

# The Badger Oversight Management Commission

*Serving the public interest in implementing the Values and Criteria of the Badger Reuse Plan*

January 26, 2011

Mr. Charles Gonzales  
Senior Local Relations Representative  
American Transmission Co.  
PO Box 47  
Waukesha, WI 53187

Re: Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project

Dear Mr. Gonzales,

The Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP) is located at the base of the Baraboo Range in south central Wisconsin between Baraboo and Prairie du Sac in an area known as the Sauk Prairie. It was recommended for closure by the U.S. Army in 1997 and the General Services Administration is currently ending Army ownership of the 7,400 acre property through the disposition process.

In early 2000, the Sauk County Board of Supervisors acted to establish a locally driven reuse planning process with the assistance of U.S. Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin and funds provided by the U.S. Dept. of Labor. This effort resulted in the formation of the Badger Reuse Committee.

The Badger Reuse Committee developed a document called the Badger Reuse Plan (see enclosed) containing nine key values and detailed criteria for each value to guide consideration of future uses.

One key value addressed the protection and enhancement of the BAAP property's natural features, and the critical role of the Badger lands within the broader landscape of the Baraboo Range. Another key value recognizes the importance of the BAAP property in providing open space and protecting the characteristic rural landscape of the area.

The Badger Oversight Management Commission (BOMC) is charged with the implementation of a well-integrated long-range land use and stewardship plan for the BAAP land that is consistent with the values and criteria of the Badger Reuse Plan.

Siting the Badger Coulee Transmission Line on or within the view shed of BAAP lands would be inconsistent and incompatible with these values. For this reason we urge you to explore alternate routes for the Badger Coulee Transmission Line so future owners of the BAAP lands can fully realize the vision of the Badger Reuse Plan to protect the delicate ecosystem of the Baraboo Range and rural landscape of the Sauk Prairie for generations to come.

We applaud your communications and willingness to work with one of the stakeholders on the Badger Oversight Management Commission, the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance. We would like to augment their offer with an invitation to ATC to attend our next BOMC meeting on March 17, 2011, at Badger Army Ammunition Plant and witness first hand the work and commitment by a community dedicated to the implementation of the Badger Reuse Plan and the protection of such a valuable resource.

Sincerely,

***The Badger Oversight Management Commission, Liaisons and Stakeholders***

*Commission Members: HoChunk Nation, Wisconsin DNR, Sauk County, Town of Merrimac, and Town of Sumpter.*

*Liaisons: United States Dept of Ag/Dairy Forage Research Center and the United States Army*

*Stakeholder Interest: Badger History Group, Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger, University of Wisconsin-Baraboo, Baraboo School District, Bluffview Sanitary District, City of Baraboo, Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance, Sauk Prairie School District, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Village of Sauk City*

CC     State House and Senate Representatives  
        Federal House and Senate Representatives  
        Scott Walker, Wisconsin Governor  
        Sauk County  
        City of Baraboo  
        Towns of Merrimac and Sumpter

Attch: Badger Reuse Plan