

# WESTERN MILWAUKEE COUNTY ELECTRIC RELIABILITY PROJECT

## Overview of proposed system improvements

We Energies and American Transmission Co. are proposing an electric system reinforcement project that involves:

- The construction of a new We Energies' substation adjacent to the existing Milwaukee County Substation and Milwaukee County Power Plant at 93rd Street and Watertown Plank Road.
- The construction of two 138-kilovolt American Transmission Co. transmission lines, each approximately two miles, to connect with the new We Energies' substation.

## Need for enhanced reliability

The need for the system improvements summarized above is two-fold:

- The Highway 45 corridor in western Milwaukee County is a growing metropolitan business hub. We Energies' planning studies show that electric usage in this region is projected to double as soon as 2016-2018—beyond the capacity of the existing distribution substations and feeders that serve the area. Key drivers include commercial growth along Watertown Plank Road and increased electric usage by businesses and homes.
- Reliable electric service is important to every home and business, and for healthcare facilities it is even more crucial. Two of the state's four Level 1 trauma centers are located at the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center (a Level 1 Adult and Level 1 Pediatric). The critical nature of these facilities calls for a higher level of electric service reliability, one that includes a redundant source for electricity in the event one of the two proposed lines experiences an outage. This means that two separate and distinct power lines are being proposed to serve the new We Energies' substation, and bolster the reliability of the network serving the area.

## The proposed enhancement of the electric system serving western Milwaukee County will:

- relieve the current load on the existing distribution system,
- ensure system reliability for existing homes and businesses,
- provide a higher level of electric reliability to MRMC, and
- support growth and attract job-creating businesses to the area.

## Transmission line siting process

When building new power lines, Wisconsin law requires that utilities prioritize co-location of existing utilities and infrastructure where it is feasible. The siting process began in summer 2010 by identifying a broad study area and preliminary corridors that may be suitable for a transmission line. These initial corridors were presented to the public during the fall of 2010. With public input and further study, the corridors were narrowed to include only the potential route options that were deemed best based on impacts, operational performance, constructability and cost. Four route alternatives will be proposed in ATC's application to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. The PSC will review the need for the project and will select the two routes to be built.



## Public participation

ATC and We Energies provide many opportunities for area stakeholders who may be impacted by the proposed project to share comments and feedback. Property owners, public officials, stakeholders and environmental groups can attend periodic informational open houses and/or monitor developments and comment through ATC's website. Potentially affected stakeholders are notified by mail of the open house schedule. Once the regulatory review process begins, the PSC notifies landowners of the public hearing schedule.

## Schedule

<b>Project introduced to the public</b> .....	Fall 2010
<b>Potential routes shared with public involvement</b> .....	Fall 2010 through Fall 2011
<b>Conduct environmental analysis</b> .....	Through Fall 2011
<b>Submit application to Public Service Commission</b> .....	Early 2012
<b>Receive PSC decision (anticipated)</b> .....	Early 2013
<b>Design line and obtain easements</b> .....	Early 2013 through Summer 2014
<b>Start construction (lines and substation)</b> .....	Summer 2014
<b>Project in service</b> .....	Spring 2015

## Project at-a-glance

**Communities benefited:** Wauwatosa and western Milwaukee County

**Proposal:** We Energies substation and ATC electric transmission lines

**Length of lines:** Approximately 2 miles each

**Voltage:** 138,000 volts

**Endpoints:** Milwaukee County Substation; the proposed transmission lines will connect at two points to existing transmission lines in the area. Those existing lines are located to the west and south of the proposed substation. The routing, siting and engineering processes will determine the four route alternatives that will be included in ATC's application to the PSC.

### Your ATC contact for the transmission line:

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### Your We Energies contact for the substation:

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ATC is a Green Tier company, selected by the Wisconsin DNR for demonstrating superior environmental performance and continual improvement.

*Information current as of August 2011*



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