

BADGER COULEE TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

OVERVIEW

American Transmission Co. and Xcel Energy have plans for a high-voltage transmission line in western Wisconsin that would address electric system reliability issues locally and in the Midwest, provide economic savings and support renewable energy policy. The companies have identified two proposed routes for the approximately 160- to 180-mile, 345,000-volt line from north of La Crosse to northern Dane County.

A MULTI-BENEFIT PROJECT

Studies indicate that the Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project is a multi-benefit project, which would deliver benefits to Wisconsin and the Midwest region in three important ways:

Improve electric system reliability locally and regionally

- Provide increased regional transfer capacity and allow access to external generation. (ATC customers used the transmission system to import electricity 86 percent of the time in 2012.)
- Offset the need for approximately \$160 million in lower voltage transmission upgrades in western Wisconsin
- Alleviate stability issues in the Midwest region by allowing for additional generator capacity

Deliver economic benefits for Wisconsin utilities and electric consumers

- Provide utilities with greater access to the wholesale electricity market with potential savings that can be passed on to electric consumers
- Improve efficiency of grid; more efficient grid reduces the cost to deliver energy
- Connect to high-quality renewable resources in the nation's western wind alley vs. connecting to lower quality wind resources; that translates into hundreds of millions of dollars in potential savings

Expand infrastructure to support greater use of renewables

- As more renewable energy resources are planned, sited and built, additional transmission infrastructure is required to move power from where it's generated to where it's needed
- Match regional studies (Strategic Midwest Area Renewable Transmission Study and MISO Regional Generation Outlet Study) evaluating transmission options that best deliver renewable energy while also addressing reliability issues

TRANSMISSION LINE SITING PROCESS

When building new power lines, Wisconsin law requires co-location with existing facilities and infrastructure where it is feasible. The process begins by identifying a broad study area. Then potential corridors are identified that may be suitable for a transmission line and in accordance with state law are prioritized in the following manner:

Primary opportunities – utility corridors:

- Existing transmission and other electric lines
- Pipelines

Secondary opportunities – transportation corridors:

- State and federal highways
- Railroads

Tertiary opportunities:

- Recreational trails

New corridors:

- Establish new corridors using section lines and/or property boundaries when feasible

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS

ATC and Xcel Energy have a practice of engaging the public and other interested stakeholders in its proposed transmission line projects as a way to identify possible routes far in advance of filing a regulatory application with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

Public involvement open houses

Phase 1: Study Area	Fall 2010
Phase 2: Potential Corridors	Summer 2011
Phase 3: Preliminary Routes	Spring 2012
Phase 4: Proposed Routes	Fall 2012
File application with Public Service Commission of Wisconsin	2013
Anticipated decision from PSC on application	2015
Anticipated start of construction	2016
Line in service	2018

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Estimated project cost: \$540 million to \$580 million, depending on the ordered route

Areas benefited: Western Wisconsin communities, the state and the Midwest region

Length of line: Approximately 160 to 180 miles, depending on the ordered route

Voltage: 345-kilovolts

End points: The southern end point of the line will be ATC's North Madison Substation in the Town of Vienna, continuing to ATC's Cardinal Substation in the Town of Middleton. The western end point of the line will be Xcel Energy's new Briggs Road Substation near Holmen.

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