

COLUMBIA RIO ELECTRIC RELIABILITY PROJECT PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT OVERVIEW

American Transmission Company plans to make electric transmission infrastructure improvements in north central Columbia County.

PROJECT NEED

The Columbia Rio Electric Reliability Project is intended to strengthen the reliability of the electric power supply to residents and businesses in Columbia County. Electric demand in this area is projected to grow at an annual rate of approximately 3 percent.

The communities of Wyocena, Rio, Cambria, Pardeeville and Fall River are served by two 69-kilovolt transmission lines on ATC's network. The electric facilities that serve this area are currently used to near-maximum capacity during the peak summer season, and cannot accommodate additional growth in electric demand. In order to maintain reliable electric service to the communities, new facilities are needed.

The Columbia Rio project will support Alliant Energy's local distribution system expansion plans and improve the ability of the ATC network to handle an outage of a critical system component and still provide reliable electric service.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

ATC will construct approximately nine miles of new 69 kV transmission line to connect the substation located near the Columbia Power Plant in the town of Pacific to the Rio Substation located north of Rio. This line also will connect to a new substation to be built by Alliant Energy in the village of Wyocena. The estimated cost of the transmission line project is \$5 million.

PROJECT SITING

ATC seeks to reduce the impacts of its projects by identifying routes that make use of existing corridors, such as utility lines, roads and railroads, whenever possible. ATC is examining the suitability of the major corridors in the area, which include the existing transmission lines, Highway 16, and the railroad corridor. ATC will solicit community input on the routing and siting of the line through personal visits, public meetings and informational open house events. Other route options will be considered. Permits from the Department of Natural Resources may be necessary.

(continued)

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- ATC hosts public open house Fall 2004
- ATC conducts environmental analysis Fall 2004
- ATC begins land surveying and line engineering Fall 2004
- ATC begins landowner contacts Early 2005
- ATC begins construction Fall 2005
- Line in service. December 2005

ABOUT ATC

Everything we do at ATC is designed to ensure and improve the reliability of the electric transmission system. 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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