

# GREENLINES



*A newsletter from ATC's Environmental Department - Nov. 2007*

## Welcome to the November 2007 Edition of Greenlines, ATC's Environmental Newsletter



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#### ATC Celebrates America Recycles Day



November 15<sup>th</sup> marks the 10<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of America Recycles Day, the only nationally recognized day dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and buy recycled products.

Throughout the week of November 12<sup>th</sup>, ATC will be celebrating America Recycles Day at all of its offices by reminding employees of ATC's environmental commitment and helping employees to realize the simple things they can do to be a good environmental steward everyday.

At ATC we build environmental commitment and stewardship into all aspects of our business, however it is easy to forget that that also includes our daily habits in our office facilities. With that in mind here are 10 Tips ATC Employees will be using in our offices.

### Go Green

#### 10 Tips for Conserving at the Workplace

1. **Turn off conference room lights when leaving the room and turn off task lights at your desk when leaving for the day**

The most efficient light is one that's off when it's not needed.

2. **Print only what you need and make it double-sided**

- One fifth of all wood harvested in the world ends up in paper.
- If offices throughout the country increased the rate of two-sided photocopying from the 1991 figure of 20% to 60%, they could save the equivalent of about 15 million trees.

3. **Carpool to meetings**

You save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don't drive. Every gallon of gasoline saved keeps 20 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.

4. **Use coffee mugs or glasses instead of Styrofoam cups**

Styrofoam takes 2,000 years to decompose.

5. **Recycle plastic, glass, and aluminum**

- Enough aluminum is thrown away to rebuild the US commercial air fleet 4 times every year.
- It takes 2 plastic soft drink bottles to make enough polyester fiber for a baseball cap.
- A glass bottle laying in a landfill takes approximately 1 million years to break down.

6. **Recycle your paper**

Every year enough paper is thrown away to make a 12' wall from New York to California

7. **Use reusable not disposable dishwear and food storage containers**

Humans use enough plastic wrap to wrap all of Texas every year

8. **Program computer monitor to go into sleep mode when not in use**

Your sleeping monitor saves nearly 200 kWh per year, equal to removing more than a week's worth of emissions from a car.

### Reduce – Reuse – Recycle

## Home-Sweet-Home for Osprey on the GCMW Project in Central Wisconsin

With the completion of the rebuild of the White Clay to Morgan segment of the GCMW project in central Wisconsin, two osprey families will once again be nesting atop ATC structures.



A pair of osprey sit atop a former h-frame structure (3/2007).

Prior to the rebuild, two osprey families had adopted the tops of the old wooden h-frame structures as nesting platforms, only about ¼ of a mile apart from each other. Before deconstruction could begin, ATC coordinated with willing landowners and the Wisconsin DNR, to temporarily move the nests off of our structures to temporary platforms erected in close proximity and elevation to the old structures while the Osprey were off on their winter migration. With much delight, when the birds returned in early spring, both pairs began nesting on the temporary structures set up for them. A close eye was kept on the birds by ATC Environmental Monitors during construction to be sure the adults and young were tolerating activities. Outside of their curious stares, both families tolerated the construction and successfully fledged two osprey chicks each. Now that the new line is built, the nest and platforms have been relocated from their temporary locations to their new homes on top of the new steel structures in hopes that both osprey families will return and raise young again next spring. See picture of final construction below.



## ATC Sponsors Prairie Jewel in The Einstein Project's Butterflies & Friends on Parade 2007

This past summer, ATC was the proud sponsor of Prairie Jewel, a realistic, if somewhat enlarged, version of the Karner blue butterfly. Prairie Jewel, created by Manitowoc



artist Ruth Nielsen, was part of the "Butterflies and Friends on Parade 2007," a public art fundraiser for the Einstein Project in Green Bay. Although the tiny Karner is rare nationwide, the species is recovering well in Wisconsin, thanks to a coordinated effort to maintain the butterfly's habitat. The main food source for the Karner caterpillar is wild lupine, which flourishes in mowed transmission line corridors. Prairie Jewel was on display in Jackson Square Park in downtown Green Bay during the summer. At the end of the summer Prairie Jewel, along with the



other works of art in the event, were auctioned off to raise money for the Einstein Project.

The Einstein Project provides high-quality science education materials to about 85,000 grade school students in Wisconsin and professional development opportunities for science teachers.

## ATC Alliance Contracts Extend ATC's Environmental Commitment

In 2007 ATC entered into Alliance Contracts with Boldt Construction and MJ Electric. Through these contracts, Boldt and MJ Electric will serve as general contractors for ATC construction projects throughout our service area. Implementing these contracts allows ATC to bring in partners to levelize workloads, bring consistency to personnel and work quality, and ensure that all work will be completed in a manner that complies with ATC's Environmental Commitment and Green Tier agreement. Additionally, by utilizing the alliance contractors for our work, our contractors grow to understand all of the aspects of our work and in

return help us develop methods to continuously improve our environmental performance.

While working on specific projects, alliance contractors are included early in the project development stage so that ATC can use their construction expertise to better understand the implications of a project early on, enabling us to avoid or further minimize our environmental impacts with fewer costs and schedule implications. Alliance contractors also work closely with the Environmental Department during construction ensuring appropriate environmental protections are implemented, maintained, and all project requirements are met and minimize any unforeseen impacts due to changes in site conditions.

Beyond specific project work, ATC's alliance contractors have participated in the development of ATC's Environmental Construction Practices (ECPs), a set of construction standards which describe the environmental protection standards we maintain whenever and wherever we do our work. By lending their expertise and insight our alliance contractors helped us to make the ECPS protective of our natural resources as well as practicable with regards to logistics, cost and scheduling requirements. Furthermore, our alliance contractors are committed to training all of their personnel working on ATC project on the ECPs on a regular basis. By having a consistent environmental training program, implemented by our alliance contractors, ATC continues to build and reinforce the mind set of superior environmental performance in all persons on all ATC projects.

## **Aspen Substation Complete Including Removal of Equipment from Brule River Island**

ATC recently completed construction of the new Aspen Substation in



Florence County, Wisconsin. The final phase of the project included the decommissioning of the Brule River Switching Station at the Brule Dam. In

order to decommission the switching station, five oil circuit breakers needed to be removed from an island in the middle of the Brule River, a complicated affair which called for close coordination between ATC, MJ Electric and We-Energies, as well as environmental permits from both Wisconsin and Michigan.

In order to access the island, permission was granted by both Wisconsin and Michigan to utilize an existing historic ford to the island. In addition, the Iron County (Michigan) Conservation District issued a soil erosion and stormwater control permit for needed ground site work on the island. Staged in two phases, removal of the equipment from the island occurred in mid-October. To protect the Brule River, MJ Electric thoroughly steam-cleaned every vehicle entering the water and a spill response team from Veolia



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Services was on-site throughout the operation to install soft and hard oil booms and ensure an instant response in the event of a spill. The oil in the circuit breakers was drained prior to the mid-



October removal and pumped through the dam's control house to a Veolia ES tanker waiting on the Wisconsin side of the river.

In the end, the operation was conducted safely and successfully. Happily, Veolia Environmental Service's spill response team was not needed and the MJ Electric crews did a fine job of minimizing impacts to the Brule during both river crossings. And finally, all of ATC's oil-containing equipment is permanently removed from the island, removing a perennial water quality threat to the Brule River and making further crossings for maintenance reasons unnecessary in the future.

## Project Updates

Curious about the projects ATC is working on? Here are just a few examples of our current projects.

### **Cranberry - Conover - Plains Transmission Line Project**

Construction on the Cranberry - Conover segment this project, which as a whole involves 16 miles of new 138Kv line between Eagle River and Conover, and the conversion of about 73 miles of existing 69kv line to 138Kv between Conover and Quinnesec, MI, began in August 2007 with the underground portion of the line in Eagle River. The last regulatory hurdle remaining for the project is the completion and submittal of the Environmental Assessment by the National Forest Service as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the portions of the new line located within the Nicolet and Ottawa National Forests. ATC anticipates that the Forest Service will approve the document before the end of 2007 and submit it for public comment in early 2008. A final decision on the EA is hoped for by the end of the first quarter, 2008. ATC anticipates this project will be in service in June 2010.

### **Saukville-St. Lawrence Transmission Line Rebuild**

In December 2006 the PSC approved ATC's proposal to rebuild the 19-mile, 60-year old, 138kV electric transmission line between the Saukville Substation and the St. Lawrence Substation in Washington and Ozaukee Counties. The line was no longer adequate to reliably move electricity through the area and it also required upgrading to support the additional output from the Port Washington Generating Station when the second

unit is placed in service in 2008. Construction activities on Phase I of the rebuild project, between the Pleasant Valley and St. Lawrence Substations is underway. Construction activities on Phase 2 of the project, from Saukville Substation to Pleasant Valley Substation will commence in January 2008 and will be complete by mid-April 2008.

### **Rockdale - West Middleton 345 kV**

After 2+ years of hard work, ATC has filed an application with the PSCW and WDNR for the Rockdale - West Middleton Transmission Line Project. This is a proposal for a new overhead 345 kV line in Dane County. We are filing two routes, with a few options. The shortest route generally follows I-90 and the Beltline highway, and the longest route is primarily rural and cross-country. We have also included two connector routes that would allow the Commission to combine portions of each route. If the southern route is ordered, and the Commission approves the Paddock-Rockdale 345 kV line, ATC is proposing an alternate endpoint called the Albion Substation. The Albion Substation would be a new switching station located near the existing Rockdale-Wempletown 345 kV line.

### **North Madison - Huiskamp Transmission Line Project**

In July, the PSCW approved ATC's proposal to construct a new 138 kV transmission line between the North Madison and Huiskamp Substations. Construction activities at both of the substations began this fall, and engineering and real estate activities for the transmission line are ongoing. Construction of the transmission line is expected to begin mid-2008.

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To receive the **GREENLINES** newsletter in your inbox, to submit comments, or to make suggestions, send an email to [greenlines@atcllc.com](mailto:greenlines@atcllc.com).

For more information about ATC's Environmental Department please visit our webpage at <http://www.atcllc.com/IT3.shtml>.

**ATC's Environmental Commitment:** ATC is committed to environmental leadership in all aspects of our business. ATC supports sustainable environmental policies and actions through balancing environmental stewardship with financial, engineering and maintenance requirements, and social impacts. Pairing our environmental commitment with partnerships among regulators, stakeholders, and employees provides a powerful venue for creative innovative and entrepreneurial resolution of issues.