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**BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN**

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Application of Wisconsin Electric Power  
Company for a Certificate of Authority to  
Construct and Place in Operation a 50 MW  
Biomass-Fueled Cogeneration Facility to be  
Located in the Village of Rothschild in  
Marathon County, Wisconsin

Docket No. 6630-CE-305

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DR. KRISTINE A. GILMORE  
ON BEHALF OF D.C. EVEREST AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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**Q. What is your name?**

A. Dr. Kristine A. Gilmore

**Q. What is your profession?**

A. I am the Superintendent of the D.C. Everest Area School District.

**Q. What is your business address?**

A. 6300 Alderson Street, Weston, Wisconsin 54476

**Q. Please describe your education.**

A. Before college, I attended Weston Elementary and D.C. Everest Junior High, and graduated from D.C. Everest Senior High. I received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse in 1991. I received a Master of Arts degree in Educational Administration from Edgewood College in 1996 and a Doctor of Education degree from Edgewood College in 2005.

**Q. What is your employment experience?**

A. After graduating college in 1991, I taught for Cooperative Education Services Agencies No. 8 and 3. In 1997 I became Assistant Principal at D.C. Everest Junior High. In 2000 I

1 became Principal at Evergreen Elementary, and a year later I became Principal at D.C.  
2 Everest Middle School. In July of 2003 I became Superintendent of the D.C. Everest  
3 Area School District, the position I currently hold. In 2006 I became an adjunct professor  
4 at Edgewood College, a position that I also currently hold.

5 **Q. Do you belong to any professional organizations?**

6 A. Yes, I am a member of the American Association of School Administrators and a  
7 member of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Association of School District  
8 Administrators.

9 **Q. What are your duties and responsibilities as the Superintendent?**

10 A. My job description is attached as Exhibit 14.1.

11 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

12 A. State law and administrative regulations, including Wis. Stat. §118.07 and Wis. Admin.  
13 Code § PI 8-01(2)(i), places on the District responsibility for the health and safety of its  
14 students and staff. I am testifying to explain the District's concern about potential air  
15 pollution and the resulting health risks to the District's students and staff from the  
16 proposed Rothschild biomass cogeneration plant.

17 **Q. Where is the D.C. Everest Area School District located?**

18 A. D.C. Everest Area School District is located in north central Wisconsin. The district is  
19 located in Marathon County on the southeast side of Wausau.

20 **Q. What communities are included in the District?**

21 A. The City of Schofield, City of Wausau, Town of Easton, Village of Kronenwetter, Town  
22 of Norrie, Town of Ringle, Town of Reid, Town of Wausau, Town of Weston, Village of  
23 Hatley, Village of Rothschild, and Village of Weston.

1 **Q. Geographically, how large is the District?**

2 A. The district encompasses 162 square miles.

3 **Q. How many schools are in the District?**

4 A. The District operates eleven public schools: Easton, Evergreen, Hatley, Mountain Bay,  
5 Riverside, Rothschild, Schofield, Weston, and D.C. Everest Middle, Junior High, and  
6 Senior High. In addition to eleven public schools, the District operates the  
7 Administration Building, Greenheck Field House, Twin Oaks Environmental Center, Eau  
8 Claire Nature Center, and Weston Hardwood Forest.

9 **Q. What grades of education does the District provide?**

10 A. The district provides five-year old kindergarten through twelfth grade. In addition, the  
11 district provides special education and early childhood services for 3-5 year olds. The  
12 District also provides free continuing public education to adult residents who did not  
13 complete their high school education.

14 **Q. How many students does the District have?**

15 A. As of the September 28, 2010 required reporting to the State of Wisconsin, Department  
16 of Public Instruction, the District had 5,674 students. The number of students fluctuates  
17 throughout the year. Exhibit 14.2 contains a current list of the number of students  
18 attending each school.

19 **Q. How many teachers and staff members are employed by the District?**

20 A. The District has 731 teachers and staff members.

21 **Q. Where are the District schools located?**

1 A. Exhibit 14.3 is a map showing the location of the District schools. The District includes  
2 two schools in Rothschild, five schools in Weston, two schools in Ringle, and one school  
3 each in Mosinee, Hatley, Schofield, and Easton.

4 **Q. Where is Rothschild Elementary located in relation to the Domtar Paper Mill?**

5 A. It is located on a 57-foot hill immediately across the highway from the Domtar facility.

6 **Q. Can you describe the Rothschild Elementary building?**

7 A. The school building runs generally north and south and is a bi-level building set into a  
8 hill. The upper floor front of the building faces the east side of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and includes the  
9 school entrance and windows. The west side of the building has two floors with windows  
10 facing a 600' x 180' playground and playground equipment on the hill overlooking the  
11 Domtar facility and the Wisconsin River. The school grounds include an outdoor  
12 basketball hoop on a blacktop play area south of the building and an outdoor wooded  
13 nature trail.

14 **Q. How many students currently attend Rothschild Elementary?**

15 A. 340.

16 **Q. What educational grades are at Rothschild Elementary?**

17 A. Five-year old kindergarten through grade 5.

18 **Q. What educational grades are at D.C. Everest Junior High?**

19 A. Grade 8 through grade 9.

20 **Q. What educational grades are at D.C. Everest Senior High?**

21 A. Grade 10 through grade 12.

22 **Q. How close are the eleven District schools to the proposed Rothschild biomass  
23 cogeneration plant?**

1 A. Rothschild Elementary is within one-half mile and D.C. Everest Junior High is within  
2 one mile from the proposed plant. This distance of each of the schools from the Domtar  
3 facility is shown in Exhibit 14.4.

4 **Q. Are any non-District schools located near the proposed plant?**

5 A. Yes, Newman Catholic Elementary and St. Mark's Catholic school are also about one  
6 mile from the proposed plant.

7 **Q. What responsibility does the District have regarding its students' and staff  
8 members' health and safety?**

9 A. Wisconsin statutes require the District to provide safe and healthful facilities and to keep  
10 its buildings in good repair and in safe and sanitary conditions.

11 **Q. What is the District's current ability to remove air pollution in its schools?**

12 A. None. The District's schools are not equipped with air cleaning equipment. The  
13 District's oldest buildings lack even the duct work to which air cleaning equipment could  
14 be attached. The District's schools are not equipped to remove air pollution from the  
15 proposed plant.

16 **Q. What is the school year for the D.C. Everest schools?**

17 A. The school years begin by September 1 each year in accordance with state law and  
18 continue until the first or second week of June.

19 **Q. During the school year, what is the daily time schedule for the schools?**

20 A. The schools are on a staggered time schedule. Exhibit 14.5 gives the time schedule.  
21 Extra-curricular activities, such as clubs and athletic practices, take place after school.  
22 Athletic contests, concerts, and plays take place at night and on the weekend.

23 **Q. How do the students get to school?**

1 A. The District provides school bus service by a vendor to and from school for students  
2 living more than one-half mile from their respective schools. Students who do not take a  
3 bus, walk, run, bike, skateboard, or receive rides from parents.

4 **Q. How many bus routes are operated for the District?**

5 A. There are 58 bus routes that operate in the morning and afternoon to bring students to and  
6 from the District schools.

7 **Q. When the students arrive, do they enter the school buildings?**

8 A. Students remain outside until the time the doors open.

9 **Q. Are there other times students are outdoors?**

10 A. Yes. The students are also outside for morning recess, lunch recess, and afternoon recess,  
11 physical education classes, fire drills, and during extra curricular activities after classes.

12 **Q. How long are the extra curricular activities?**

13 A. One to six hours.

14 **Q. Are there times when students are not outside at these times?**

15 A. Only when there is severe bad weather; specifically, when the actual temperature outside  
16 is below 0 or if the wind chill is below -25.

17 **Q. Are there any teachers or staff outside with the children when they are outside?**

18 A. Yes.

19 **Q. When were the District's school buildings built and opened?**

20 A. Exhibit 14.2 lists the years in which the respective buildings were opened.

21 **Q. As Superintendent and a former assistant principal, principal and student, are you  
22 familiar with the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning of the District's school  
23 buildings?**

- 1 A. Yes, I am.
- 2 **Q. Can you describe generally the heating and ventilation at Rothschild Elementary?**
- 3 A. Rothschild is a hot water boiler condensing system. Rooms are individually heated by  
4 unit ventilators. Direct air intake of outside air occurs at each unit ventilator.
- 5 **Q. Is Rothschild Elementary air-conditioned?**
- 6 A. Of the 25 classrooms, library, computer lab, gymnasium, etc., only three classrooms  
7 located downstairs with no windows, the computer lab, and Instructional Media Center  
8 (IMC) are air conditioned by window units. The office also has air conditioning units.
- 9 **Q. What rooms have windows at Rothschild Elementary?**
- 10 A. All except on the lower level on the east side of the building.
- 11 **Q. Who opens the windows?**
- 12 A. The teachers.
- 13 **Q. When do they open the windows?**
- 14 A. When the weather is warm, teachers typically will open the windows in their rooms. At  
15 other times of the year, including the winter except for extremely cold weather, teachers  
16 will open the windows when the sun or heating/ventilation system makes it too warm for  
17 the learning process.
- 18 **Q. Can you describe generally the heating and ventilation at the D.C. Everest Junior  
19 High?**
- 20 A. Please see Exhibit 14.6.
- 21 **Q. Is D.C. Everest Junior High air-conditioned?**
- 22 A. The Junior High has some air conditioning units which are described in Exhibit 14.6.
- 23 **Q. Which rooms have windows at D.C. Everest Junior High?**

1 A. All rooms have windows except on the lower level on the south end of the building.

2 **Q. Who opens the windows?**

3 A. The teachers.

4 **Q. When do they open the windows?**

5 A. When the weather is warm, teachers typically will open the windows in their rooms. At  
6 other times of the year including the winter except for extremely cold weather, teachers  
7 will open the windows when the sun or heating/ventilation system makes it too warm for  
8 the learning process.

9 **Q. Do any of your students have respiratory health problems?**

10 A. Yes.

11 **Q. Do you know what types of respiratory health problems?**

12 A. Yes. Certain students have asthma.

13 **Q. Does the District have any records of the number of students that have some  
14 respiratory health problems?**

15 A. Yes. We have records of students who use inhalers, take other prescription drugs, or  
16 parents have self-reported to the district.

17 **Q. What is Exhibit 14.7?**

18 A. Exhibit 14.7 is a listing of the number of students who use inhalers, take other  
19 prescription drugs, or parents have self-reported to the district.

20 **Q. Does this list include all students who have respiratory health problems?**

21 A. No it does not. Other students have respiratory health problems but do not have to use  
22 inhalers or other prescription drugs at school and do not make the school district aware of  
23 these conditions.

- 1 **Q. Does any of your staff have respiratory health problems?**
- 2 A. I believe so.
- 3 **Q. Do you know what types of respiratory health problems?**
- 4 A. No.
- 5 **Q. Does the District have any records of the number of staff that have some respiratory**
- 6 **health problems?**
- 7 A. No.
- 8 **Q. In your capacity as Superintendent, do you have occasion to visit the District**
- 9 **schools?**
- 10 A. Yes, I usually visit the District schools weekly.
- 11 **Q. When you have visited these schools, have you made any observations?**
- 12 A. I have detected a distinct odor, both inside and outside of some, but not all, of the school
- 13 buildings during my visits.
- 14 **Q. Will you describe the odor?**
- 15 A. A sweet vinegar smell.
- 16 **Q. Have you detected this distinct odor every time you visited the District schools?**
- 17 A. No, but I have detected the odor regularly.
- 18 **Q. Have you detected the odor both inside and outside of Rothschild Elementary?**
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 **Q. When was the last time you detected the odor at Rothschild Elementary?**
- 21 A. Wednesday, October 20, 2010.
- 22 **Q. Was the odor then as you have previously described?**
- 23 A. Yes.

1 **Q. Do you know what the source of this odor is?**

2 A. I believe the odor is from the Domtar mill. I have detected it in other places in the  
3 community.

4 **Q. Have you detected this distinct odor both inside and outside of D.C. Everest Junior  
5 High?**

6 A. Yes.

7 **Q. When was the last time you detected the odor at the D.C. Everest Junior High?**

8 A. Wednesday, October 20, 2010.

9 **Q. Was the odor then as you have previously described?**

10 A. Yes.

11 **Q. Do you know what the source of this odor is?**

12 A. I believe the odor is from the Domtar mill. I have detected it in other places in the  
13 community.

14 **Q. Have you detected this distinct odor both inside and outside D.C. Everest Senior  
15 High?**

16 A. Yes.

17 **Q. When was the last time you detected the odor at D.C. Everest Senior High?**

18 A. Wednesday, October 20, 2010.

19 **Q. Was the odor then as you have previously described?**

20 A. Yes.

21 **Q. Do you know what the source of this odor is?**

22 A. I believe it is from the Domtar mill. I have noticed it in other places in the community.

1 **Q. Other than students of the D.C. Everest Area School District and adults, do any**  
2 **other students or adults use its facilities?**

3 A. Yes, students from other schools, coaches, families and friends use our facilities for extra  
4 curricular activities including athletic and other events.

5 **Q. Do adults use Rothschild Elementary, D.C. Everest Junior High or D.C. Everest**  
6 **Senior High?**

7 A. Yes.

8 **Q. What is the length of employment of the District's teachers and staff?**

9 A. Employment ranges from new this year through 39 years on the job.

10 **Q. Are there currently in place any safety measures with respect to the Domtar Paper**  
11 **Mill to assist in protecting students and staff?**

12 A. Yes. There is in place a direct emergency phone line between Domtar and Rothschild  
13 Elementary. It permits an immediate, direct contact between Domtar and the District in  
14 the event of an occurrence at Domtar that would potentially compromise the safety of our  
15 students and staff and permit the District to take measures that might minimize safety  
16 dangers by, for example, closing a school or schools or moving students and staff to  
17 another District location.

18 **Q. Is the District aware of Dr. MacIntosh's opinions 1) that Rothschild Elementary and**  
19 **D.C. Everest Junior High should be provided air conditioning equipment with**  
20 **MERV 11 air filters, and 2) that Rothschild Elementary, D.C. Everest Junior High**  
21 **and D.C. Everest Senior High should be provided real time air monitoring**  
22 **equipment which would report directly to the School Administration?**

23 A. Yes, I am aware of those opinions.

1 **Q. What is the District’s position with respect to the application of Wisconsin Electric**  
2 **Power Company and Domtar to build and operate a biomass co-generation facility**  
3 **at the proposed location?**

4 A. The District is neutral as to the application provided that the PCS require Wisconsin  
5 Electric Power Company (Wisconsin Electric) to provide and operate air conditioning  
6 equipment with MERV 11 filters at Rothschild Elementary and D.C. Everest Junior High  
7 and provide real-time air monitoring equipment at Rothschild Elementary, D.C. Everest  
8 Junior High, and D.C. Everest Senior High, which would provide real-time readings  
9 directly to both the School Administration and to the management of the proposed plant.

10 **Q. How would these measures protect the health and safety of students and staff at**  
11 **these schools?**

12 A. The presence of air conditioning with MERV 11 air filters in these schools would  
13 eliminate the present heating and ventilation system which draws outside air into the  
14 schools’ classrooms, libraries, computer labs, gymnasiums, lunch rooms. The equipment  
15 and filters would also eliminate the need for teachers to open windows throughout the  
16 year, open windows that provide pathways for continuing exposure of students and staff  
17 to air pollutants. The real-time air monitoring reports to School Administration and plant  
18 management would provide the District the ability to respond to any potentially  
19 dangerous level of air pollutants or bring students and staff immediately into school  
20 buildings, moving students and staff to a safer location, or closing schools. The reporting  
21 to plant management would give it the opportunity to take corrective action.

22 **Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

23 A. Yes, it does.