

The state's largest natural gas utility is considering a new pipeline in western Wisconsin, to provide fuel to a growing number of plants that make frac sand. In a conference call with analysts this week, Wisconsin Energy CEO Gale Klappa said at least dozen frac sand mining companies have asked We Energies to consider providing them service. Klappa says until now, there hasn't been much need for additional gas lines here.

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Klappa said the utility is starting to check out possible routes between Tomah and Eau Claire County for a natural gas pipeline. He said the company expects to apply to state utility regulators next year for a project that may cost around \$150 million.