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CORE Applauds PSC Decision on Rockdale-West Middleton Project

The new power line is a needed upgrade to the Dane County transmission network

The Coalition Organized for Reliable Energy is encouraged by the Public Service Commission's decision today approving the construction of the Rockdale-West Middleton transmission line. The new 345 kV project is a critical element in reducing the risk of electric outages in Dane County.

CORE members represent over 5,600 Dane County businesses and 40,000 workers, including major employers, labor unions, health care providers, farmers, area chambers of commerce, and numerous other local and statewide trade associations. CORE supports efforts to build the transmission infrastructure needed to ensure reliable electric power for Dane County's growing economy.

"The Commission's action today will help preserve electric reliability and maintain Dane County's attractiveness as a center for economic growth," said Tom Still, President of the Wisconsin Technology Council.

Since 1980 the County has experienced tremendous growth in **population** (nearly 50 percent), **housing** (nearly 50 percent), **employment** (over 60 percent), and most of all **electric sales** (over 100 percent). The electrical infrastructure has not kept pace with this growth; no new high-voltage transmission lines have been built in Dane County since the 1970s.

"The PSC decision will reinforce the entire transmission network in Dane County," said Dave Poklinkoski, Business Manager of IBEW Local 2304. "A new 345 kV line will reduce the risk of system outages and eliminate the need for multiple, new, lower voltage lines in the future."

Inadequate transmission capacity has also left Dane County customers with a limited ability to access lower-cost energy sources (including renewable energy) outside the County. This has had a substantial financial impact on consumers who receive most of their energy from outside the County. The PSC decision today will help Dane County customers access power from outside the county and reliably transfer it to where it is needed in growing areas of the county.



“We need an adequate, reliable supply of electricity for our various manufacturing processes,” said Kevin Bacon, Plant Manager for Kraft Foods/Oscar Mayer. “The Rockdale-West Middleton project will provide a strong backbone line from eastern to western Dane County. Transmission is basic infrastructure investment needed to support Dane County businesses and residents.”

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Supporters

- Alliant Energy
- Associated Builders & Contractors of Wisconsin
- Building and Construction Trades
- Capital Warehouse Corporation
- Central Storage & Warehouse Corp.
- CUNA Mutual Group
- Dane County Farm Bureau
- De Forest Chamber of Commerce
- The Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce
- Hovde Realty
- Hydrite Chemical Corp.
- IBEW Local 965
- IBEW Local 2150
- IBEW Local 2304
- Keller Real Estate Group
- Kraft Foods: Oscar Mayer (Madison Plant)
- Madison Area Technical College
- Meriter Hospital
- MG&E
- Midwest Food Processors Association
- Middleton Chamber of Commerce
- Miron Construction Company, Inc.
- Mt. Horeb Chamber of Commerce
- Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin
- National Federation of Independent Businesses
- Park Towne Development Corp
- Plumbers Local 75
- Plumbers & Steamfitters UA Local 434
- Realtors Association of South Central Wisconsin
- Stoughton, City of
- Stoughton Chamber of Commerce
- U.W. Research Park
- Utility Workers Coalition
- Verona Area Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee
- Wisconsin Agribusiness Council
- Wisconsin Biotechnology and Medical Device Association
- Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association
- Wisconsin Economic Development Association
- Wisconsin Electric Cooperatives Association
- Wisconsin Grocers Association
- Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce
- Wisconsin Merchants Federation
- Wisconsin Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association
- Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association
- Wisconsin Restaurant Association
- WPPI Energy
- Wisconsin Technology Council