

Dear Neighbors and Supporters,

We write to you representing Friends of Responsible Energy (FORE) and Madison Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR). We are asking for your **immediate financial support** to enable FORE to file for an **injunction** and **appeal** to the Dane County Circuit Court of the PSC's approval of Madison Gas and Electric's (MGE's) proposal for a 150-MW power plant on the UW Madison campus.

Recognizing the hazards of fine particulates (so-called PM2.5), last year California adopted a stricter standard than the EPA's. The area in the vicinity of MGE's plant is *already* at 110% of the California limit.

Madison air quality is at borderline levels. The incidence of **asthma** in Madison schoolchildren has tripled since 1987. If the currently conceived plant is built, it will intensify air pollution along a corridor that is already burdened by automobile emissions and UW's existing Walnut Street heating plant. Children have more lung surface area and breathe more air pound-for-pound than adults. The severity and incidence of asthma attacks in area children is bound to increase.

The DNR predicts that the MGE plant will increase our annual level of PM2.5 to 96% of the EPA limit. Even without the plant this area is at 88% of the EPA limit.

Yet **superior air emission control technologies** are available today. They cost more, adding perhaps **\$6 million** to the cost of MGE's plant. We believe that is a small price for a large power plant to provide a safer, cleaner environment for its neighbors. Unfortunately the PSC acceded to MGE's plan to use **cheaper, 40-year-old** control technologies.

A legal appeal will also highlight the failure of the state to consider alternative solutions to satisfy UW's needs for steam, chilled water, and backup electricity. For example, compared to the MGE plant, a smaller, UW-owned cogeneration plant would be environmentally friendlier, less expensive, and provide superior electrical backup for critical university functions. **The failure to consider alternatives violates WEPA**, Wisconsin's Environmental Protection Act.

Studies by three unrelated organizations showed that MGE's plan is substantially more expensive for Wisconsin taxpayers than a UW-owned facility would be.

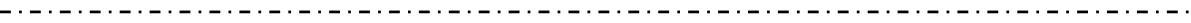
A court appeal requires **money**. It is difficult in these times to come up with discretionary funds for worthy causes. Nevertheless, if you can contribute a thoughtful amount then we will be able to advance the agenda for **protecting children's health** through this legal action.

MGE's electric rates are the highest in Wisconsin.

Whether that amount is **\$5 or \$500 or more**, this is your family's opportunity to take a stand. Time is short. The **filing deadline** is the first week in November. We need your go-ahead **immediately** to prepare this filing. Otherwise this plant will neither be reconsidered nor built with state-of-the-art air pollution control technologies.

Please reply today. Thank you.

Ann Behrmann, MD (Madison PSR)
Chamond Liu (FORE)



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