

# **Description of Current IUB Notice of Inquiry (NOI) Proceedings**

## **Stan Wolf, Manager of Policy Development, IUB**

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### **Coal NOI**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed new regulations concerning discharges into water, coal fly ash, and air regulations regarding ozone, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, mercury, and carbon dioxide. These regulations likely will require the upgrading of some coal plants, the retirement of others, and the conversion of yet others to natural gas. This inquiry requests regulated utilities to prepare several scenarios describing how they could comply with the new regulations (such as upgrade all coal, convert some to natural gas, etc.), what the rate and other impacts are of each scenario, and “sensitivity” studies (exploring the impact on these projections if the price of natural gas or the interest rate or demand or the cost of construction, etc., is lower or higher than anticipated).

### **Transmission NOI**

The Transmission NOI notes that Iowa is a major producer of electricity from wind, that there are major transmission constraints within Iowa and between Iowa and surrounding states, and that several major transmission projects have been proposed to be constructed in Iowa. The inquiry requests data from major transmission project developers in Iowa (more than 50 miles in length and 345 kV or more) concerning the status of their project(s), and the costs and benefits of their projects. This inquiry will provide a central place in which to obtain data concerning these projects, should give some idea as to which projects may compete with each other in whole or in part, should provide a spur to project developers to complete their projects, and the discussion of benefits hopefully will increase the receptivity of Iowa generally to new large transmission lines.

### **Smart Grid NOI**

The purpose of this inquiry is to allow parties to provide the Board and others information concerning recent smart grid regulatory and technological developments and their costs and applicability to Iowa. This proceeding has been on going for several years and recently the Board became interested in getting parties to update their filings to show recent developments. The possibility of allowing aggregators of retail customers to represent retail customers in some situations is also explored. After data is filed, the Board will hold a workshop where interested parties can discuss the issues.