



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



For Immediate Release:

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State Agencies Work Together on Draft EIS for Transmission Project in Central and Northeastern WI

Public encouraged to provide input on findings

MADISON – The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have issued a draft environmental impact statement on American Transmission Company's (ATC) application to build new transmission facilities in Marathon, Shawano, Oconto, Waupaca and Outagamie counties.

ATC has asked for permission to build two 345-kilovolt power lines and one 138-kilovolt line in central and northeastern Wisconsin and a switching station in Shawano County. The total estimated cost of the project is approximately \$257 million.

ATC must receive authority from the PSC and obtain water and wetland permits from the DNR before construction can begin. As part of the review process, the PSC, DNR and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection have worked together to prepare a draft environmental impact statement. The draft environmental impact statement addresses the social, cultural and environmental impacts of the proposed project.

Members of the public are encouraged to review the draft environmental impact statement and provide their input and suggestions. The comments will be considered by PSC and DNR staff as they prepare the final environmental impact statement which will be part of the record that the Commission reviews as it makes a decision. A copy of the draft environmental impact statement and an executive summary can be found on the PSC's website at: <http://psc.wi.gov/index.htm>. Type case numbers 137-CE-122 and 137-CE-123 in the boxes provided on the PSC homepage and click go. For hard copies, please contact Kenneth Rineer, PSC Docket Coordinator, at 608-267-1201.

Comments on the draft environmental impact statement will be accepted through February 18, 2006 in the following ways:

1. Visit the PSC's website at <http://psc.wi.gov/>. Click on the Public Comments button and click on the Gardner Park to Central Wisconsin and Morgan – Werner West case title.
2. Submit written comments via postal mail or e-mail to:
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(MORE)

Once the final environmental impact statement is issued, the PSC will hold public hearings in the project area. All testimony at the hearings will also become part of the record that the Commission will review to make a decision. The Commission has the authority to approve, deny or modify any portion of ATC's application.

Project background

ATC has asked for permission to build two 345-kilovolt power lines and one 138-kilovolt line in central and northeastern Wisconsin and a switching station in Shawano County. ATC indicates that these lines and substation will help provide needed capacity, will improve electric reliability in central and northern Wisconsin and will help distribute electricity generated by the new Weston 4 power plant near Wausau.

Gardner Park to Central Wisconsin Substation

There are two primary route options that would connect the Gardner Park Substation at the Weston power plant to the proposed Central Wisconsin Switching Station in the Shawano and Clintonville area. The northern route runs along State Highway 29 and the southern route option is along an existing transmission line. Depending on the route chosen, the proposed line would be between 50 and 60 miles long.

Morgan Substation to Werner West Substation

This portion of the project would connect the Morgan Substation near Oconto Falls to the proposed Central Wisconsin Switching Station and continue to the Werner West Substation in New London. This line would also be between 50 and 60 miles long and the route greatly depends on the location of the proposed Central Wisconsin Switching Station.

Clintonville Substation to Werner West Substation

A secondary component of the proposed project is a new 138-kilovolt transmission line that would connect the Clintonville Substation to the Werner West Substation. The length of this line would be between 18 and 20 miles long.

Central Wisconsin Switching Substation

There are three alternative sites proposed for a new switching station. One option is along State Highway 29 near Shawano, another option is along State Highway 22 adjacent to the existing Badger Substation and the final option is near the intersection of Shorewood Lane and Oak Grove Road in the town of Pella.

The documents and maps associated with ATC's application can be viewed on the PSC's Electronic Regulatory Filing System at <http://psc.wi.gov/>. Type case numbers 137-CE-122 and 137-CE-123 in the boxes provided on the PSC homepage or click on the Electronic Regulatory Filing System button.

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