



NEWS

MEDIA LINE: 877.506.6117

www.atcllc.com

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From: Kaya Freiman
kfreiman@atcllc.com
608.877.7157 (office)
608.444.6033 (cell)

American Transmission Co. improves electric reliability for Racine-Kenosha area

Work includes equipment replacement and vegetation management

PEWAUKEE, Wis. – American Transmission Co. recently wrapped up reliability improvements to the electric transmission system that serves portions of Racine and Kenosha. Approximately \$5 million was spent to install optical ground wire, modify structures, replace insulators and upgrade substation equipment. In addition, ATC is conducting vegetation management activities to remove incompatible vegetation in the project area to ensure the safety and reliability of the line. This work is expected to conclude in spring 2011.

Some of the components, including insulators and protective equipment on portions of the 138,000-volt transmission system, had been in service more than 70 years. “This type of equipment is built to last many decades, and it generally has performed well,” said project manager Mike Kamarainen. “But the deteriorating condition, including rust and corrosion, meant the time had come to replace and retire a number of components.”

According to Kamarainen, periodic outages have been a problem in recent years. “The completion of this project allows ATC to provide direct connectivity to its control centers and helps strengthen electric reliability in the Racine and Kenosha areas,” he added. “The vegetation work adds another level of safety and reliability to the system in the area.”

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ATC owns, operates, builds and maintains the high-voltage electric transmission system serving portions of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Illinois. Formed in 2001 as the nation's first multi-state transmission-only utility, ATC has invested \$2.2 billion to improve the adequacy and reliability of its infrastructure. ATC now is a \$2.75 billion company with more than 9,400 miles of transmission lines and 510 substations. The company is a member of the Midwest ISO regional transmission organization, and provides nondiscriminatory service to all customers, supporting effective competition in energy markets without favoring any market participant. For more information, visit our website at www.atcllc.com.