



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Lon Roberts, Chairperson  
Mike Huebsch, Commissioner  
Rich Zipperer, Commissioner

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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
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August 28, 2018

Mr. Thomas Malanowski, Regulatory Relations Manager  
American Transmission Company LLC  
W234 N2000 Ridgeview Parkway Court  
Waukesha, WI 53188-1022

Re: Joint Application of American Transmission Company, ITC  
Midwest LLC, and Dairyland Power Cooperative, for  
Authority to Construct and Operate a New 345 kV  
Transmission Line from the Existing Hickory Creek  
Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa, to the Existing  
Cardinal Substation in Dane County, Wisconsin, to be  
Known as the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Project

5-CE-146

Dear Mr. Malanowski:

On April 30, 2018, American Transmission LLC, ITC Midwest LLC and Dairyland Power Cooperative (ATC, ITC, Dairyland, respectively, and together, applicants) filed an application with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) for authority to construct and place into operation a new high-voltage transmission line, referred to by the applicants as the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project. The project would include construction of a new 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Cardinal Substation in Dane County, Wisconsin, to the Hickory Creek Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa, connecting to a new intermediate substation to be constructed in Grant County, Wisconsin and associated facility upgrades and modifications.

The Commission and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reviewed the application to construct the facilities described above. On May 24, 2018, the Commission, under Wis. Stat. § 196.491(3)(a)2. and Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 111.51, found the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application to be incomplete and provided a list of items identified as missing, incomplete, or requiring clarification. ([PSC REF#: 343192](#).) The applicants' responses to these items were received on July 30, 2018. Commission and DNR staff have reviewed these supplemental filings. Based on this review, the Commission finds the CPCN application to be incomplete because of the items in the attached list, which were identified as missing, incomplete or requiring clarification.

While both agencies' staff devoted considerable time to reviewing the application, the attached list should not be considered final. It is possible that subsequent staff review may identify additional information or areas requiring clarification in the form of a data request. The information requested in the attachment to this letter is necessary to continue with the timely review and processing of the CPCN application. This information is required to complete the

Mr. Thomas Malanowski  
Docket 5-CE-146  
Page 2

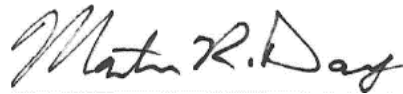
record from which the Commission will make its decision whether to approve, modify, or deny the CPCN application under Wis. Stat. § 196.491(3)(d). Providing this information in a timely manner will allow the Commission's review of the CPCN application and the DNR's review of other permit applications to proceed.

Wisconsin Stat. § 196.491(3)(a)2. provides that an applicant may supplement and re-file an application that the Commission deems incomplete. The Commission, however, will not consider the application complete until the applicants have met all of the CPCN application standards to the satisfaction of the Commission and DNR. Commission and DNR staff are available to meet with the applicants to clarify and discuss any of the completeness items prior to a new submission.

**Prior to filing any application supplement, please consult with Commission staff regarding the form in which such information is presented. Depending on the extent of the revisions, the application supplement may require the re-filing of some or all of the application documents.**

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the docket coordinator Akanksha Craft at (608) 267-9509 or [Akanksha.Craft@wi.gov](mailto:Akanksha.Craft@wi.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin R. Day". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Martin R. Day  
Administrator  
Division of Energy Regulation

MRD:AK:jlt:DL: 01649225

Attachment

## **Docket 5-CE-146**

### **Items Identified as Missing, Incomplete, or Requiring Clarification**

#### **Items Related to Routing and Siting**

- 3.1 (Response to item 1.1.) Reformat the application, appendices and GIS data to consistently represent all of the available route alternatives that are provided in the current application. Currently, the Commission is not able to evaluate the available route alternatives as presented in the application. For additional guidance on how to consistently present all available route alternatives to the Commission, refer to the decision matrix for docket 5-CE-142, [PSC REF# 232853](#) or Table 1.5.2-1 of the application submitted for docket 137-CE-166, [PSC REF# 204071](#). In both of these dockets the proposed routes were presented in a way that enabled the Commission's evaluation of all alternatives.

As per the applicants' discussions with Commission staff on August 16, 2018, provide updated Impact tables in Application Appendix B that include the other route segments as a comparable route option to the relevant proposed or alternate route segments, ensuring that the end points for comparable sections coincide. For example, just south of Platteville an 'other route segment' would be comprised of sub-segments F04 + F06 + G04. The corresponding alternative route option for this 'other route segment' would be comprised of sub-segments F02 + F03 + G06A. Ensure that the GIS data associated with route sub-segments match the route sub-segment data provided in the route impact tables in Appendix B. For example, update the feature class "S\_CHC\_Route\_Segments" to consistently represent a sub-segment as one feature.

- 3.2 (Response to item 1.28, AFR Section 4.) As per the applicants' discussions with Commission staff on August 16, 2018, provide updated cost tables in Application Section 4.1 that include costs for all possible route options. Ensure that the proposed route alternatives account for both Nelson Dewey and Stoneman as possible locations for Mississippi River Crossings as well as the "other route segments". Include the costs for the alternative Hill Valley Substation site. For additional guidance on presenting information by all available route alternatives, refer to Table 4.1-1 from docket 137-CE-166, [PSC REF# 204071](#).

#### **Items Related to Need, System Alternatives, and Modeling**

- 3.3 (Response to items 01.172-01.174, 01.193-01.205, 01.208, 01.209, 01.213-01.216.) Provide confirmation for the date by which the applicants will file additional economic and reliability modeling and analysis, as discussed in [PSC REF#: 347526](#), under 'Planning Response Overview'.