



## **EYE ON THE INDUSTRY**

**Monthly Notes on Issues  
Affecting Wisconsin Consumers**

**Green Light....**Participants in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association regional meetings are likely to endorse a resolution calling for the nationwide use of a “broad menu of **renewable fuels** to generate green power,” while rejecting a “federally mandated one-size-fits-all” approach. The Wisconsin-Illinois-Iowa region meets later this month. **Wires are required** even to deliver renewables, and a **U. of Illinois** study published in July says growth of **transmission** capacity still lags well behind growth of electrical demand. The U-I study says the immediate causes of a August 2003 **8-state blackout** have been addressed but calls a stronger transmission grid the “single most pressing challenge” for the nation’s electrical system. Reconsidering the 1990s free-market push to bust up utilities, the Libertarian, free-market’ **Cato Institute** concludes in a July paper that the vertically integrated utility model can provide efficiencies and cost-savings. As if to confirm Cato, **Ohio** officials held a July auction seeking alternative suppliers of electricity for **Dayton Power and Light** customers. The result, for the second consecutive year: No bids submitted.