

BAY LAKE PROJECT - Michigan

Holmes-Old Mead Road

Reinforcements to the electric transmission grid in the Upper Peninsula are needed due to a combination of factors, including emerging reliability concerns, generation changes, changes in demand and the evolution of a wholesale energy market. Despite making major reinforcements in the UP in the past six years, the upgrades have not kept pace with changing needs.

In Michigan, ATC is proposing reinforcements between the Holmes Substation in Menominee County and the planned Old Mead Road Substation on Mead Paper property in Escanaba. The Holmes-Old Mead Road 138-kilovolt line is about 65 miles long.

Originally, the Bay Lake Project proposed two new 138-kV lines between Menominee County and Escanaba. It was subsequently determined that a single transmission line will be adequate for the foreseeable future. This change allowed the review of opportunities to co-locate with existing transmission lines to minimize the amount of new right-of-way required. The proposed route maximizes the use of existing transmission line corridors and an abandoned railroad corridor.

An application was filed with the Michigan Public Service Commission in October 2013 and the project was approved in early 2014. Construction will start in January 2015 and the line is expected to be placed in service in summer 2016.

Major milestones

Public information and involvement, including routing and siting	Spring 2012 - 2013
Environmental analysis and data collection	2012-2013
File regulatory application	Fall 2013
MPSC regulatory review	2013-2014
MPSC decision	Early 2014
Construction start	Early 2015
In-service date	Summer 2016