

DODGE COUNTY TRANSMISSION SYSTEM UPGRADE—PHASE I

PROJECT OVERVIEW

American Transmission Co. is proposing electric transmission infrastructure improvements in central Dodge County.

NEED FOR THE PROJECTS

To prevent line overloads and system instability, new transmission lines are needed in Dodge County. Electric demand is growing approximately 3 percent per year for most parts of the county, and between 4 and 5 percent for the Beaver Dam area. This is roughly twice the statewide average. The population of Dodge County has grown more than 25 percent since 1970. No significant new electric infrastructure has been built in the past 20 years; the transmission system is currently operating at or near its limits.

Because they are currently loaded to maximum capacity, transmission lines in Dodge County are vulnerable to collapse and even blackouts under certain conditions. Moderate stresses on the system can cause widespread low voltages, resulting in dimming of lights, stalled motors, and harm to computers or other sensitive equipment. In addition, there is 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.

The project will improve the ability of the ATC network to handle an outage of a critical system component and still maintain reliable electric service. It may, depending upon the route chosen, improve reliability to Hustisford.

Additional line upgrades and new transmission line projects will be needed in Phase II to maintain the electric transmission system in Dodge County. Options for meeting those long-term needs are still being studied. Problems to be corrected by Phase II are currently projected as needing solutions in place by summer of 2012.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

ATC is proposing to construct a 138-kilovolt transmission line to connect a new substation to be located near Horicon with either an existing substation located south of Neosho or a new substation near Rubicon, south of Hwy. 60. The new line may, depending on the route, connect a new substation in Hustisford.

The estimated cost of the project is \$11 million.

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PROJECT SCHEDULE

ATC hosts public open house	Spring 2005
ATC and state agencies conduct environmental analysis.	Summer 2005
ATC hosts additional open house events.	Summer, fall 2005
ATC files project application with PSC.	Fall 2005
PSC decision expected	Summer 2006
Construction begins	Spring 2007
Line in service	Spring 2008

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

ATC seeks local input early to design projects that reduce impacts. Public comment on project and route options is an important part of the route identification process.

For the Dodge County Transmission System Upgrade - Phase I, ATC has identified a set of preliminary route options. ATC welcomes input from the local communities and will host open house events to introduce and discuss the project and route options. ATC will use this feedback to refine its proposal to two specific routes that are required for its regulatory application. The regulatory agencies also invite public comment during their review processes.

REGULATORY REVIEW

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin 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, which if granted, would authorize the company to construct the line. The application is the focus of a multi-disciplinary regulatory review to determine if the project is needed and to assess its impact on the local environment and communities. A public hearing is part of the PSC process. Permits from the Department of Natural Resources may also be necessary.

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 in portions of Wisconsin, Upper Michigan and Illinois.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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