

DANE COUNTY ELECTRIC RELIABILITY INITIATIVE

DANE AND COLUMBIA COUNTY ELECTRIC RELIABILITY PROJECT

PROJECT OVERVIEW

American Transmission Company is proposing electric transmission infrastructure improvements in northern Dane and southern Columbia counties.

PROJECT NEED

Dane County has experienced significant growth in demand for electricity in the past several years. The population of Dane County as a whole has grown 33 percent since 1980 and the resulting growth in electricity consumption has been met largely by importing power. Dane County currently is heavily served by the high-voltage transmission system, which enables the Madison area to import 85 percent of its electricity from outside the county. This import growth has strained the existing electric transmission system, which was not designed to accommodate this level of demand.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

ATC is proposing to reuse the existing poles and replace a lower voltage line with a higher voltage one running from the North Madison substation west of DeForest to the Columbia substation located near Wisconsin Power and Light's Columbia Power Plant outside of Portage.

To do this, one of the existing two lines, currently rated at 138 kilovolts, would be upgraded to 345 kv to match the voltage on the other line. This upgrade would occur on existing rights-of-way. ATC is also proposing to install larger capacity transformers at the DeForest site and make other improvements to the substations at both ends of the line. The estimated cost of the project is roughly \$29 million.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

ATC hosts open house events.	February 2004
ATC files project application with PSC.	March 2004
PSC decision expected.	Summer 2004
Construction begins.	Fall 2004
Line in service	May 2006

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BENEFITS

The counties and municipalities along the route of the line will receive environmental aid payments associated with the construction of this project. In addition, the counties in which substations are expanded will receive additional money from utility-shared revenue. ATC will have more specific information available about the payments at the project open house and in its application to the Public Service Commission.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

ATC welcomes input from the local community and will hold open house events in February 2004 to introduce and discuss this electric reliability project. ATC staff will be on hand to answer questions. After seeking comment from the local community at its open house, ATC will incorporate the input into its application to the PSC for approval to proceed with the project.

REGULATORY REVIEW

The Public Service Commission is the state agency responsible for authorizing major projects to improve the electric transmission infrastructure within the state. ATC will apply for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the PSC, which if granted, would authorize the company to upgrade the line. The application is the focus of a multi-disciplinary review to determine if the project is needed and to assess its impact on the local environment and communities. Permits from other agencies may be necessary.

ABOUT THE DANE COUNTY ELECTRIC RELIABILITY INITIATIVE

The Dane County area is currently experiencing electricity supply constraints that will worsen if the transmission system is not modified to accommodate growth. Numerous upgrades and reinforcements are needed within the next few years to keep pace with demand and enable the system to operate reliably. This project is one of a series of projects ATC will propose to reinforce the electric system in Dane County, and it will allow time for ATC to plan long-term electric reliability solutions. This initiative is part of ATC's broad transmission system planning efforts for reliable electricity in southern Wisconsin.

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 more than 8,900 miles of electric transmission line and approximately 450 substations in portions of Wisconsin, Upper Michigan and Illinois.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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