



---

---

## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

---

---

**2015 Wisconsin Act 61**  
[2015 Senate Bill 252]

**Utility Aid Payments for  
Decommissioned or Closed  
Production Plants**

### PRIOR LAW

Utility power plants are generally exempt from local taxation and are alternatively taxed by the state. In order to permit counties and municipalities to recoup their costs associated with providing services to these plants, the state makes utility aid payments to these units of local government. These shared revenue payments are incrementally reduced 20% annually over a five-year period following the decommissioning of a power plant after which they cease and the utility property is again taxed as real property. These reductions are implemented as follows:

1. In the first year that the property is taxable, 100%.
2. In the second year that the property is taxable, 80%.
3. In the third year that the property is taxable, 60%.
4. In the fourth year that the property is taxable, 40%.
5. In the fifth year that the property is taxable, 20%. [See s. 79.04 (5) (a) and (b), Stats.]

During the five-year period, the amount that a county or municipality received as an annual utility aid payment was reduced by the property taxes paid by the plant owner each year.

### 2015 WISCONSIN ACT 61

The Act provides that if a property tax exempt power plant is decommissioned or closed, becoming taxable, the county or municipality where the plant is located receives the aforementioned incremental utility aid payments in an annual amount that is not reduced by the property tax paid by the plant owner each year. This entitles the county or municipality to the full statutory payment percentage listed above.

*Effective date:* October 9, 2015

*Prepared by:* Dan Schmidt, Principal Analyst

October 26, 2015

DWS:mcm;ty

---

---

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.