ATC, Xcel Energy plan to file application for Badger Coulee project this fall

American Transmission Co. and Xcel Energy are planning to file an application to build the Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin later this year. The approximately 160- to 180-mile, 345-kilovolt line would run from north of La Crosse to northern Dane County.

The project would:
- address electric system reliability issues locally and in the Midwest,
- provide economic savings and
- support renewable energy policy.

“The regulatory review process should take 12 to 18 months,” said ATC Environmental and Local Relations Manager Greg Levesque. “During that time, the PSC will provide opportunities for the public and other stakeholders to get involved.”

Proposed routes
ATC and Xcel Energy held a final round of public open houses in October 2012. With feedback received from the public, local officials and other stakeholders, we have analyzed and refined routing opportunities, specifically in the Holmen and Galesville, Wis., areas.

“The project supports renewable energy policy goals, provides economic benefits to ratepayers throughout the upper Midwest and increases electric reliability in the La Crosse area,” said Xcel Energy Project Manager David Rockwell. “In order to meet future electric demand, the Briggs Road Substation has been designated as the western end point for the project.”

Visit www.BadgerCoulee.com for project updates and an interactive route map.

Project would benefit Wisconsin electric consumers

In addition to reliability and renewable energy benefits for Wisconsin electric customers, the Badger Coulee project would provide between $259 and $841 million in economic benefits. These benefits outweigh the cost of construction.

Currently, congestion on Wisconsin’s interstate transmission connections increases costs to serve Wisconsin customers. By providing local utilities with a reliable connection to neighboring energy markets, utilities can buy and sell electricity to help moderate costs. They can buy power when it’s less expensive elsewhere and sell power if they have excess generation. Those savings will be passed on to you—the customer.

FACT:

It can take 8 to 10 years to study, conduct public outreach, receive regulatory approval and build a new transmission line.
You have asked, we are answering

**Q.** How is this project related to the CapX2020 project?

**A.** As proposed, the Badger Coulee project would make a single, 345-kV connection with the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse portion of the CapX2020 project. CapX2020 consists of five individual transmission line projects located in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities, including Xcel Energy. Visit www.CapX2020.com for more information about the CapX2020 project.

**Q.** What happens after ATC and Xcel Energy submit proposed routes to the PSC?

**A.** Once the application is submitted, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin will notify the public about the project and hold scoping meetings; create an Environmental Impact Statement, which is a detailed analysis by the PSC and DNR of how the Badger Coulee project might affect the environment; and hold technical and public hearings for the project. This regulatory review process will take approximately 12 to 18 months.

Construction on the 345-kV CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse project started in February 2013 in Minnesota. Grading work was completed in June 2013 at the Briggs Road Substation near Holmen, Wis. The Briggs Road Substation is the western end point for the Badger Coulee project. Real estate, surveying and soil boring work are being conducted this summer. Foundation installation for the Wisconsin portion of the CapX2020 project will begin in 2014.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Transmission line construction creates jobs, supports local businesses

- **$594.5 million** total economic impact
- **2,824 jobs** created and supported
- **$12.2 million** in tax revenue

*Source: NorthStar Economics, Inc.*
Badger Coulee project proposed routes
Who we are
American Transmission Co. is a Wisconsin-based transmission-only utility that owns, operates, builds and maintains transmission facilities in portions of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Illinois. For more information about ATC and our projects, visit www.atc-projects.com.

Xcel Energy is a major U.S. electricity and natural gas company, with retail operations in eight Western and Midwestern states, including Wisconsin. Xcel Energy provides a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to 3.4 million electricity customers and 1.9 million natural gas customers through its regulated operating companies. For more information about Xcel Energy, visit www.xcelenergy.com.

Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project

Project schedule

2010-2012: Public open houses and outreach
Fall 2013: File application with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
2015: Anticipated decision from the PSC
2016: Start construction
2018: Line in service

Dates are anticipated and subject to change. Visit www.BadgerCoulee.com for a complete project schedule.

BADGER COULEE BY THE NUMBERS

Voltage: 345 kilovolts
Length: Approximately 160 to 180 miles, depending on ordered route

Typical 345-kV right-of-way width:
105 to 150 feet

Typical 345-kV, single-circuit pole height:
80 to 120 feet

Estimated project cost: $510 million to $550 million, depending on ordered route

The Badger Coulee project would make it much easier to access renewables from wind-rich areas west of Wisconsin.