



NEWS

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ATC places upgraded power line in service

Rebuilt facilities in northern Wisconsin, Upper Michigan improve power flow

DE PERE, Wis. – The last section of a rebuilt electric transmission line between Conover, Wis., and Quinnesec, Mich. has been placed into service.

“Upgrading this 74-mile line from 69,000 volts to 138,000 volts has helped reinforce the electric system in the entire region,” said Tom Schemm, construction project manager for American Transmission Co., owner and operator of the line. “These were some of the oldest facilities on our system, and the need for system improvements in this area was evident in the 1990s.”

ATC proposed the project in 2004; it was approved by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin in 2006 at an authorized cost of \$118 million. The project also included a new 16-mile, 115-kilovolt line between Eagle River and Conover, which was placed in service in June 2008. Rebuilding the lines between Conover and Quinnesec began in 2009 and was completed more than two months ahead of schedule and about 12 percent under budget. The project also involved construction of two new substations and modifications or upgrades to six additional substations.

“These facilities essentially complete the interconnection of three previously weak areas – the 115-kilovolt system north of Wausau, the western Upper Peninsula and the Iron Mountain, Mich., area,” Schemm said. “That will increase overall reliability in the area and improve our ability to transfer power between northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.” The older facilities also were vulnerable to lightning strikes and outages.

“Collaboration with our contractors, vendors and suppliers, including MJ Electric Inc. and Black & Veatch Engineering, helped us squeeze some of the cost out of the project through strategic use of lay-down yards, redesign of poles and foundations and efficient use of labor,” Schemm said. “Lessons learned on this project will be incorporated in our future construction activities.”

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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 \$2.7 billion to improve the adequacy and reliability of its infrastructure. ATC now is a \$2.75 billion company with 9,400 miles of transmission lines and 510 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.