

North Central Wisconsin Reliability Project



BACKGROUND

Every minute of every day, ATC keeps the power flowing along the electric grid for over 5 million consumers in the region. Behind the scenes of everyday life, our people are making sure you have the electricity you need. There is an ongoing need to maintain the safe and reliable operation of ATC's system.

At the same time, there is also increased demand for electricity in central Wisconsin. As a regulated utility, ATC has an important role to play in supporting this increasing demand. We play a vital role operating the grid—and bringing energy from where it's created to where it's needed.

OVERVIEW

ATC is proposing to build a new power line from southern Lincoln County to central Marathon County. The project includes constructing a new single circuit power line, expanding a substation, and making minor upgrades to four substations.

NEED

The new power line and the substation expansion and upgrades are needed to improve electric grid reliability and relieve constraints on the current electric delivery system in the north central Wisconsin region. The project will address current and future energy needs, changes in energy generation, and support local energy demand.

ATC's system operating experience and North American Electric Reliability Corporation planning assessments show that this project is needed to provide reliable service in this area. It will also provide benefits as another power line source into the region to help reduce outage times and provide more redundancy.

DESCRIPTION

The proposed North Central Wisconsin Reliability Project includes:

- A new 115,000-volt power line connecting the Pine Substation in the city of Merrill to the Hilltop Substation in the town of Stettin that is located just to the west of the city of Wausau.
- Expansion of the Pine Substation, and modifications to the Gardner Park, Grandfather Falls, Hilltop, and Maine Substations.

POWER LINE ROUTES

Wisconsin law requires ATC to provide two buildable power line route options for the new 115-kV power line.

- An eastern route alternative includes an approximately 16-mile-long power line that will start at the southern edge of the city of Merrill and will go through the town of Pine River in Lincoln County and the towns of Texas and Stettin and the village of Maine in Marathon County.
- A western route alternative includes – An approximately 19-mile-long power line that will start at the southern edge of the city of Merrill and will go through the towns of Pine River and Scott in Lincoln County and the village of Maine and the town of Stettin in Marathon County.

The proposed routes can be viewed on an interactive map at atc-projects.com/northcentralwireliability.

REGULATORY REVIEW

The project will be required to get regulatory approval from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, in coordination with other select state agencies. ATC expects to submit an application with the PSCW in the first quarter of 2025. The North Central Wisconsin Reliability Project requires a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity; if approved, ATC expects to receive a PSCW order by mid-2026.

ROUTING AND SITING

As part of the routing and siting process, the proposed new power line and routes will make extensive use of existing corridors to help reduce the impact on local areas and communities.

ATC conducts a thorough analysis to identify viable power line routes that balance landowner and environmental impacts.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE*

Public announcement	Q4 2024
Application filed with the PSCW	Q1 2025
Application decision from the PSCW	Q2 2026
General construction.....	Q2 2027 – Q4 2028
Project in service	Q4 2028

**Subject to change*

