

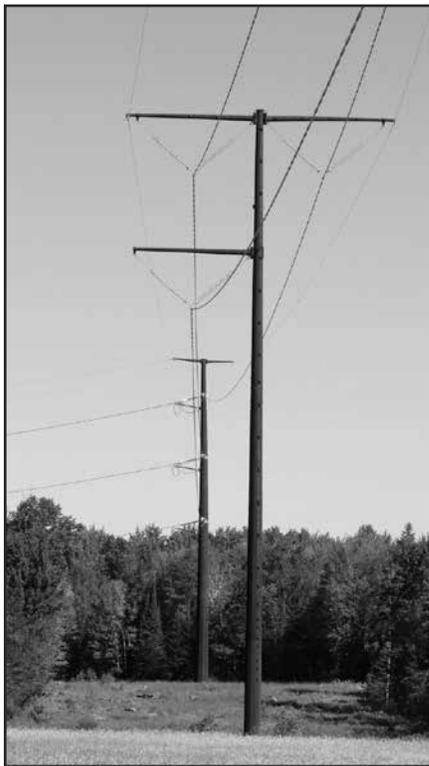
# BADGER COULEE TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT WOULD BENEFIT COMMUNITIES

The electric transmission system is sometimes referred to as the “electric grid” – a network of high-voltage lines that delivers power from where it is generated to local utility substations and distribution lines that deliver power to homes and businesses. Because of the interconnected nature of the transmission grid, communities located along transmission line segments can benefit from them, even if they are not located at either end of a line.



Based on extensive studies, the Badger Coulee Transmission Line would deliver multiple benefits to local communities by addressing electric system reliability issues, providing economic savings and supporting renewable energy policy.

At a local level, the Badger Coulee line would benefit communities in western Wisconsin by relieving the stress on lower voltage lines that deliver power locally. This concept can be understood by comparing the transmission grid to the highway and road systems. For example, in a community without a highway, all traffic must be routed on local roads and streets. This not only can create traffic tie-ups, but the wear and tear on roads causes them to deteriorate faster, and create potholes and road damage that may further hinder traffic flow.



Building a highway in the region will route some of the regular traffic from the smaller roads and streets, which are not designed to carry a high level of traffic, to the highway, and alleviate congestion and wear and tear on smaller roads and streets. The highway also provides an efficient connection to other nearby regions. In these ways, communities in the vicinity of a highway benefit from its presence.

Similarly, western Wisconsin communities would benefit from the Badger Coulee Transmission Line because the line would reduce stress on the local electric system and improve local electric reliability. The “electricity highway” would also provide an efficient pathway to move renewable energy into the region, and it would give local utilities a connection to other energy markets to buy and sell electricity to help moderate costs for energy consumers.



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Information current as of June 2017



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