months, customers are paying 25-percent higher rates plus higher taxes to cover debts of the former government-owned utility.