



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WISCONSINITES ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) TO RECONSIDER CONTROVERSIAL GAS PROJECT**

*Growing concern over the environmental, health, and economic impacts of gas infrastructure*

**MILWAUKEE** – Wisconsinites have voiced their concerns to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) about the [Paris RICE gas project](#), a 130 MW RICE Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engine methane gas facility proposed by WEPCO, the parent company of We Energies. If approved, the plant would be built in Kenosha in mid-2026 with an estimated cost of \$303.3 million, which ratepayers will shoulder the financial burden of.

In addition, the proposed plant would release methane gas into the Kenosha community, which [studies show can cause serious health issues](#), including cardiovascular impacts, neurodevelopment disorders, cognitive impairments, low birth weight, and cancers. Minority, low-income, and Indigenous populations often bear a [disproportionate burden of environmental harms](#) resulting in adverse health outcomes with an increased risk of chronic disease, hospitalizations, and premature deaths.

The new methane gas infrastructure being proposed by We Energies is inconsistent with the state's goal to be carbon-free by 2050. [The Governor's Task on Climate Change](#) listed "Avoid(ing) new fossil fuel infrastructure" as one of the things we must do in order to stop a climate catastrophe."

Concerned Wisconsinites [have made comments to the PSC](#) sharing their frustrations and worries for Wisconsin's clean energy future:

*"Methane gas is a potent greenhouse gas and is not a climate solution," said Judith Stadler, Retired Health Professional. "This plant is an example of building new fossil fuel infrastructure that will lock us into decades of dangerous emissions, just like those from coal. Clean energy can meet that need without harming the health of my grandchildren and all the other children in our state."*

*"As a family doctor who takes care of patients across the lifespan, I ask that the Public Service Commission deny the permit for RICE units to the Town of Paris in Kenosha," said Joel Charles, MD, MPH, Family Physician and Hospitalist. "These plants are unnecessary and bad for human health. Methane gas use has been shown to increase health harms such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, as*

*well as cancer, kidney, and neurodevelopmental disorders such as Alzheimer's. In addition, methane gas has also been directly linked to higher rates of asthma, negative outcomes for fetus and infant health, and higher rates of premature death.”*

*“No community should continue to bear the burden of air pollution levels that harm public health,” said Molly Collins, Advocacy Director, American Lung Association in Wisconsin. “Wisconsin can provide reliable power to residents without jeopardizing their health. We urge the PSC to strengthen the environmental impact statement to more fully explore alternative investment strategies that better align with our shared clean air and sustainability goals. This includes exploration of non-combustion renewable power, like wind and solar, to secure a healthier and more resilient future for Wisconsin.”*

*“I am a concerned pastor, community organizer and leader in Milwaukee, WI. I ask that PSC deny this proposal to add 7 RICE units to the Town of Paris in Kenosha,” said Milwaukee Pastor Teresa Thomas-Boyd. “My key reasons are: 1. Natural gas use has negative effects on community health. The health harms include respiratory, especially asthma, cancer, and kidney disorders. In addition, the thought of what happens to fetus, infant, and children in air pollution is very disturbing to me. 2. It has negative effects on the climate. 3. There are lots of alternative options that are more positive to use than gas. Overall, I like to see and experience win-win outcomes. Do things in the interest of the people and not just the profit of the company.”*

The public is invited to get involved in the next public hearing on the Paris project **on February 5, 2025, at both 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.** in-person at Municipal Center Community Room Union Grove Village Hall, 925 15th Ave, Union Grove, WI or [online via Zoom](#).

To view all public comments on the docket, please click [here](#).

To schedule interviews with informed community advocates with Power Wisconsin Forward please contact [powerwisconsinforward@muellercommunications.com](mailto:powerwisconsinforward@muellercommunications.com).

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### **ABOUT POWER WISCONSIN FORWARD**

Power Wisconsin Forward is organized on the foundational truth that methane gas infrastructure is bad for our people, planet, and pocketbooks. Supported by the Clean Economy Coalition of Wisconsin (CECW) and its more than 50 partner organizations, the campaign is focused on educating Wisconsinites and activating change to enable a cleaner energy future for our state that creates jobs, builds energy reliability, and saves people money. Learn more and get involved at [www.powerwisconsinforward.com](http://www.powerwisconsinforward.com)