

A project to improve local reliability in Dodge county.

## Dodge County Transmission Upgrade Project



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In October 2005, ATC became the first utility to be accepted into Wisconsin's Green Tier program. Administered by the Wisconsin DNR, Green Tier recognizes businesses and organizations that demonstrate superior environmental performance and continual improvement. For more information, visit our Web site at [www.atcllc.com](http://www.atcllc.com), or e-mail us at [greenlines@atcllc.com](mailto:greenlines@atcllc.com).

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*Questions or comments?*

**Helping to keep the lights on**  
Everything we do at ATC is designed to ensure the reliable operation of the electric transmission system. ATC is a transmission-only utility that owns, operates, builds and maintains transmission facilities serving 5 million people in portions of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Illinois.



American Transmission Co.  
1302 S. Broadway  
De Pere, WI 54115



# PSC approval paves the way for Dodge County transmission line construction

## Rubicon Substation construction to begin in March

American Transmission Co. received authorization last month from the Public Service Commission to build approximately 13.5 miles of 138-kilovolt transmission line to connect a new substation, named the Hubbard Substation, to be located near Horicon (near Highway 33 and County Road TW) with the existing Rubicon Substation, south of Highway 60. ATC will also make modifications to the existing Hartford, Concord and Rubicon Substations.

ATC proposed the Dodge County Transmission System Upgrade to address growth in the area, demand for electricity and to maintain electric system reliability for much of Dodge County. This project is

needed to address system instability and alleviate low voltage issues that currently exist.

*This project is needed to address system instability and alleviate low voltage issues that currently exist.*

"Approval of this project is good news for homeowners, businesses and industries that enjoy all the benefits of a reliable electric system," said John Garvin, ATC local relations. "With the constructive feedback we received from the community, we were able to propose the best possible solution."

The route runs along County Road TW, then

for a brief time the along existing right-of-way just east of Hwy. E, from just north of Hwy. S to the Hustisford Substation. The route then continues from the Hustisford Substation east on Highway 60, where it meets up with County Road EE. The line will then meet up with an existing 138-kilovolt line, which will then run it east briefly to the existing Rubicon Substation.

To review the final approval document and follow the order chronologically, visit the PSC web site at [www.psc.gov](http://www.psc.gov), and use Docket Number 137-CE-138. You can also find updated information on this project on our web site, [www.atcllc.com](http://www.atcllc.com), on the "Projects" page.

## Construction preparation activities begin

Construction of the Rubicon Substation will begin in April 2007, with completion by June 1. ATC is currently doing land survey work, and will follow with soil testing and engineering work which will help the design engineers determine the depth of the footings (foundations for poles), pole

locations and heights, and the thickness of the wires. "We need to know the soil conditions and whether we're placing poles in soil or rocks," explains Nick Grossenbach, ATC design engineer. "The pole foundations can go as deep as 16 to 18 feet."

When construction begins in spring, crews

will be using drilling rigs and boring equipment along the route and then erecting poles at heights between 65 and 110 feet.



*Many structures will look similar to this steel monopole.*

Following completion of the Rubicon Substation in June, construction will then commence on the remainder of the line. The project is estimated to be in service in June 2008.

The overall project is estimated at \$17 million.

The Dodge County project map shows the route selected by the PSC in red. The route is a feasible solution from an engineering and environmental standpoint, and meets state requirements on corridor sharing.

See the map inside for further route and substation details.



*You may see vehicles similar to this track vehicle as workers begin construction in the area.*



## Following state law throughout the process

In preparation for this project, following Wisconsin state law (Act 89), ATC staff many months gathering data and identifying opportunities to co-locate the new line with existing utility, transportation and recreation corridors. Act 89 encourages co-location with existing utilities when identifying potential routes. The following prioritization was established in Wisconsin Act 89:

### Primary opportunities

- Existing utility corridors, such as those for transmission and distribution lines and pipelines

### Secondary opportunities

- Transportation corridors, such as those for highways and railroads

### Tertiary opportunities

- Recreational trails

### New corridors

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

Other information considered includes land use, planning data, wetland delineation and environmental data.

For more information on Wisconsin Act 89, visit the Wisconsin state legislature’s web site at [www.legis.state.wi.us](http://www.legis.state.wi.us).

## Public involvement

Public input is an important part of the transmission line process. ATC makes every effort to gather as much local input and feedback at the outset in order to design projects that minimize impacts to landowners and communities. This local area information helps ATC design projects that are acceptable to those most affected by our plans.

Information is gathered through personal visits, public meetings and informational open houses. ATC made sure to incorporate written public comments in its regulatory filing seeking approval to build the project.

“We appreciate the effortless process that has taken place on this project,” said Richard Kirchoff, Hustisford Utilities. “We are looking forward to the network feed being

constructed for improved system reliability over the current radial feed.”

Construction on the Rubicon substation will begin in March and on the transmission line in September, after easement acquisition and final engineering are completed.

ATC will carry out the associated real estate activities and will contact individual landowners along the approved route of the project. The ATC real estate representative, who can be identified by ATC employee badge, will discuss the project, explain the process, and review landowner rights.

David Hollenberger, ATC real estate representative, can be reached toll-free at 866.899.3204, ext. 3617, or by e-mail at [dhollenberger@atcllc.com](mailto:dhollenberger@atcllc.com).

## PSC approval:

### “Clear there is a need” for project

During consideration of the project, PSC Commissioners expressed a definite need for the project.

“The Commission’s first priority in electric construction cases is to first determine a need,” said Chairperson Dan Ebert. “Because of substantial growth this area continues to experience, it is clear there is a need for upgrades to the transmission system.”

The PSC also noted how the transmission route will primarily follow existing transmission line right of way, as required in

Wisconsin Act 89 (for more information on Act 89 read “Following state law throughout the process” at left).

Commissioner Mark Meyer added, “... there is a significant need for this line which primarily follows existing right of way, is 20 percent less expensive and will have fewer impacts on the environment.”

To view a copy of the PSC’s order, visit the PSC web site at [www.psc.gov](http://www.psc.gov), and use Docket Number 137-CE-138 in the Electronic Regulatory Filing System.

## TIMELINE

Application submitted to the PSC	January 2006
PSC public hearings held in Hustisford	September 2006
PSC approved project	December 2006
Anticipated start of construction at Rubicon Substation	Spring 2007
Anticipated start of construction of transmission line	Fall 2007
In service date	June 2008

# DODGE COUNTY PROJECT AREA

