



ROCKDALE TO WEST  
MIDDLETON 345 KV  
TRANSMISSION LINE  
PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL  
REFERENCE DOCUMENT

# ROCKDALE – WEST MIDDLETON ENVIRONMENTAL REFERENCE DOCUMENT

## Table of Contents

1) INTRODUCTION .....	1
2) COMMUNICATION .....	1
3) ENVIRONMENTAL MARKING AND STAKING .....	2
4) TREE & BRUSH DISPOSAL .....	2
5) SEDIMENT & EROSION CONTROL .....	2
6) AGRICULTURAL LANDS.....	3
7) DEWATERING .....	3
8) WETLAND CONSTRUCTION .....	3
9) WATERWAY CONSTRUCTION AND CROSSINGS .....	4
10) ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES .....	4
11) SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE .....	4
12) RESTORATION .....	5

## ATTACHMENTS

Segment Specific Construction and Mitigation Plans (CMP) per Condition #'s 8 and 10 of the WDNR Utility Permit

Segment A

Segment B (to be added at a later date)

Yahara River Wetlands (to be added at a later date)

Segment H (to be added at a later date)

Segment O (to be added at a later date)

WDNR Permits

USACE Permits

PSCW Order

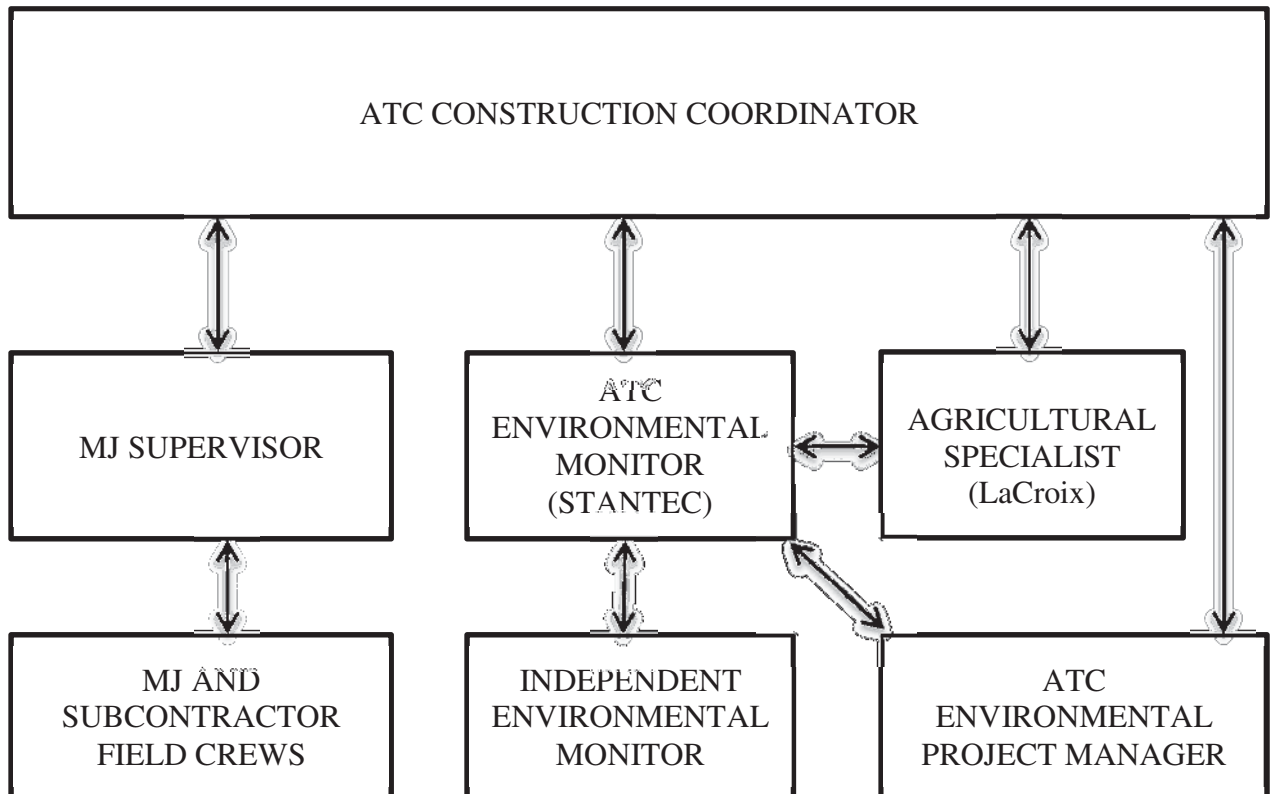
ATC Exhibit 31, Summary of Environmental Commitments

## 1) INTRODUCTION

The construction methods and protocols identified in this Environmental Reference Document (document) have been developed in cooperation with, and utilizing input from, the appropriate state agencies. The purpose of this document is to describe standard construction and mitigation measures that will be used during vegetation clearing, construction of the transmission line, and restoration of the right-of-way (ROW). The document is intended for use as a reference during construction of the Rockdale – West Middleton Project and applies to all four transmission line construction segments.

## 2) COMMUNICATION

The ATC Construction Coordinator will serve as the main point of contact for the MJ Construction Supervisor and the ATC Environmental Monitor. The ATC Environmental Monitor will serve as the main point of contact for the Independent Environmental Monitor and the Agricultural Specialist. If environmental or agricultural issues arise that require a change in the contractor's work instructions, communication of the decision will follow the chain of command as diagramed below to ensure that all parties have an appropriate understanding of the requirements and their responsibility.



Refer to the Rockdale to West Middleton Project Contact list for contact information.

### 3) ENVIRONMENTAL MARKING AND STAKING

- a) The ATC Environmental Project Manager in consultation with the project team will develop segment specific Environmental Access Plans.
- b) ATC will work with the Project Teams to mark and stake relevant features depicted in the Environmental Access Plan (located in segment specific CMP's) for use in the field. Environmental staking locations that could be difficult to identify under certain field conditions will be GPS located, so that if they become damaged or removed they can be quickly and accurately restored.
- c) The ATC Environmental Project Manager will work with the Project Team to determine the marking scheme for the project or activity. Examples of the field marking scheme will be available to all persons performing work on the project and will be posted and maintained at the field trailers.
- d) Initial field markings will be placed by the ATC Environmental Monitor. The Contractor, under guidance from the ATC Environmental Monitor, will be responsible for protecting the field markings and restoring them as necessary and will be responsible for the removal of all stakes, fences, tapes, flags, and other markings at the completion of construction.
- e) The Contractor will be responsible to contact the ATC Environmental Monitor about any uncertainty relating to these markings on the Access Maps or in the field.

### 4) TREE & BRUSH DISPOSAL

ATC will work with landowners to determine tree and brush disposition for each property. Where landowners request that cut brush be burned within the ROW, the Contractor will obtain any required local permits and follow local ordinances. All brush burning activities will be conducted in accordance with local permits, ordinances and Chapter NR 429.

In most instances woodchips will remain in the general vicinity where the vegetation was cut. However, in some areas the landowner may require that ATC remove cut material. If woody plant material that contains invasive species must be removed from the ROW, acceptable disposal locations include:

- A landfill
- A site where the wood will be burned for fuel
- A site where it would be composted
- A reclamation site where it would be used as fill

When transporting invasive plant material, it needs to be covered so that plant parts are not lost during travel. No material will be transported from Dane County into a gypsy moth non-quarantine county without prior approval.

### 5) SEDIMENT & EROSION CONTROL

#### Erosion Control

- a) Detailed erosion control plans will be developed for each segment of the Rockdale - West Middleton Project. Copies of the segment specific erosion control plans are available to all persons working on this project, and will be maintained in the construction trailers. All work must be completed in compliance with the segment specific Erosion Control Plans.
- b) Per condition #40 of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) permit, if erosion blankets are used, they shall be composed of rapidly biodegradable jute and non-netted or loosely netted to allow for small animal passage. Fine mesh monofilament matting (curlex type) and

matting that is tied or bonded at the mesh intersections such that the mesh openings are fixed in size are not allowable.

#### Dust Control

Use all appropriate means necessary to control dust on and near the work site if such dust is caused by the Contractor's operations. Measures to control dust may include moistening or sweeping surfaces as required to prevent dust from being a nuisance to the public, neighbors, and concurrent performance of other work on the site.

#### Mud Control

Use all means necessary to control mud and tracking of mud both on and off the construction site. This may include, but is not limited to, stone tracking pads and sweeping or cleaning areas of tracked mud from driveways, streets, sidewalks, etc. by appropriate means (road sweepers, graders, backhoes, loaders, water trucks, shovels, brooms, etc. as needed). Clean up should occur daily, or as soon as practicable.

### **6) AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

- a) If significant rutting (in excess of six inches deep) in agricultural areas is anticipated or begins to occur, mitigation measures will be employed. Mitigation measures include:
  - i) placing construction mats on access routes and work areas,
  - ii) temporarily suspending work until the area dries out or firms up, or
  - iii) using approved alternate access.
- b) The Contractor shall strip and segregate all topsoils and subsoils at all excavation sites located within cropped and uncropped areas in agricultural fields, and all areas where access grading is required within agricultural fields. Stripped topsoil will be stockpiled near the location where it was removed, and will be replaced as soon as practicable. If necessary, new topsoil will be spread if topsoil has been lost or substantially mixed with subsoils.
- c) All parent material/spoil excavated will be removed from agricultural fields, unless the landowner agrees to have it disposed of on his/her land at an upland location.
- d) Every reasonable effort shall be made so as not to damage drainage systems.

### **7) DEWATERING**

If dewatering is required during construction activities, it shall be conducted in compliance with condition 49 and 50 of the WDNR Utility Permit (attached) and the WPDES General Permit No. WI-S067831-3: Construction Site Storm Water Runoff (attached). WDNR Conservation Practice Standard 1061 – Dewatering must be followed (Appendix C of the Segment A Erosion Control Plan).

### **8) WETLAND CONSTRUCTION**

- a) During excavation in wetlands, the topsoil layer, or 6-12 inches of surface soils, will be stripped and segregated for temporary storage on construction mats or geotextile fabric. The segregated topsoil will be restored to its original location, with minimal mounding. Note that approximately 6 inch height of mounding is needed for caisson foundations, and 12 inches for direct embed, to prevent a depression subsequent to soil settling.
- b) Excavation will be done in a manner that eliminates the discharge of excess fill into the wetlands. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways including:

- i) Capturing all excavated materials and disposing of in an upland location
  - ii) Temporary storage of excavated materials on construction mats or geotextile fabrics prior to removal from wetland
  - iii) Removal of all temporary fill or materials produced during or used in the construction from wetland areas
- c) For stringing wire in wetlands, the Contractor may use small-track vehicles or all-terrain vehicles to pull the conductor including areas within the ROW that are not specified for vehicular access in the segment specific Environmental Access Plans (located in Attachment A).
  - d) Construction access paths in wetlands may be used when the wetland soil is firm enough to avoid rutting greater than 6 inches deep, or the access path has been appropriately stabilized with construction matting or ice roads.

## **9) WATERWAY CONSTRUCTION AND CROSSINGS**

- a) Streams will be crossed using existing bridges or culverts or permitted temporary bridges (TCSBs) as identified in the segment specific environmental access plans (located in Attachment A).
- b) For wire stringing across waterways where temporary bridge permits have not been acquired and equipment crossing is restricted, no vehicles will enter the waterway. Wire stringing areas shall be placed at least 50 feet from the waterway on each side. Protective measures may be utilized to protect unstable soils or stream banks.
- c) For stringing wire across waterways, the Contractor may use methods dependent on hand transfer, boat transfer, or helicopter transfer, as appropriate to the situation.

## **10) ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES**

If unanticipated archeological resources or human remains are encountered during construction, work shall stop at that location and be immediately reported to the ATC Environmental Monitor and the ATC Construction Coordinator. Work will not commence in that location until the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) and Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) are notified and direction sought from the WHS. Construction may resume after the direction is followed and the qualified archeologist's reports, if any, are received and approved by the WHS.

## **11) SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

- a) All field employees will be trained on the spill prevention and response plan for the project.
- b) All spills or contaminated soils encountered during construction will be reported to the ATC Environmental Monitor and Construction Coordinator immediately, upon discovery.
- c) ATC will notify WDNR of spills or contaminated soils immediately, except for de-minimus exemption, to determine an approach to handle the materials.
- d) Any potentially contaminated soils that are temporarily stockpiled on-site will be either:
  - i) segregated from clean soils, placed on plastic sheeting, and covered by plastic sheeting in bermed areas, or
  - ii) placed in 50-gallon sealed drums that are properly labeled with the date, contents, and contact information.

### Refueling

- a) Refueling will be avoided within 100 feet of a wetland, water body, storm sewer, or combined sewer.

- b) In situations where refueling in wetlands cannot be avoided, secondary containment must be implemented and approved by the ATC Environmental Monitor.
- c) All refueling in wetlands will be documented in the ATC Environmental Daily Reports.

#### Spill Kits

- a) Spill kits must be well marked, adequately stocked, and readily available to crews at all times.

## **12) RESTORATION**

#### General

- a) Permanent restoration within any given area will be properly implemented within 30 days of final construction. If restoration is delayed due to weather or soil conditions, the area will be protected until permanent restoration can be completed.
- b) Restoration will include the removal of all construction-related materials, and the restoration of ruts and depressions.
- c) Following the completion of restoration and re-establishment of vegetation within the ROW, all temporary restoration erosion control devices not designed to be left in place (such as erosion control blankets, silt fencing, etc.) will be removed and disposed of properly.

#### Agricultural Restoration

- a) Disturbed agricultural lands (cropped fields and pasture lands) around poles sites shall be restored to the pre-construction contours using stockpiled topsoil or bringing in new topsoil where the topsoil was either lost or substantially mixed with subsoils.
- b) Segregated topsoils in wetlands should be respread around the installed pole foundation, with minimal mounding. Note that approximately 6 inch height of mounding is needed for caisson foundations, and 12 inches for direct embed, to prevent a depression subsequent to soil settling.
- c) Where rutting occurs, areas must be repaired and restored.
- d) After construction is complete compacted soils should be decompacted with the appropriate tillage tool.
- e) Damaged drainage systems should be replaced or repaired, or the owner appropriately compensated.
- f) Damaged soil conservation practices such as terraces or grassed waterways should be repaired or the landowner compensated.

#### Waterway Restoration

- a) All stream banks must be restored to pre-construction condition.
- b) All temporary clear span bridges must be removed and stream banks restored.
- c) If severe disturbance to stream banks does occur, such that it may be necessary to re-contour or add structure to stabilize disturbed stream bank areas, the WDNR shall be contacted. Any additional structure used to stabilize the stream bank may require a permit.
- d) If activities result in the need to access a waterway to complete restoration activities, the WDNR shall be contacted prior to completing the work within the waterway.
- e) No mulch will be applied in wetlands or on the banks of waterways. All erosion control measures taken will conform to WDNR Technical Standards.
- f) Location specific information that describes plans that differ from the restoration practices listed above are contained in segment specific Wooded Riparian Buffer Impact Minimization and Restoration Plan contained in the Construction and Mitigation Plan (CMP) (Attachment A) and submitted to the WDNR per condition #10 of the WDNR Utility Permit.

### Wetland Restoration

- a) Wetland restoration will be conducted in compliance with the segment specific Wetland Restoration and Revegetation Plan contained within the Construction and Mitigation Plan (CMP) (Attachment A) and submitted to the WDNR per condition #10 of the WDNR Utility Permit.
- b) Segregated topsoils in wetlands should be respread around the installed pole foundation, with minimal mounding. Note that approximately 6 inch height of mounding is needed for caisson foundations, and 12 inches for direct embed, to prevent a depression subsequent to soil settling.
- c) The right of way should be restored to pre-existing topography as much as practicable.