

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

With a construction program averaging \$300 million each year, we recognize that our work impacts the environment. We take our commitment to environmental protection and stewardship seriously – our goal is to avoid making impacts where we can, minimize those that can't be avoided and restore the environment. In some instances, we can improve conditions when our work is finished.

Prior to building or upgrading a transmission line, we work cooperatively with state regulators and other appropriate agencies to evaluate and document any potential environmental impacts. This process involves comprehensive assessments of sensitive resources, such as wetlands, woodlands, natural areas, threatened and endangered species, wildlife areas, residential and recreational areas, archeological resources, and agricultural resources within the project area.



OUR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

We are committed to environmental leadership in all aspects of our business. We support sustainable environmental policies and actions through balancing environmental stewardship with financial, engineering and maintenance requirements, and social impacts. Pairing our environmental commitment with partnerships with regulators and stakeholders provides a powerful venue for creative, innovative and entrepreneurial resolution of issues.



Our dedication to the environment also is evidenced through our designation as a Green Tier company by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Green Tier recognizes businesses and organizations that demonstrate superior environmental performance and dedication to continual improvement, and strives to encourage responsible environmental decision making to protect and restore natural resources.

TRANSMISSION LINE SITING

When siting a new transmission line, Wisconsin state law requires us to utilize as many existing corridors as possible to avoid environmentally sensitive resources. Desirable corridors typically include roadways, railroads, existing transmission and other utility corridors, property lines and crop lines. Sometimes these types of corridors do not offer a suitable option, requiring transmission lines to be sited in new locations.



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REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

During the evaluation of proposed transmission line routes, we seek input from local, state and federal officials, landowners and other interested parties. Working with the Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other natural resource groups helps to ensure that transmission lines are located in sensible areas. Ultimately, the Public Service Commission makes the final route selection after reviewing route options submitted by ATC.

CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES

ATC must adhere to state and federal laws regulating constructing, rebuilding or upgrading transmission lines. Permits and prescribed construction methods are required to complete work in environmentally sensitive areas. We often perform construction during winter months when the ground is frozen to minimize disturbance to soils and sensitive plant and animal life. We also use construction practices that reduce the spread of invasive species and transmittal of agricultural pests and diseases.



RESTORATION

Construction activities may temporarily impact local landscapes, but lands are inspected after construction to ensure proper restoration. Trees and brush growing directly beneath the transmission lines must be removed so as to not interfere with safe operation of the transmission line. With property owner participation, non-woody native grasses and flowers may be planted in transmission line corridors.

IMPROVEMENTS

Some transmission lines constructed decades ago were sited within environmentally sensitive areas. When possible, we remove these lines from the sensitive corridor and relocate them to areas where they will have less impact on natural resources or recreational areas.

When wood or metal transmission line structures are taken out of service, we explore several options for disposal, including recycling and gifting to landowners or other parties. Sometimes structures are left in place as nesting platforms for eagles, osprey and other birds. ATC has increased recycling of metal and wood structures in recent years, and some wood structures have been gifted to landowners and municipalities to be re-used for mounting lights or warning sirens. Some metal structures may previously have been painted with lead-based paint. Care is taken to protect the environment in construction projects that involve removing or replacing these structures. We have developed a procedure in cooperation with the Wisconsin DNR that ensures appropriate removal of these types of structures.



ATC IS A MEMBER OF THE GREEN MASTERS PROGRAM, A RECOGNITION AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM FOR WISCONSIN BUSINESSES INTERESTED IN IMPROVING

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