# **Transmission Realities** 2010 U.P. Energy Summit October 6, 2010

Bob Rusch

Director - Finance & Accounting



Helping to **keep the lights on**, businesses running and communities strong<sup>®</sup>

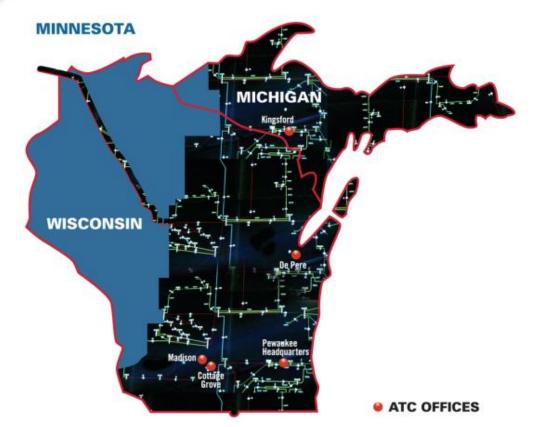
## Introduction

- ATC Background
- Industry Overview
- Revenue Requirement
- Financing
  - Debt
  - Equity
- Summary



2

## **About ATC**



- Owns, operates, builds and maintains the high-voltage electric transmission system
- Member of the Midwest ISO regional transmission organization



3



- Began operations January 2001
- First multi-state transmission-only utility
- Equal access
- Improved capacity
- Better coordination
  - Planning
  - Construction
  - Operation



# **Business Highlights**

- \$2.8 billion in total assets at 12/31/2009
  - -9,400 miles of line
  - -510 substations
- Infrastructure serves about 5 million people
- Recognized as national leader in building transmission infrastructure
- Investing \$3.4 billion in capital over the next 10 years
  - Construction projects regulated by states
- Formula rates regulated by FERC







6

### Electric Utility Industry Overview

- Very capital intensive industry
- Financial Risk
  - In general, viewed as lower risk than other more competitive industries
    - Regulated rates of return on equity
    - More stable cash flows
  - -Higher leverage (i.e. debt) than other industries



## Industry Cap Structure (\$ Billions)

#### **Capitalization Structure**

#### U.S. SHAREHOLDER-OWNED ELECTRIC UTILITIES

Capitalization Structure	12/31/09	12/31/2008r	12/31/07
Common Equity	285,190	255,484	270,082
Preferred Equity & Noncontrolling Interests	6,679	6,911	566
Long-Term Debt (current & non-current)*	393,869	374,515	350,219
Total Capitalization	685,738	636,909	620,867
Common Equity %	41.6%	40.1%	43.5%
Preferred & Noncontrolling %	1.0%	1.1%	0.1%
Long-Term Debt %	57.4%	58.8%	56.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

\* Long-term debt not adjusted for (i.e., includes) securitization bonds.

r = revised

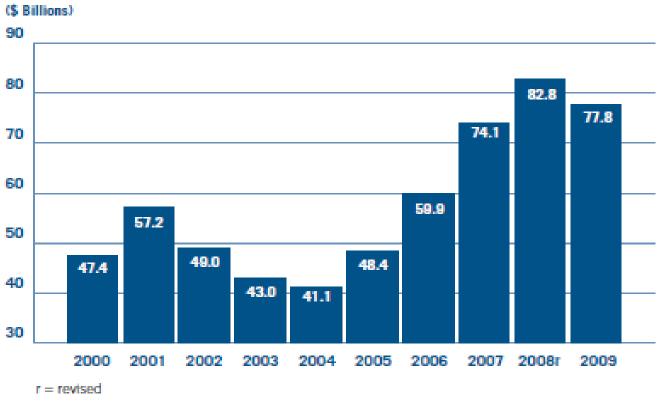
Source: SNL Financial and EEI Finance Depart



### **Historical Capital Expenditures**

#### Capital Expenditures 2000–2009

U.S. SHAREHOLDER-OWNED ELECTRIC UTILITIES



Source: SNL Financial and EEI Finance Department



# **Revenue Requirement**



## **Attachment O Tariff Overview**

- A FERC approved cost of service rate formula of the MISO open access transmission tariff for network customers
  - Must be filed by October 1, of the year prior to when the revenue will be received
- Process for filing begins with developing forecasts for capital and O&M, as well as depreciation, tax, interest expense, etc.
  - FP&A works with departments like Transmission Planning, Construction, and Business Administration Services to develop the forecasts
  - The forecasts serve as inputs to the corporate budget model
- Senior management as well as Board of Directors review and approve the budget
  - Usually late September
- Allows ATC to recover all reasonable costs of service and earn a return on assets used to provide transmission service
  - 50/50 capital structure with a 12.2% ROE



# **Network Revenue Requirement Formula**

#### **Average Rate Base**

- x Allowed Return (Equity + Debt)
- = Return on Rate Base (After-Tax)
- + Members' Income Tax Provision
- = Return on Rate Base (Pre-Tax)

+ Operating Expenses O&M, Depreciation, and Taxes other than Income Taxes

= Revenue Requirement



## Revenue Requirement and Rate Calculation

- ATC customers pay the same rate regardless of how much energy flows over our lines
  - More energy does not mean more revenues and higher profits
- ATC has a true-up built into its rate calculation
  - If we collect more than the actual revenue requirement for the year, that amount is deducted from a future year's network customer bills
  - If we collect less than the actual revenue requirement for the year, that amount is added to a future year's network customer bills
  - Interest is added to the true-up amounts







# **Financial Objectives**

- Minimize long-run customer costs as we seek to improve the adequacy and reliability of the transmission system
- Provide customers and investors with:
  - Predictability and transparency



# **Traditional Utility Financing**

- Secured debt
  - Property, plant and equipment provides investor security in the event of bankruptcy
- Unsecured debt
- Common stock
- Preferred stock
  - Pays dividends at a specified rate and has preference over common stock in payment of dividends and the liquidation of assets



# **Fixed Income (Debt) Financing**

- Income security
  - A fixed income security is a claim on a specified stream of income
  - The basic fixed income security is a bond
- The issuer is obligated to make interest payments to the holder over the life of the bond
- Issuer repays the principal at the maturity
- The stated interest rate is comprised of:
  - Treasury rate
  - Credit spread
    - The better the credit quality the lower the credit spread



# **Tariff's Impact on Debt Costs**

- ATC's tariff provides very stable and predictable earnings and cash flows reducing the risk associated with debt program
- This reduced risk has reduced borrowing costs significantly, saving customers money related to our financing costs of our construction plan
  - The more stable ATC's cash flows, the lower the perceived risk by investors, thus reducing our borrowing costs
  - ATC's current ratings are A+/A1 (S&P/Moody's)
  - Industry average is ~ BBB



## **Recent Debt Issuance**

- Priced \$300 million of debt on August 18, 2010
  - December 2010 funding:
    - \$75 million; 15-year notes; 4.17% coupon
  - March 2011 funding:
    - \$75 million; 15-year notes; 4.27% coupon
    - \$150 million; 30-year notes; 5.17% coupon
  - Annual interest savings of \$7.3 million from refinancing



19

# **Common Equity Utility Financing**

- Industry average is about 42% of the total capital (as of year end 2009)
- Utilities must monitor their capitalization ratio to comply with state PUC orders
- Overall cost of capital implications
- Utilities must monitor market conditions for issuing new equity
  - Must consider valuations
  - Future earnings per share growth impacts
- Dividend and cash flow implications



20



- The electric utility industry will continue to require large amounts of capital to fund investments
- Access to investor capital is critical
- Maintaining strong balance sheets will be very important
- ATC will continue to focus on maintaining financial strength
  - Strong credit ratings support cost effective financing and access to capital



21

# Questions



22