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| DARM-BLWR-002 (rev. 05/22) | | |
|  | Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  *Division of Agricultural Resource Management*  PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911  Phone: (608) 224-4650 Email: [DATCPAgImpactStatements@wisconsin.gov](mailto:datcpAgImpactStatements@wisconsin.gov) | |
| Agricultural Impact Notice for Electric Transmission Projects | | Wis. Stat. §32.035 |
| Please complete this Notice and associated Electric Transmission Projects [Excel Spreadsheet](https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/AISElecSpreadsheet.xlsx) to notify DATCP, in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 32.035(3), of impacts to agricultural lands from a proposed electric transmission project (e.g. electric transmission towers, lines and associated facilities and substations). Provide complete information for each potential project alternative, route or site proposed.   * Submit this form and associated files electronically, via email to [DATCPAgImpactStatements@wisconsin.gov](mailto:datcpAgImpactStatements@wisconsin.gov) * Contact DATCP to process submissions over 20 MB through a file share service. * If the project requires approval from Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC), submit this Notice and all associated information to DATCP at the same time as or prior to submitting an application to the PSC.   DATCP will use the provided information to determine whether an Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) will be required for the proposed project. Should DATCP determine to prepare an AIS, DATCP may request additional information from the project initiator or project stakeholder(s) to complete the AIS. DATCP will assess the project initiator a fee approximating the cost to prepare an AIS pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 32.035(3).  *P*ersonally identifiable information you provide may be used for purposes other than for which it was collected (Wis. Stat. § 15.04 (1)(m)). | | |

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| Section 1: General Information | | | | |
| PROJECT TITLE | PSC DOCKET NUMBER | | COUNTY(IES) | |
| PROJECT INITIATOR\* (i.e. UTILITY, COMPANY, AGENCY etc.) | PROJECT INITIATOR ADDRESS | | | |
| PROJECT CONTACT\*\* (NAME AND AFFILIATION) | PROJECT CONTACT ADDRESS | | | |
| PROJECT CONTACT PHONE NUMBER | PROJECT CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS | | | |
| **APPLICATION TO THE PSC BEEN SUBMITTED**?  Yes, date:        No, anticipated date:        N/A | | **PSC ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT EXPECTED**  EIS  EA  Other  N/A | | |
| DATE FINAL AIS IS NEEDED | ANTICIPATED START DATE FOR LAND ACQUISITIONS | | | |
| PROJECTED CONSTRUCTION START DATE | PROJECTED IN-SERVICE DATE | | | |
| \*PROJECT INITIATOR: The entity responsible for the project  \*\*PROJECT CONTACT: The point of contact between DATCP the Project Initiator | | | | |
| Section 2: Billing Information | | | | |
| PROJECT CONTACT  OTHER: (Fill out billing contact information below) | | | | |
| BILLING CONTACT (NAME AND AFFILIATION) | BILLING ADDRESS | | | |
| BILLING CONTACT PHONE NUMBER | BILLING CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS | | | |
| Section 3: Definitions | | | |

**Agricultural Use:** *Defined by* *Wis. Stat. § 91.01(2)*

Any of the following activities conducted for the purpose of producing an income or livelihood:

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| * Crop or forage production | * Floriculture |
| * Keeping livestock | * Aquaculture |
| * Beekeeping | * Fur farming |
| * Nursery, sod, or Christmas tree production | * Forest management |
| * Enrolling land in a federal agricultural commodity payment program or a federal or state agricultural land conservation payment program | * Any other use DATCP, by rule, identifies as an agricultural use |

**Farm Operation**: *Defined by* *Wis. Stat. § 32.035(1)(b)*

Any activity conducted solely or primarily for the production of one or more agricultural commodities resulting from an agricultural use, as defined in s. 91.01 (2), for sale and home use, and customarily producing the commodities in sufficient quantity to be capable of contributing materially to the operator's support.

**Farm:** *Defined by* *Wis. Stat. § 91.01(13)*

All land under common ownership that is primarily devoted to agricultural use

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| Section 4: Agricultural Land Use Categories |

All information provided in this form and associated files should identify agricultural uses according to the following agricultural land use categories. Individual bushes, drainage swales, *farm* access roads, and fencerows should not be separated out as separate land uses; they should be merged with the adjacent agricultural land use.

***Cropland* -** Land planted in field crops (row crops, grains, hay etc.), vegetables, plants for biofuel energy production or textiles or any crop defined under ATCP 49.01(7)(a), (c), (e).

***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.

***Forest Management***- *Private forestlands and woodlands managed in accordance with any type of written management plan, including a plan prepared under the state's managed forest law* (ATCP 49.01(12)).

***Specialty Farmland* -** Unique cropland that does not fit into the categories above. Examples include cropland used to grow Christmas trees, plants raised for culinary, medicinal or aesthetic purposes, fruits, orchards, nurseries, and horticultural land (such as cranberries, ginseng, herbs and spices, hops, vineyards and ornamental shrubs and trees) any crop defined under ATCP 49.01(7)(b), (d). Identify the specialty *farm* type.

***Other Agricultural Land* -** Agricultural land cover or structures that serve an agricultural purpose including: windbreaks, silviculture or other wooded areas, but may lack a written forest management plan; lands enrolled within a federal or state conservation program; agricultural wetlands; *farm* residences, buildings, ponds, and paved/graveled surfaces.

***Non-Agricultural Land*** *-* Lands that do not meet the definitions of cropland, pasture, idle or fallow fields, forest management, specialty farmland or other agricultural land herein defined.

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| Section 5: GIS Data Formatting Requirements |

DATCP requests that project initiators provide GIS data as shapefiles. Required attributes for tabular GIS parcel, Right-Of-Way (ROW)/Site and land use data is provided in the “Required GIS Attributes” tab of the Electric Transmission Projects [Excel Spreadsheet](https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/AISElecSpreadsheet.xlsx). Parcel, ROW/Site and land use GIS data must be submitted as complete polygons. Incomplete polygons or point data for the aforementioned data does not constitute a complete AIN submission. Contact DATCP, at the contact information above, before providing data in other spatial formats.

DATCP can attempt to convert AutoCAD files to shapefiles, so long as the AutoCAD files contain a defined coordinate system. DATCP recommends assigning the WTM83, NAD83(1991) coordinate reference system (Specify WTM – Meters) for best compatibility. DATCP will invoice the project initiator to convert AutoCAD files to shapefiles and/or correct any file errors. Should a file conversion or error correction fail, DATCP will request the project initiator convert the AutoCAD files to shapefiles or correct errors in order to complete the AIN submission.

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| Section 6: Associated Files Checklist Submit the following information in electronic formats (pdf, Word, Excel, shapefile) for the project area and project alternatives. See the Electric Trans. Project [Excel Spreadsheet](https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/AISElecSpreadsheet.xlsx), Tables 1 & 2, for the recommended excel spreadsheet format to report the project mailing list and land use. See Section 5 to format GIS attributes. | |
| 1. **Landowner Parcels** *(GIS data & Electric Transmission Excel Spreadsheet Tables 1&2)*   GIS data identifying all properties On/Off-ROW affected by project, landowner names, tax parcel number, address, contact information, route/segment/substation site(s), acres to be acquired, type of acquisition (fee-simple, permanent or temporary easement), and identify if affected parcels areagricultural property or not. | Submitted |
| 1. **Mailing List** *(Electric Transmission Excel Spreadsheet Table 1)*    1. For all properties ON/Off-ROW affected by the proposed project provide: landowner names, tax parcel number, mailing address, contact information, route/segment/ substation site(s), acres to be acquired, type of acquisition (fee-simple, permanent or temporary easement), and identify if affected parcels areagricultural property.    2. Contact information of any other individual, group, club, or committee that has shown an interest in the project or requested an AIS. | Submitted  Submitted |
| 1. **Project Information** *(GIS data – see section 5 to format GIS attributes)*    1. Any publicly available documents that describe the current design of the proposed project and if applicable, copies of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) or Certificate of Authority (CA) to the PSC. (*pdf* *preferred)*    2. GIS Data identifying the proposed ROW, Off-ROW construction areas (i.e. access roads, laydown yard, staging areas etc.), above ground facilities and substations proposed on agricultural lands. This data should include: areas of acquisition (acres), type of acquisition (fee-simple, permanent or temporary easement), and ROW type (new, existing, shared, and non-ROW).    3. GIS data identifying the route centerline broken into the project’s routes/segments. Identify preliminary structure locations, if known. | Submitted  Submitted  Submitted |
| 1. **Existing Facilities** *(GIS data, text and diagrams preferred)*   Identify all existing facilities that are part of the project and illustrate the existing property boundary and facilities in relation to the project. This may include, but not limited to, existing electric transmission or distribution lines, power generation facilities and /or substations. | Submitted |
| 1. **Land Use** *(GIS data & Electric Transmission Excel Spreadsheet Table 2)*   Using the agricultural land use categories defined by DATCP in Section 4 of this form, identify the acres of agricultural land use, by category and by parcel, affected by each route/segment/site and off-ROW construction area (access roads, staging areas, laydown yards, etc.). | Submitted |
| 1. **Wetlands and Waterways** *(GIS data and maps preferred)*   Documented or field-delineated wetlands and waterways within the proposed areas of acquisition. | Submitted |
| 1. **Maps** (pdf preferred)   Project-specific maps, with sufficient detail, to show the proposed location, boundaries, *farm* acquisitions and design of the project and project alternatives. | Submitted |
| 1. **Plans** (pdf preferred)   Submit project-specific agricultural mitigation plans, construction mitigation plan and/or best management plans and practices. | Submitted |
| Describe if any of the requested information above is not applicable, not known or not available for the proposed project: | |
| Section 7: Project Description | |

*Please answer the following questions to the fullest extent possible, with the information presently at hand. If a question does not apply or information is still pending, please indicate as such. Please include references to applications, documents, figures, maps, and tables as required.*

*Projects with multiple segments for each route should include tables to effectively summarize the information.*

1. Summarize the proposed project and preferred project design, including above & below ground facilities.

1. *For* ***Electric Transmission Lines*** *Please also list the following*:
   1. Route Location(s) (counties, towns, cities, villages):
   2. Voltage(s) of the Proposed Line:
   3. Typical Width (in feet) of ROW: Permanent:       Temporary:
   4. Typical Structure Span Widths (in feet) for Each Segment/Route:
   5. Describe the Foundation Dimensions for both Tangent (*no line angle*) and Angle Structures:
   6. Design life of the Proposed Project:
   7. Acres of Agricultural ROW Acquired (fee-simple, permanent or temporary easement) for each route:
   8. Construction Timeline and In-service Date:
2. *For* ***Substations*** *Please also list the following*:
   1. Site Name(s)
   2. Site Location(s) (counties, towns, cities, villages):
   3. Design Life of Substation:
   4. Total Acres of Agricultural Land Use to be Acquired:
   5. Total Acres of Agricultural Land Use to be Fenced Off or Removed from Continued Agricultural Land Use:
   6. Substation Construction Timeline and In-service Date:
3. Summarize the project need & purpose:

1. In general terms, describe the facilities, substations, equipment and improvements included in this project.

1. Describe each proposed route(s) and/or segments.

1. Indicate if project alternatives were considered, summarize the alternative routes and/or substations and explain why the alternatives are not preferred or eliminated from consideration.

1. Describe direct land use changes or indirect effects anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed project.

1. Identify existing electric facilities that would be abandoned as a result of this project, the abandonment process and whether the easement would be returned to property owners.

1. Describe how the project initiator plans to obtain the rights to construct the project on the impacted agricultural lands. Also indicate if the project initiator already owns or holds easements on the impacted agricultural lands.

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| Section 8: Agricultural Impact Evaluations |

*Please answer the following questions to the fullest extent possible, with the information presently at hand. If a question does not apply or information is still pending, please indicate as such. Please include references to applications, documents, figures, maps, and tables as required.*

1. Complete Tables 1 & 2 of the Electric Transmission Projects [Excel Spreadsheet](https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/AISElecSpreadsheet.xlsx) for all land (*farm operation* and non-farm) required for the proposed project and provide copies of GIS Data as requested in Sections 5 & 6.
2. Identify any *farm* residences, buildings or structures that would be acquired or relocated as a result of the proposed project. Provide diagram/maps showing each building location in relation to the parcel boundary & project ROW and identify the property owner(s).

1. If known, identify any *farms* where the proposed project would bisect (i.e. sever) *farm* parcels, affect cattle passes, or change existing access to farmland. Provide details of the potential impacts to these *farms* and any proposed mitigation.

1. If known, identify tenant *farm* operators that rent *farm* parcels from an impacted *farm* owner. Include a list or Excel table with *farm* owner and tenant information including property address, parcel number, and contact information.

1. Describe and identify the location of facilities (aboveground or belowground) constructed on farmland acquired by easement and any easement restrictions imposed on future agricultural land uses (e.g. barring the future growth of trees or woody vegetation, limiting or prohibiting new construction etc.).

1. Discuss if any farmland purchased with a fee-simple acquisition would be made available to a *farm operation* on a lease-back basis. If so, identify the *farm* parcels and any agricultural land use restrictions required of the *farm operation*.

1. Identify any existing transmission lines or energy facilities, located on existing agricultural land use easements, which would be abandoned as a result of this project and whether they would be partially or fully abandoned in place or removed. Describe the potential impacts of the abandonment to the agricultural land use.

1. Identify any known specialty *farms* that would be impacted by the project and discuss any additional concerns, consultations, and proposed mitigation that would minimize impacts from the construction activities.

1. Identify any known *farm operation* with livestock and discuss any additional concerns, consultations, and proposed mitigation that would minimize impacts from the construction activities.

1. Describe any potential impacts the proposed project would have on *farm* property improvements such as windbreaks, fencing, drainage ditches or tiling, irrigation systems, or wells etc.

1. Describe the project’s potential impact to managed forests, including lands enrolled within WI Tax Law Land (i.e. Managed Forest Law or Forest Crop Law programs), or impacts to windbreaks and trees that provide an agricultural service within the project area.

1. Identify any known certified organic *farm operations*, *farm operations* that incorporate organic practices or *farm operations* with other special certifications such as “pesticide free” and discuss any additional concerns, consultations, and proposed mitigation that would minimize impacts from the construction activities.

1. Summarize any stakeholder input or feedback related to adverse, beneficial, or controversial effects of the proposed project on *farms* and *farm operations*, as well as any measures designed to reduce adverse effects or to provide additional benefits.

1. If no agricultural mitigation or best management plan is submitted, describe any project-specific mitigation measures and/or best management practices that will be implement to reduce adverse effects or damage to farmland and farmland operations including measures designed to preserve top soil, reduce soil mixing, prevent erosion, and minimize or mitigate compaction.

1. After the electric transmission line has been placed in service, describe how *farm* yield losses would be identified, calculated, and the procedure for damage compensation.