

# STRAITS-PINE RIVER TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT

*(6904/6905 Powerline Rebuild)*

## Overview

American Transmission Co. is proposing improvements to the electric system that delivers energy to the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan because of increased demand for electricity.

## Need for the project

The eastern UP north of St. Ignace is served by a 69,000-volt, or 69-kilovolt transmission system. Two lines extend north of the Straits Substation in St. Ignace to the Pine River Substation in Rudyard. These lines were built in the 1930s.

Electric demand in the region is steadily increasing and the transmission system is reaching capacity; it is frequently overloaded. Low voltage conditions, which can contribute to system outages, are common. While some improvements have been made, ATC now proposes a long-term solution that will enhance reliability in the area.

## Project description

ATC plans to rebuild a 25-mile double-circuit 69-kV transmission line between the Straits and Pine River substations. The new line will be built to 138-kV standards, constructed on steel poles, but will be operated at 69-kV. The rebuilt transmission lines also will reduce energy loss on the system, provide more flexibility in routing power and reduce the cost of operation and maintenance. Cost of the project is estimated at \$40 million.

## Transmission line corridor

While ATC holds easements that confer rights to perform maintenance and other work on transmission facilities, many of these documents need updating. Additionally, the new line between Evergreen Tap and Pine River Substation will be constructed 30 feet off the centerline of the existing line. The offset will allow the current lines to remain in service while the new lines are built. New easements will be negotiated with landowners along that portion of the line. ATC real estate representatives will work with individual landowners to modify and/or update easements beginning in Fall 2010.

Much of the line travels through the Hiawatha National Forest. ATC holds a special use permit from the Forest Service, but it needs to be amended before construction can begin. The US Forest Service conducts its own public review process on the special use permit.



## Environmental commitment

American Transmission Co.'s environmental commitment is built upon its core values – service to our customers, honesty, social responsibility, stakeholder inclusion, financial and environmental sustainability, and respect for its employees and customers. ATC supports sustainable environmental policies and actions by balancing stewardship with financial considerations, engineering and maintenance requirements, and society impacts.

## Schedule

<b>Environmental analysis</b> .....	Ongoing through Summer 2012
<b>Public information and involvement</b> .....	Summer 2010 and ongoing
<b>Hiawatha National Forest special permit review</b> .....	Summer 2010 - Fall 2011
<b>Update easements with landowners between</b>	
<b>Straits Substation and Evergreen Tap</b> .....	Spring 2012
<b>Anticipated decision on permit from Hiawatha National Forest</b> .....	Spring 2012
<b>Negotiate new easements with landowners between</b>	
<b>Evergreen Tap and Pine River Substation</b> .....	Spring 2012
<b>Construction start</b> .....	Late Summer 2012
<b>In-service</b> .....	Summer 2014

## For more information:

### David Hovde

*Local Relations Consultant*

PO Box 6113

De Pere, WI 54115

920-338-6550 (office)

866-899-3204, ext. 6550 (toll-free)

[dhovde@atcllc.com](mailto:dhovde@atcllc.com)



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

*Information current as of March 2012*



[www.atc-projects.com](http://www.atc-projects.com)