

**BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN**

Joint Application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company and
Wisconsin Gas LLC for Authority to Adjust Electric, Natural
Gas, and Steam Rates

Docket No. 5-UR-110

**REQUEST TO INTERVENE AND NOTICE OF APPEARANCE
OF WALNUT WAY CONSERVATION CORP.**

Pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.21, Walnut Way Conservation Corp. (“Walnut Way”) hereby files this request to intervene and Notice of Appearance in the above-captioned proceeding.

I. STATEMENT OF INTEREST IN THE PROCEEDING.

Walnut Way is a 501(c)3 nonprofit neighborhood organization founded in 2000 by Milwaukee, Wisconsin residents in Lindsay Heights. The organization’s stated goal is to reclaim and redevelop the economic health and vitality of the community. Lindsay Heights is located on Milwaukee’s near-Northside from Walnut to Locust Street and I-43 to 20th Street. Lindsay Heights was named after community leader Bernice Lindsay, who is commonly referred to in Milwaukee as “the mother of the black community.” Almost 90% of Lindsay Heights residents are black.¹ Walnut Way was created to revitalize a struggling neighborhood in which, even today, almost half live in poverty and the median income is less than half the national average.²

¹ U.S. Census Bureau (2020). ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=United%20States&g=1400000US55079008400,55079008500,55079008600,55079185400,55079185500,55079185900&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Data%20Profiles&tid=ACSDP5Y2020.DP05>.

² U.S. Census Bureau (2020). ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=United%20States&g=1400000US55079008400,55079008500,55079008600,55079185400,55079185500,55079185900&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Data%20Profiles&tid=ACSDP5Y2020.DP05>.

Over more than twenty years, Walnut Way has brought together Lindsay Heights residents with area business owners, non-profits, young people, and other partners and community stakeholders to address the neighborhood's most pressing economic, environmental, and health issues. Their innovative work has included restoring dilapidated homes, building a community center, transforming vacant lots into gardens and orchards, creating a wellness program, developing new venues for economic development, promoting renewable energy, and supporting pathways to meaningful employment. Over 200 residents and partners developed the Lindsay Heights Quality of Life plan that sets its vision and guides their work in health and wellness, economic prosperity, and environmental stewardship.

One of Walnut Way's current initiatives, on which it has partnered with other local organizations, is to promote environmental justice for residents of the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood, including by assessing energy burden and access to renewable energy. These are relevant issues to this docket. Walnut Way itself, and Lindsay Heights residents, businesses, and community stakeholders, are customers of WEPCO utilities. All of these individuals, organizations, and corporations have a substantial interest that may be affected by the commission's action or inaction in this proceeding. *See* Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.21(1). Both WEPCO and Wisconsin Gas have requested increases in their electric and natural gas rates, that would raise their customers' utility bills and therefore directly affect Walnut Way and other customers in the Lindsay Heights

neighborhood. Walnut Way has a strong vested interest in ensuring fairness in the energy burden for the low-income community members it represents. Thus, Walnut Way should be granted intervention under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.21(1).

Alternatively, Walnut Way should be granted permissive intervention in this proceeding. Walnut Way's advocacy on behalf of residential ratepayers will promote the proper disposition of the issues to be determined. No schedule has been set in this case nor has the Commission filed a Notice in this docket. Walnut Way will work within all deadlines so as to not impede the timely completion of this docket. Thus, Walnut Way should be granted intervention under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.21(2).

II. NOTICE OF APPEARANCE.

Christa O. Westerberg and Awais M. Khaleel will serve as attorneys for Walnut Way in this case. Walnut Way requests that all further documents and correspondence be served on:

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Walnut Way Conservation Corp.
c/o Antonio Butts, Executive Director
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III. CONCLUSION.

For the reasons stated above, Walnut Way respectfully requests that the Commission grant its request to intervene in the above-captioned proceeding.

Dated this 18th day of May, 2022.

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