



**Stoughton Utilities**

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*Serving Electric, Water & Wastewater Since 1886*

## **News Release**

### **Stoughton Utilities**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New Wisconsin law protects Stoughton Utilities customers' privacy**

Governor Scott Walker signed into law an important new privacy measure for customers of Wisconsin's municipal utilities, including Stoughton Utilities, on July 5, 2013.

The state Assembly and Senate passed the Protecting Municipal Utility Customer Information bill (Wisconsin AB 106/SB 103) in early May, under the leadership of Rep. Mark Honadel (R-South Milwaukee) and Sen. Paul Farrow (R-Waukesha).

Wisconsin's municipally owned utilities carefully protect customer information as required by Public Service Commission rules. However, because they are public entities, some have received requests for municipal utility customer information under the state's open records law. By contrast, customers of investor-owned utilities in the state, which are not subject to the open records law, enjoy clear protection of their information under the PSC rules.

The Protecting Municipal Utility Customer Information legislation resolves the ambiguity between PSC code and open records law and prevents third parties from accessing private information about municipal utilities' customers.

“We understand that customers demand and expect that their privacy will be protected,” said Robert Kardasz, Stoughton Utilities Director. “Municipal utility leaders from across the state advocated on their customers’ behalf to ensure that consumer data remains confidential.”

Representatives from Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW), the trade association that strongly supported the bill, and WPPI Energy attended the bill signing. Forty-one locally owned utilities in Wisconsin, including Stoughton Utilities, are members of WPPI Energy, a not-for-profit company that supplies power and allows the utilities to share resources and save on operating costs.

Municipal electric utilities serve more than 280,000 homes and businesses in Wisconsin and account for more than 11% of electricity used in the state, according to MEUW.

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*Founded in 1886, Stoughton Utilities serves electric customers in Stoughton and the surrounding area; and wastewater and water customers in Stoughton.*

