

DODGE COUNTY TRANSMISSION SYSTEM UPGRADE

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American Transmission Co. seeks the input and involvement of the people we serve and in the projects we propose. We conducted two sets of public open houses in Hustisford in April to discuss proposed power lines and substations and have met with local officials, residents and property owners. Here are answers to many questions that have been raised.

Will any of the transmission lines be underground?

While many distribution lines are put underground, particularly in newer neighborhoods, almost all electric transmission line projects including this one are proposed as overhead for three general reasons: cost, environmental damage, and repair time. Underground lines are considerably more costly and invasive environmentally than overhead lines. During an outage, damage to an overhead line can be located and repaired in hours or days rather than weeks or months for an underground line. For this reason, the Public Service Commission rarely supports or approves underground construction of transmission lines. This practice is consistent throughout the country. Less than 1 percent of ATC's 8,900-mile network of transmission lines is underground.

What is EMF and does it cause cancer?

Anything that uses or carries electricity will generate electric and magnetic fields, or EMF. Appliances, wiring in homes and offices, and power lines all generate EMF. The strength of EMF decreases dramatically with distance. Because EMF results from current (measured in amps), rather than voltage, the field strengths around transmission lines and substations are comparable to exposure levels from everyday sources like computers, appliances and lighting. The equipment within the substation produces EMF levels that generally drop off to background levels beyond the fence or wall. Comprehensive reviews of independent research on EMF exposure and health effects conducted over the past 20 years, including two large studies that looked at the body of research in its entirety, found that there is no consistent association between EMF exposure and health risks. Independent information can be found in the consumer section of the PSC web site <http://psc.wi.gov>.

What about radio and TV interference?

New transmission lines typically do not cause radio or TV interference. However, if a transmission line does create static or interference, ATC will correct the problem. Interference with AM radio sound is generally minimal and is limited to the area directly under the line.

What will the transmission lines look like?

The new transmission lines will be a steel, single-pole structure with a height of approximately 75-90 feet.

How will the easements be negotiated?

The easement agreements are negotiated between a landowner and our Real Estate department. We must meet certain legal requirements and conditions when negotiating easements for high-voltage power lines. Landowners are compensated based on the fair market value of the property. Ownership of the property remains with the landowner, but the easement conveys to ATC the right to build, maintain and operate the transmission line. *(continued)*



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During easement negotiations, ATC informs landowners of the length and width of the right-of-way; the number, type and height of all structures to be erected; the minimum height of the transmission lines above the existing ground elevation; and the number of wires and maximum voltage of the lines.

Landowners are also compensated for any crop damage or physical damage to the property as a result of construction or maintenance of the line. Post-construction inspections are performed to assure proper restoration.

Where is the wind farm?

It is unclear at this time if and where a wind farm (turbines) might be proposed. ATC is a transmission-only utility and does not propose wind farms or other electric generation projects. If a wind farm were built, it would connect to a new substation called the Butler Ridge substation. ATC does not participate in the proposal or decisions regarding these projects. Our role and obligation is to work with developers to connect to these facilities once they are built.

What will the new substation look like?

The Butler Ridge substation will be constructed only if a wind farm project is approved in the vicinity.

What about effigy mounds or other archeological resources in the area of the new substation proposed in Hustisford?

At this time, ATC is aware of the issue and is conducting background research and an evaluation of potential sites to avoid these protected resources.

What does the new line do for the electric grid and reliability in Dodge County?

The project will improve the ability of the ATC network to handle an outage of a critical system component and still maintain reliable electric service. Additional line upgrades and new transmission line projects will be needed in Phase II to maintain the electric system in Dodge County. Options for meeting those long-term needs are still being studied. System problems to be corrected by Phase II are currently projected as needing solutions in place by the summer of 2012.

SCHEDULE

- Open house to review final routes: November 2005
- File construction applications with PSC: Late fall 2005
- Decision expected from PSC: Summer 2006
- Anticipated start of construction: Spring 2007
- Anticipated in-service date: Spring 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION

John Garvin

ATC Government and Local Relations
1-866-899-3204 ext 3453
jgarvin@atcllc.com

Deanna Zabel

ATC Media Relations
1-866-899-3204 ext 6891
dzabel@atcllc.com

Or visit the ATC Web site at www.atcllc.com

