BADGER COULEE TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

Overview

American Transmission Co. has plans for a high-voltage transmission line in western Wisconsin that would address electric system reliability issues locally and in the Midwest, provide economic savings and support renewable energy policy. The area, from the La Crosse area to northern Dane County, is being considered as the study area for the approximately 150-mile, 345-kilovolt line.

A multi-benefit project

ATC's studies are showing that the Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project is a multi-benefit project that would deliver benefits to Wisconsin and the Midwest region in three important ways:

Improve electric system reliability locally and regionally

- Better enable Wisconsin to import power
- Offset the need for approximately $140 million in lower-voltage upgrades in western Wisconsin communities
- Alleviate stability issues on regional transmission grid

Deliver economic benefits for Wisconsin utilities and electric consumers

- Provide utilities with greater access to the wholesale electricity market with potential savings that can be passed on to electric consumers
- Improve efficiency of grid; more efficient grid reduces the cost to deliver energy
- Connect to high-quality renewable resources in the nation's western wind alley vs. connecting to lower quality wind resources; that translates into hundreds of millions of dollars in potential savings

Expand infrastructure to support public policy for greater use of renewables

- Establish another pathway for renewable energy into Wisconsin with connections to key load centers
- Match regional studies (Strategic Midwest Area Transmission Study and Midwest ISO Regional Generation Outlet Study) evaluating transmission options that best deliver renewable energy while also addressing reliability issues

Transmission line siting process

When building new power lines, Wisconsin law requires co-location with existing facilities and infrastructure where it is feasible. The process begins by identifying a broad study area. Then potential corridors are identified that may be suitable for a transmission line and in accordance with state law are prioritized in the following manner:

Primary opportunities – utility corridors:

- Existing transmission and other electric lines
- Pipelines

Secondary opportunities – transportation corridors:

- State and federal highways
- Railroads

Tertiary opportunities:

- Recreational trails

New corridors:

- Establish new corridors using section lines and/or property boundaries when feasible

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Public participation – open house public meetings

ATC has a practice of engaging the public and other interested stakeholders in its proposed transmission line projects as a way to identify possible routes far in advance of filing a regulatory application with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. While the studies are not yet completed on this project, ATC will begin engaging the public through open houses starting in fall 2010.

Anticipated schedule

Public open houses

Phase 1: Study Area ..... Fall 2010

Phase 2: Potential Corridors ..... Summer 2011

Phase 3: Preliminary Routes ..... Spring 2012

Phase 4: Preferred and Alternate Routes (Proposed Routes) ..... Fall 2012

File application with Public Service Commission of Wisconsin 2013

Anticipated decision from PSC on ATC application 2014

Anticipated start of construction 2016

Line in service 2018

Project at-a-glance

Areas benefited: Western Wisconsin communities, the state and the Midwest region

Length of line: Approximately 150 miles

Voltage: 345,000 volts

End points: The southern end point of the line will be the North Madison Substation in the Town of Vienna, continuing to the Cardinal Substation in the Town of Middleton. The northern end point of the line in the La Crosse area has not yet been determined.

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For additional project information, visit www.BadgerCoulee.com.

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