



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
 Division of Agricultural Resource Management
 PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911
 Phone: (608) 224-4650 Fax (608) 224-4615

Agricultural Impact Notice for Electric Projects *Wis. Stat. § 32.035*

Please complete this Notice for electric utility projects as required by Wis. Stat. § 32.035(3) and include complete information for each project alternative, route, or site. This form is intended to notify Department staff of a proposed electric utility project on agricultural land. Information provided in this form will be used to determine whether an Agricultural Impact Statement ("AIS") will be needed for the proposed project, and to prepare the AIS, if one is needed. If the proposed project requires a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") or Certificate of Authority ("CA") from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin ("PSC"), submit this Notice and all other associated information to the Department at the same time as or before submitting an application to the PSC.

Submit this form and all associated files electronically. Submissions may be emailed to the Department at: DATCPAgImpactStatements@wisconsin.gov, uploaded onto an FTP site, or submitted on a compact disc and mailed to the address above. Maximum file size for email to Department is 15 MB.

Personally identifiable information you provide may be used for secondary purposes other than that for which it was collected (Wis. Stat. § 15.04 (1)(m)).

Section 1: General Information		
PROJECT TITLE Cardinal - Hickory Creek	PSC DOCKET NUMBER (IF ANY) 5-CE-146	COUNTY(IES) IA: Dubuque: WI: Dane, Iowa, Grant and Lafayette
PROJECT INITIATOR American Transmission Co.	ADDRESS 5303 Fen Oak Drive, Madison, WI 53718-8810	
CONSULTING FIRM (IF ANY) Land Service/John Meyers-Ag Specialist	ADDRESS 222 North Midvale Boulevard, Madison, WI 53705	
PROJECT CONTACT (NAME AND COMPANY) Lori Hornbeck	PHONE NUMBER 608-877-3617	EMAIL ADDRESS lhornbeck@atllc.com
HAS AN APPLICATION TO THE PSC BEEN SUBMITTED? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, date: 4/1/2018 <input type="checkbox"/> No, anticipated date: <input type="checkbox"/> PSC approval not required		TYPE OF PSC ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> EA <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
EXPECTED LENGTH OF PSC REVIEW PERIOD 18 months	DATE FINAL AIS IS NEEDED October 2019	
DATE WHEN LAND ACQUISITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN June 2021	DATE WHEN CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN Substation: 10/2020; T-line 10/2021	
DATE WHEN FACILITY IS ANTICIPATED TO BE PLACED IN SERVICE December 2023		

Agricultural Land Use Categories

All information provided in this form and associated files should identify farming operations according to the following agricultural land use categories. The Department recommends a minimum mapping unit of one-half acre.

Cropland – Land that is planted in row crops, small grains, or hay.

Pasture – Land that supports grass or other vegetation eaten by domestic grazing animals.

Idle or Fallow Fields – Land that is cleared and maintained as agricultural fields but is not currently planted/cultivated.

Specialty Farmland – Unique cropland that does not fit into the categories above. Examples include cropland used to grow vegetables, Christmas tree farms, orchards, nurseries, and horticultural land (such as cranberries, ginseng, fruit farms, hops, and vineyards). Identify the type of specialty farm.

Other Agricultural Land – Land cover or structures that do not fit into the above categories. It may include wooded areas, wetlands, farm residences, farm buildings, ponds, and private farm roads. Do not include individual bushes, drainage swales, fence rows which should be included with the associated type of farm land use.

Exhibit 5

Section 2: Associated Files Submit the following information in electronic formats including GIS files (shapefiles or geodatabases) and Excel spread sheets. See sample spreadsheets for recommended formats and types of data.	
a) Landowner Parcels. GIS data listing all properties affected by the project, land owner names, unique ID, tax parcel number, route/segment/substation site, address, contact information, acres within proposed project, and type of acquisition (fee-simple, permanent, or temporary easement), and identification of those that are farm properties.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted
b) Mailing List. Submit in Excel spreadsheets: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All properties affected by the proposed project ROW, substation site(s), or any off-ROW construction areas. Include land owner names, unique ID, tax parcel number, route/segment/site, mailing address, contact information, acres within ROW, type of acquisition (fee-simple, permanent, or temporary easement), and identification of those that are agricultural properties. 2. Contact information of any other individual, group, club, or committee that has shown an interest in the project or requested an AIS. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted
c) Route Centerline. GIS data for the route centerline broken into the project's routes/segments. Identify preliminary structure location, if known.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted
d) Substation Sites and Off-ROW Construction Areas: GIS data identifying the proposed properties or area of properties for substation sites and off-ROW impacts (laydown yards, staging areas, access roads, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted
e) Project Information. Submit GIS data portraying the proposed ROW. Include the: area (acres), acquisition type (permanent easement, temporary easement, purchase), ROW type (new, existing, non-ROW), and an existing ROW description (gas pipeline, electric lines, railroad, roadway).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted
f) Existing Facilities. GIS data that shows existing utility facilities that are adjacent to the proposed project, affected by the proposed project, or would be connected to the proposed project. This may include existing pipelines, electric transmission or distribution lines; and/or substations.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted
g) Land Use. Submit GIS data and Excel spreadsheets that identify the Department land use categories for land that may be impacted by the project. Department categories include, cropland, idle or fallow land, pasture, specialty farmland, other agricultural land, or non-agricultural land as defined on Page 1 of this form. Provide acres for each land use type on each route/segment/site and off-ROW construction area (access roads, staging areas, laydown yards, etc.).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted
h) Wetlands and Waterways. GIS data for field-delineated wetlands and waterways.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted
i) Maps. Submit electronically, project-specific maps showing sufficient detail and location information to fully describe the project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted
j) Plans. Submit project-specific agricultural mitigation and/or best management plans and practices.	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted
Explain why any of the above information is not applicable or where information is not known or available for the proposed project: Agriculture mitigation and best management plans and practices will be dependant on the route ordered by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW). We have hired an experienced Agricultural Specialist to work with farmers now and through negotiations, construction and restoration.	

Exhibit 5

Section 3: Project Description

For larger or more complicated projects with multiple segments for each route, tables should be used to effectively summarize the information. Submit all tables in Excel format.

a.) Describe the proposed project

1. For electric lines, identify the following:

- i. Route locations (counties and cities, villages, and/or towns): Table(s) to be submitted to DATCP on GIS data disc. Also see Section 1.4 of the application.
- ii. Voltage(s) of the proposed line(s): 345,000 volts, double-circuit
- iii. Typical width of ROW per segment/route: 150 ft.
- iv. Typical structure span widths for each segment/route: Varies between 750-1,100 feet, with average of 900 ft.
- v. Describe and/or provide diagrams of the typical foundation dimensions for both tangent and angle structures: Tangent structures approx. 3-6 feet in diameter; Angle structures approx. 5-14 feet in diameter.
- vi. ROW acres of farmland (permanent or temporary easements, or purchased) for each route: Table to be submitted to DATCP on GIS data disc - provides a summary of ROW and farmland for each route segment, substation and laydown area.

2. For each potential substation site, identify the following:

- i. Name of the site: Hill Valley
- ii. Location of proposed substation site (county, town, city, village): Town of Wingville, Grant County
- iii. Size of the property to be acquired: 80 acres
- iv. Size of fenced boundary is approximately 9.5 acres
- v. Describe in general terms the equipment to be installed in the substation: Substation equipment being installed includes, but is not limited to: a control house, an autotransformer, circuit breakers, disconnect switches, potential devices, bus/conductors, line terminals, new ac/dc systems communication cabinet and router, OPGW, overhead bus(s), yard lighting, ground conductor, jumper conductors, compression lugs and fixtures, overhead structures and various types of steel support stands

a.) Describe the project need (provide overview figures/maps). The Project will provide substantial net economic, reliability and public policy benefits to Wisconsin and the region. It will also provide much-needed flexibility for the regional transmission system to respond to the ever-changing energy markets and generation portfolios.

b.) In December 2011, after a comprehensive planning analysis, the MISO Board of Directors approved a portfolio of projects under their Multi-Value Project (MVP) Tariff that included the Project. To be included in this MVP portfolio, a project had to meet rigorous MISO criteria and provide regional economic, reliability and public policy benefits. Importantly, MVP costs are shared across the region, and the board's approval of the portfolio required the "transmission owners to use due diligence to construct the facilities approved in the plan." See maps and tables on GIS data disc.

c.) Summarize alternative routes or substation sites that were considered but were not proposed. Briefly describe why they were not proposed. See application section 5.1 for detailed explanation.

d.) Describe and compare the proposed route(s) and/or segments. Using tables and/or maps to compare the acreage and percentage of shared ROW (existing gas pipeline, electric line, road, or railroad) for the portions of the route that cross agricultural lands. Tables and data will be submitted to DATCP on GIS data disc. These provide a summary of land use type for each route segment, and provides a summary of ROW type for each route segment.

e.) Identify existing electric facilities that would be abandoned as a result of this project and whether the easement would be returned to property owners. The Applicants intend to acquire new high-voltage easements for this Project for both new ROW and where the Project ROW overlaps existing transmission line ROW. In those locations where Project ROW overlaps an existing transmission line easement owned by ATC or Dairyland, the Applicants will evaluate whether the existing easement will be retained or released at the conclusion of all construction activities. ATC and Dairyland generally intend to release the existing easements, but may retain an existing easement based on the specific provisions in the easement and the needs of the Project. For instance, there may be a need to retain an existing easement due to property usage restrictions recorded after the existing transmission line easement.

Section 4: Agricultural Impact Evaluations

Exhibit 5

Farmland acquisitions described below should include both permanent and temporary easements, as well as purchases in fee-simple.

- a.) Provide a table identifying all farm operations and specify the acres of acquisitions that would be required for this project for each route/segment and/or substation site.
- b.) If known, identify farm properties which are operated by someone other than the property owner. Submit a table with information including property address, unique ID, parcel number, and contact information. Table will be sent to DATCP on GIS data disc. This will provide a mailing list of each property owner and the acreage of agricultural lands affected, arranged by route and segment. At this time we have the owner information, but not the tenants, if any.
- c.) Discuss if any farm buildings or structures would be acquired or relocated as a result of the proposed project. This will depend on the route selected.
- d.) Identify any known specialty farms and discuss any additional concerns, consultations, and mitigation that would be required to minimize impacts from proposed construction activities. Tree farms will be impacted as follows: Preferred route: about 1 acre of land on a tree farm would be impacted. Alternate route: 3.9 acres of land on a tree farm would be impacted. Other route: approximately 1.8 acres of land on a tree farm would be impacted. (See application section 7.4). The project ROW will be cleared, and maintained free of woody vegetation, which will result in a loss of this crop. The landowner will be compensated for this crop loss.
- e.) Identify any known farm properties with livestock and any additional concerns, consultations, and mitigation that would be required to minimize impacts from the proposed construction activities. Tables and data will be submitted to DATCP on GIS data disc. Potential construction related impacts on agriculture will be generally short term in nature, and would primarily consist of crop losses, soil mixing, and/or soil compaction. Crop loss will be paid to landowners who are impacted, along with restoration of the affected areas.
- f.) Identify any known farm operations that incorporate organic practices and discuss any additional concerns, consultations, and mitigation that would be required to minimize impacts from proposed construction activities. Based on a database obtained from the DATCP in December 2017, there are farms along the proposed routes that utilize organic management practices or are certified organic. See application section 7.4.2 for a detailed explanation. In the case of organic farms, landowners will be consulted to minimize potential impacts to their organic farming status due to the transmission line routing or construction. Methods to minimize impacts are also discussed in this section.
- g.) Describe any potential impacts the proposed project would have on property improvements such as windbreaks, fencing, drainage ditches or tiling, irrigation systems, wells, etc. Each agricultural landowner will be consulted regarding farm operation (e.g. irrigation systems, drainage tiles), locations of farm animals and crops, current farm biological security practices, landowner concerns, and use of access routes. Potential impacts to each farm property along the route will be identified and where practicable, construction impact minimization measures may be implemented. The applicant will work with landowners to maintain their ability to irrigate their fields, should any transmission line structures be placed in conflict with an existing irrigation system.
- h.) Describe the project's potential impact on trees within the acquired agricultural acres. Any trees within the new right-of-way will be cleared to the width of the easement and any danger trees outside of the new easement areas that may be dead, diseased or dying will also be cleared.
- i.) If no agricultural mitigation or best management plans are submitted with this notice, describe any project-specific mitigation measures and/or best management practices that the company will implement to reduce adverse effects or damage to farmland and farmland resources including measures designed to preserve top soil; reduce soil mixing; prevent erosion, and minimize or mitigate compaction. As standard practice, ATC seeks to minimize construction impacts on agricultural lands. ATC accomplishes this by utilizing the following techniques: completing construction during dry or frozen conditions; the use of equipment with low ground pressure tires or tracks; placement of construction matting to help minimize soil and vegetation disturbances and distribute axle loads over a larger surface area thereby reducing the bearing pressure on agricultural soils; or the use of ice roads.
- j.) After the electric line has been placed in service, describe how farm yield losses would be identified, calculated, and the procedure for damage compensation. ATC will work with landowners to pay for crop damages, compaction, and potential future crop loss caused by our work. Yield losses would be identified and agreed to in a Damage Report supplied by the landowner once construction commences. The USDA Custom Rate Guide is used as a guideline for crop damage payments and yields are confirmed by the National Agricultural Statistics Service web site which gives the average yield by crop by county. Settling compaction claims will depend on if the farmer repairs the compaction or if our construction crew repairs the compaction. If guidance is needed to settle damages, we will also reach out to our Agricultural Specialist.

Exhibit 5