

JEFFERSON COUNTY ELECTRIC RELIABILITY PROJECT



American Transmission Co. is building a new transmission line to improve reliability for homes and businesses in the growing communities throughout Jefferson County. The 17-mile, 138-kilovolt line will be built to connect the Jefferson Substation located outside the city of Jefferson with the Stony Brook Substation in Waterloo.

Why is this line needed?

The project will improve ATC's ability to provide continued electric service in the event of an outage on a portion of the network by creating an alternate path for electrical flow. The project is a much-needed improvement in Jefferson County, where population has grown 14 percent since 1990 but has had no significant transmission system improvements in the past 15 years to accommodate the corresponding increase in electricity demand.

How does the City of Lake Mills in particular benefit from this project?

Lake Mills Light & Water is building a new substation in Lake Mills that is expected to be in service in the summer of 2009. The cost of supplying the substation with electricity will be reduced because the new transmission line route is adjacent to it.

How will landowners along the route be impacted?

ATC will be negotiating with landowners for easements on which to build the line. The easement will be 80 feet wide in most areas depending on what other transmission line facilities are already present. Our real estate representatives will explain the entire easement acquisition process with each landowner and negotiate compensation based on fair market value.

Will trees be removed within the easement?

Trees near power lines present risks to public safety and electric system reliability, and in recent years, the federal government has directed utilities to take a more aggressive approach to keeping rights-of-way clear of vegetation that could threaten reliability. To maintain safe clearances, our new policy requires the removal of all trees and brush, regardless of height, that are located directly beneath the transmission lines. We also remove all vegetation that is 15-feet or greater, or has the potential to grow to 15 feet or greater, in the area between the wire zone and the edge of the right of way. The removal of trees and vegetation will be discussed with each landowner prior to the beginning of construction. For a list of grasses and flowers that are less likely to interfere with overhead lines, go to our website: www.atcllc.com.

What about sheds, swing sets and other items located in the easement?

Items that do not have the potential to interfere with the operation of the transmission line are usually not a concern when they are located within the easement. However, in situations where a pole or line needs to be accessed, these items may be removed under the terms of the easement. Our real estate representatives will explain this further.

What work will be done to install the line?

As easement negotiations are completed, construction crews will begin preparing the right-of-way for installation of the transmission lines, beginning along the south end of the route. The short-term work will involve vegetation clearing and pouring foundations in areas where new structures will be erected.

What kind of equipment will be used to replace the poles?

Traditional transmission line construction equipment will be utilized on this project. This includes line/bucket trucks, light-duty cranes, tracked backhoes and pressure diggers.

Why has the start of construction been delayed?

The approval and route decision in July 2006 on the project by the Public Service Commission were met with some legal challenges, and we believed it was important to allow the legal challenges on the route and the regulatory process to run their course before proceeding with the project. With the legal issues resolved, we began constructing the 17-mile line this fall.

When will the work begin and end?

In areas where easements are finalized, work on tree clearing and construction will begin. In some areas, that began in fall of 2008. Overall line construction should be completed by fall 2009.

If there is damage to my property from the construction activities, will ATC clean it up?

Yes. Following construction, we will work with property owners to perform any necessary restoration work that may be needed as a result of construction.

What will the poles look like?

The structure on the left will be used for the portion of line that will run through the City of Lake Mills; the structure on the right will be used for the majority of the rest of the route. On some portions of the route, all three wires will be placed on one side of the pole.

