

NORTH MADISON – WAUNAKEE TRANSMISSION SYSTEM UPGRADE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

American Transmission Company is proposing to make electric transmission infrastructure improvements to keep pace with growing electricity demand throughout Dane County.

PROJECT NEED

Portions of Dane, Middleton, Waunakee, Westport and the northeast side of Madison are supported by a network of 69-kilovolt transmission lines that are used to near-maximum capacity during the peak summer season. They are projected to be overloaded in summer 2009. There is also limited ability to take these lines out of service for maintenance, resulting in reduced reliability and increased operating costs. To maintain reliable electric service, new transmission facilities are needed.

ATC is investing approximately \$110 million in transmission improvements in Dane County alone between 2002 and 2007. Even with these improvements, ATC simulations of electric system performance over the next 10 years show that new transmission lines will be needed by 2008 and every few years thereafter to keep pace with growing demand for electricity.

The North Madison – Waunakee Transmission System Upgrade is a proposal for a critical reinforcement to the electric system. The Energy Initiative, a collaborative made up of Wisconsin utilities, public advocacy organizations, and environmental groups, evaluated the need for this project. The EI determined that the project is needed to maintain reliable electric service in Dane County and to prevent low voltages, which can cause lights to dim, motors to stall, or harm to computers and other sensitive electric equipment.

New transmission lines take 3 to 7 years to plan, route, permit, and construct. This project has a planned in-service date of 2008 and is one of a series of projects that ATC will propose to maintain reliable electric service in Dane County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The EI identified building a new 138-kV line from the North Madison substation to the Waunakee area and improving the existing line from Waunakee to the Blount Street Power Plant as needed immediately to maintain reliability of the electric system.

To implement this project in a least-cost manner, ATC will construct approximately eight miles of new 138-kV line from the North Madison substation located in the town of Vienna to the existing Huiskamp substation located in the Town of Westport. ATC will rebuild the existing 69-kV transmission line from Westport to Blount to support the existing 69-kV line and a new 138-kV line.

PROJECT SITING

ATC has identified a study area in which the new line may be located. State policy on new transmission line routing specifically requires that existing corridors such as utility lines, roads and railroads be considered before looking at other areas. Several route options will be considered.

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PUBLIC OUTREACH

In designing projects, ATC gives consideration to the various impacts that transmission facilities can have by identifying potential corridors early and soliciting community input throughout the route development process. ATC will work with communities to gather and share information on potential routes and evaluate feedback gathered through personal visits, public meetings and informational open houses.

For the North Madison to Waunakee project, ATC has identified a set of preliminary route options. ATC welcomes input from the local community and will schedule open house events to introduce and discuss the project and the route options. ATC will use the community's feedback to refine its proposal to two specific routes that are required for its regulatory application.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

ATC hosts open house on preliminary routes	June 2005
ATC and state agencies conduct environmental analysis	Summer 2005
ATC hosts open house on proposed route options.	Fall 2005
ATC files project application with PSC	Late 2005
PSC public hearing	Summer 2006
PSC decision expected	Fall 2006
ATC tentative construction startup	Fall 2007
New line planned to be in service	June 2008

REGULATORY REVIEW

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is the state agency responsible for authorizing major projects to improve electric transmission infrastructure within the state. ATC will apply for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, which if granted, would authorize the company to construct the line. The PSC determines if the project is needed, evaluates the impacts and decides which of the route proposals are optimal. A public hearing is part of the PSC process. Permits also are needed from the Department of Natural Resources. Other state and federal agencies may be involved in the review, as well.

ABOUT ATC

Everything we do at ATC is designed to ensure and improve the reliability of electric transmission. Formed in 2001, ATC is a transmission-only utility that owns, operates, plans, monitors and maintains approximately 8,900 miles of electric transmission line in portions of Wisconsin, Upper Michigan and Illinois.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sarah Justus

ATC Local Relations
(608) 877-3624
1-866-899-3204 ext. 3624
sjustus@atcllc.com

Annemarie Newman

ATC Media Relations
(608) 877-3648
1-866-899-3204 ext 3648
anewman@atcllc.com

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

