

# **MORGAN-CENTRAL WISCONSIN-WERNER WEST WERNER WEST-CLINTONVILLE**

## **ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION PROJECTS**

### **OVERVIEW**

American Transmission Company is proposing to build a new 345,000-volt (345-kilovolt, or 345-kV) transmission line to relieve congestion and ease constraints on the high-voltage transmission system in northeastern Wisconsin. Additional 138-kV facilities between New London and Clintonville are also part of the project.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

ATC is proposing to build a 345-kV line from the Morgan substation southwest of Oconto Falls to a proposed new substation called Central Wisconsin, located in central Shawano County. The line would continue from Central Wisconsin to another new substation currently under construction northeast of New London, called Werner West. The new line is proposed to intersect another new 345-kV line (Gardner Park to Central Wisconsin) at the Central Wisconsin Substation.

A portion of the approximately 50-mile transmission line will contain additional 138-kV facilities. Studies of the area's transmission system indicate that a 138-kV line from Werner West to Clintonville would provide additional benefits by reducing the amount of electricity on the overloaded 138- and 115-kV systems currently operating in the area. This 138-kV line also would provide increased access and an added measure of reliability in the Clintonville area.

### **ROUTE SELECTION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**

In late 2003, ATC representatives began meeting with local officials to describe the need for the projects and the public involvement process. Forty open house sessions were conducted between January 2004 and March 2005 to keep landowners, officials and interested residents informed as ATC's routing, siting and evaluation process progressed.

A broad study area within which the lines might be located was presented at the first set of open houses. Then guided by state law, ATC identified opportunities to co-locate the new lines with existing utility, transportation and recreation corridors. These and several other opportunities were presented to the public in Spring 2004.

These corridors were evaluated by using a variety of information sources, including state, county and local land use data, public comments submitted by property owners, aerial photographs, mapping data and in some cases, field verification. ATC must consider and balance environmental, engineering and cost criteria when evaluating transmission line routes.

*(continued)*



Many corridors were eliminated during the evaluation, and preliminary routes were the topic for open houses conducted in November 2004. Further analysis was performed and preferred and alternate routes were presented to landowners at a final set of open houses in February and March 2005.

Attendance at the four rounds of open houses totaled 4,806 persons and more than 2,000 written comments were submitted.

### REGULATORY REVIEW AND PUBLIC COMMENT

ATC filed its regulatory application in March 2005 and the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin conducted scoping meetings in the project area in August. Scoping meetings provide an opportunity for the regulatory agency staff to describe the regulatory review requirements and process, and to gather additional information from local residents regarding issues that should be addressed in the preparation of an environmental impact statement, or EIS.

A draft EIS is published and public comments are accepted for 45 days. Public hearings are then held in the local area. The application, the EIS and the expert and public testimony given at the hearings constitute the bulk of the legal record on which the Commissioners base their decision.

It is important for landowners to participate in the regulatory review, because the PSCW determines the final route, if the project is approved.

### TIMELINE

Identify potential routes with public involvement . . . . .	2004 & 2005
Environmental & engineering analysis . . . . .	2004
CPCN application filed . . . . .	March 2005
Regulatory review & public comment . . . . .	Mid-2005 into early 2006
PSCW public hearings . . . . .	Spring 2006
Anticipated decision from PSCW . . . . .	Mid-2006
Construction start . . . . .	Fall 2006
In-service . . . . .	Late 2009

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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