

Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project

www.BadgerCoulee.com

Winter 2015

Badger Coulee construction to begin in 2016

The Badger Coulee Electric Transmission Line Project was approved by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin in April 2015. The project will ensure electric reliability in western Wisconsin and improve access to lower-cost power and renewable energy. The 180-mile line will run from the Briggs Road Substation near Holmen to the North Madison and Cardinal substations in Dane County. Construction will begin in early 2016 to meet an in-service date of late 2018.

Badger Coulee at a glance

Voltage: 345 kilovolt

Project cost: Approximately \$580 million

Western end point: Xcel Energy's new Briggs Road Substation near Holmen

Eastern end points: ATC's North Madison Substation in the Town of Vienna and Cardinal Substation in the Town of Middleton

Estimated net economic benefits to Wisconsin electric customers: \$118 million to \$700 million

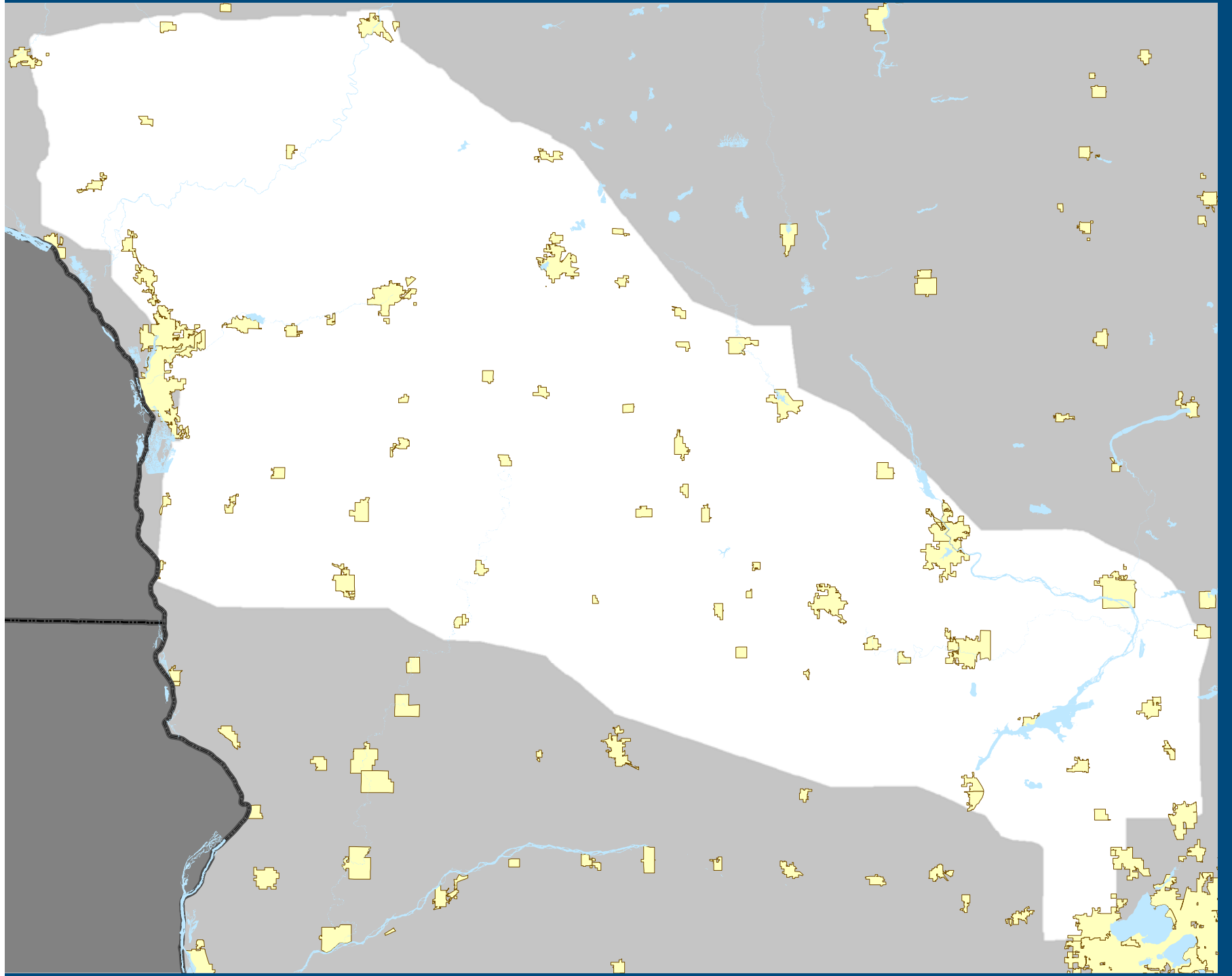
Visit badgercoulee.com for maps and project information.



Impact payments to benefit municipalities, counties

The counties and municipalities along the project route will receive payments associated with the construction of the project. Under state law, counties and municipalities with a new 345-kV line being constructed will receive a one-time environmental impact payment after project construction starts in their area.

Municipalities also receive annual impact payments. In addition, counties and towns in which substations are built or expanded may receive additional payments from utility-shared revenue.



Who we are



5303 Fen Oak Drive
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American Transmission Co. is a Wisconsin-based transmission-only utility that owns, operates, builds and maintains transmission facilities in portions of the Upper Midwest. 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.

Dairyland Power Cooperative, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency – Wisconsin, and WPPI Energy are also owners for the portion of the project between the Briggs Road and North Madison substations.

Working with federal, state officials to protect bats

Federal rules designed to protect the habitat of the northern long-eared bat went into effect earlier this year and will have an impact on aspects of transmission line construction. The bat's population has experienced a steep decline due to white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease that spreads quickly when bats congregate; the condition affects the bats' hibernation, causing them to starve or dehydrate.

"Because the threat to the bat is from a disease and not from human activity, there are very limited options to try to protect them," said Nayo Parrett, senior environmental project manager. "The federal rules place restrictions on tree removal in areas to protect bat habitat during certain months, which will improve breeding opportunities and give newborn bats a chance to grow."

ATC environmental professionals are working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to determine how to avoid impacts to the bat on the Badger Coulee Project as well as other ATC construction projects.

