



State of Wisconsin  
Governor Scott Walker

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**Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**  
Ben Brancel, Secretary

DATE: July 6, 2017  
TO: Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
FROM: Ben Brancel, Secretary *Ben Brancel*  
SUBJECT: Dissolution of the Rural Energy Management Council  
PRESENTED BY: Ben Brancel, Secretary

The Rural Energy Management Council was proposed by Chairman Al Ott of the Assembly Agriculture Committee on August 5, 1999. This DATCP advisory council held its first meeting on November 2, 1999 with the purpose to provide safe, efficient and cost-effective energy use in Wisconsin rural communities.

The 18-member council advised DATCP, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission and others on issues related to rural electrification, including stray voltage issues. The council helped to:

Coordinate with various organizations on rural energy issues; Gather and review available information; Make recommendations to decision-makers regarding rural issues; Identify opportunities for collaboration; Identify barriers or knowledge gaps.

The council convened over the years, and last met February 3, 2010. Because of rural energy use improvements and practices, and the lack of council activity, the Agricultural Development Division recommends the Rural Energy Management Council be dissolved.

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