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Transmission line project backed by businesses, labor groups
CORE represents over 5,600 businesses and 40,000 workers in Dane County

MADISON, Wis. -- A proposed high-voltage transmission line in Dane County received a big boost today when the newly formed Coalition Organized for Reliable Energy (CORE) publicly stated its support for the project. CORE is comprised of major employers, labor unions, health care providers, farmers, area chambers of commerce, and numerous local and statewide trade associations.

“Reliable electricity is vitally important to the economic well-being of Dane County today and into the future,” said Tom Still, CORE member and president of the Wisconsin Technology Council (WTC) based in Madison. “Electric reliability problems would have a devastating impact on operations for CORE members.”

CORE began organizing and recruiting members more than a year ago with the goal of creating a united voice in supporting the efforts of American Transmission Company (ATC) to strengthen the reliability of the electric transmission system that serves Dane County. “We support ATC’s proposal to reinforce the electricity infrastructure of the County, and we believe the need for the project is well documented,” Still said.

While CORE fully supports the need for the project, the organization has not taken a position on the routes being proposed by ATC. “We are not experts in power line routing and siting; that is the job of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,” Still said.

ATC submitted an application to the PSC in October 2007 proposing a 345-kilovolt transmission line between the Rockdale Substation located near Christiana (or a new Albion Substation) and the West Middleton Substation. The PSC will hold hearings sometime during the first half of 2009, where key members of CORE will be testifying before the PSC in support of the need for new transmission lines in Dane County. The PSC is expected to render a decision next summer.

Details about CORE including a list of members can be found on its Web site at www.reliable-energy.org. ATC’s application and related documents, Docket No. 137-CE-147, are available for viewing in the Case Management section of the PSC’s Web site at <http://psc.wi.gov>.