



NEWS

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American Transmission Co. to begin construction on cost-saving power line

Line will enable high-voltage connection to regional generation sources

MADISON, Wis. – American Transmission Co. will begin construction in early September of a new, 35-mile high-voltage electric transmission line in south central Wisconsin. The line will allow local electric distribution companies to access lower-cost power produced in the region by extending an existing transmission connection to Illinois.

“By reducing transmission congestion and increasing transfer capacity, this project will improve access to lower-cost energy,” said Mary Carpenter, ATC local relations. “We will do our best to inform landowners of the impact of our work, while keeping disruptions to a minimum as we complete the project.”

The line is the first of its kind in the Midwest. Until this project, transmission lines in the region have almost exclusively been built to enhance reliability of electrical power in the area. Although improved reliability will be a by-product of the project, economics drove the decision to build. Local electric utilities will save through improved access to the wholesale electricity market and their savings will be passed on to end-use electricity customers.

The 345-kilovolt circuit will be built on an existing transmission line right-of-way between the Rockdale Substation in the Town of Christiana in Dane County and the Paddock Substation located in the Town of Beloit in Rock County. The lines that extend south out of the Paddock Substation into Illinois create a path for importing power into Wisconsin.

Construction will begin with preparation of the rights-of-way for the line with tree trimming and pouring the foundations for the poles and is projected to be in service in 2010.

Anticipated savings from the approximately \$133 million project are expected to more than pay for its development.

Note to editors: A map and additional information on the Paddock-Rockdale project is available at www.atc-projects.com

ATC's other proposal for a 345-kilovolt line between the Rockdale Substation and the West Middleton Substation in the town of Middleton (Rockdale – West Middleton project) is under regulatory review. A decision on the project is expected sometime in 2009.

ATC owns, operates, builds and maintains the high-voltage electric transmission system serving portions of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Illinois. Formed in 2001 as the nation's first multi-state transmission-only utility, ATC has invested \$1.7 billion to improve the adequacy and reliability of its infrastructure. ATC now is a \$2.2 billion company with 9,350 miles of transmission lines and 500 substations. The company is a member of the Midwest ISO regional transmission organization, and provides nondiscriminatory service to all customers, supporting effective competition in energy markets without favoring any market participant. For more information, visit our Web site at www.atcllc.com.

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