

## MIRS Capitol Capsule, Monday, January 30, 2006

### **Both Houses Hear MPSC Energy Requests**

The Public Service Commission (MPSC) will go before a joint committee of the House and Senate to start what's expected to be a long process to ensure Michigan's energy needs are sustainable beyond 2009.

In early January, the Capacity Need Forum (CNF) said Michigan's energy needs would be met until 2009, when capacity needs, which are projected to increase 2.1 percent each year, exceed the capacity of current power plants and other energy sources.

The CNF recommended one, maybe two, new power plants be built by 2014 to meet expanding energy needs. It also recommended that several other plants be updated. Testimony may also include ideas for alternative energy sources, something Chair of the Senate Tech and Energy Committee Sen. Bruce **PATTERSON** (R-Canton) has been talking about in his committee for some time.

"At this time he's seeking input from the administration," said Patterson spokesman Christopher **KELLEY**. "He was seeking interfacing with the Senate Tech and Energy Committee and that really hasn't much occurred."

Patterson and other members of the committee starting looking at alternative energy long before Gov. Jennifer **GRANHOLM** made her state of the state address, to which Patterson wrote a response, Kelley said.

"I was the first on my feet when Gov. Granholm talked of energy issues and alternative fuels," Patterson wrote. "This has been my topic for over three years. The Tech and Energy Committee is going to move on this. We want to see her proposals sooner rather than later."

Patterson will look at Granholm's proposals as soon as she puts them together and will also get MPSC input before moving forward. Patterson is big on getting bi-partisan support on this issue, Kelley said.

The joint meeting set for 8:30 a.m. Wednesday was scheduled so both sides could hear the same presentation, Kelley said. During the meeting the MPSC and the committee might talk about where, when and how to get started constructing the recommended plants.